Overcoming Obstacles to Achieving Your Goals

Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible ~ Tony Robbins

1. **Putting your goals off until ‘someday.’**
   - Create a clear plan with a timeline and change ‘someday’ to a definitive time frame.
     - Specific date | Certain year | Certain age
   - *i.e.* “I will complete a semester long study abroad experience in London during my junior year of college.”

2. **Waiting to take action until you ‘feel’ ready.**
   - Taking action often results in emotions to follow.
   - Once you get going on the goal, it is easier to keep up with the momentum.
   - “Action is the foundational key to all success.” – Pablo Picasso

3. **Not anticipating the tough times.**
   - Brainstorm potential challenges and create a plan to overcome them.
   - A plan builds confidence and defeats temptation to achieving your goals.
   - *i.e.* “I want to graduate in 4 years, but the class for my major is only offered early in the morning and I struggle to get up.” “I will start going to bed earlier and ask a classmate if we can walk to class together.”

4. **Viewing mistakes as failure.**
   - See mistakes as learning lessons and develop a plan to get back on track when mistakes happen.
   - *i.e.* “I missed the deadline on the class project. I will put all deadlines in my planner moving forward to remind me.”

5. **Not making your goal a priority.**
   - Take steps each day towards your goals.
   - *i.e.* “I want to earn a B in Introduction to Psychology, so I will spend 10 minutes each day reviewing my notes or reading the textbook.”

6. **Underestimating how hard it will be.**
   - Starting a goal can be easier than maintaining it over the long term.
   - Continually remind yourself that achieving a goal takes time and is hard work.
   - *i.e.* “I lost 25 pounds, but now I must choose to eat healthy and exercise to maintain my weight.”
7. **Giving up before you see results.**
   ⇒ Avoid instant gratification and be patient with the process.
   ⇒ *i.e. “I couldn’t run a mile in 8 minutes a month ago, but because I kept with my training plan, I now achieved my goal.”*

8. **Sabotaging yourself just before the finish line.**
   ⇒ Be real with yourself and pay attention to feelings or thoughts influencing your success.
   ⇒ Reflect on goals in the past that had challenges and how you overcame the challenges.
   ⇒ *i.e. “I earned a B on my first math exam, but this one I earned an F. I feel like I should give up and drop the class. I didn’t go to the Math Help Center before this exam; I should use this resource again and see how the next exam goes.”*

9. **Setting your sights too high.**
   ⇒ Set short-term goals that align with your long-term goal and celebrate the small successes.
   ⇒ *i.e. “My long-term goal is to graduate with a 4 year degree.” “My short-terms goals include: attending all of my classes each week, start studying for exams at least 5 days before, and meet with each of my professors during their office hours at least once a semester.”*

**Reference**