

# Prioritizing your To-Dos

Covey's Four Quadrants		
	Urgent	Not Urgent
Important	Quadrant 1 - Do it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Things due today or tomorrow</li> <li>• Dealing with emergency or crisis</li> <li>• Pressing problems</li> </ul>	Quadrant 2 - Schedule It <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term projects</li> <li>• Planning ahead</li> <li>• Studying in advance</li> </ul>
Not Important	Quadrant 3 - Avoid It <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interruptions</li> <li>• Distractions</li> <li>• Fun events &amp; social invitations</li> </ul>	Quadrant 4 - Delete It <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time wasters</li> <li>• Busy work</li> <li>• Procrastination activities (scrolling on social media)</li> </ul>

Quadrant 1 - When you do most of your work here, you may often feel stressed or panicked, and are likely to experience burnout!

Quadrant 2 - Completing work here has the ability to make a positive difference in your life. By planning ahead you will have more control, balance, and vision in your life.

Quadrant 3 - If you spend a lot of time here, you may be crossing items off your to-do list but everything has a short term focus. The work doesn't connect to big picture goals.

Quadrant 4 - Spending time here results in a lack of responsibility for things that need to be completed. This makes academic success, personal wellness, and healthy relationships hard to achieve.

Covey's Four Quadrants		
	Urgent	Not Urgent
Important		* Quadrant of quality*
Not Important		

1. List your tasks and responsibilities.
2. Determine what is important to you.
3. Divide the list into important and not important.
4. Determine what is urgent/not urgent and why.
5. Sort the tasks into the blank quadrants above.
6. Ask yourself - **How can I spend more time in Quadrant 2?**

Source information:

- Covey, S. R. (1989). *The seven habits of highly effective people*. New York: Simon & Schuster
- Oregon State University. *How much does urgency control your life? [PDF]*. Academic Success Center, the Learning Corner.

