

# Establishing Sleep Health

Sleep deprivation leads to poor performance & weakened cognitive abilities. Learning to sleep well in stressful environments and when anxiety is high, although challenging, is possible & can help maximize wellness. It is a skill worth developing and prioritizing.

### **DEVELOP SLEEP READINESS**

Train your circadian rhythm by implementing routines. Avoid electronic devices, find your favorite pillow, listen to music or take a shower before bed.

### **EXERCISE**

Work out at least 30 minutes early in the day to fall asleep faster at night. This will help reduce night time awakenings.

## WATCH WHAT YOU EAT

Stop eating 2-3 hours before bed. Limit caffeine, sugar or other digestive stimulants.

## NAP STRATEGICALLY

When predictable nighttime sleep is unavailable, short 30 minute powernaps have been found to increase alertness & performance.

# **GET COMFORTABLE**

You spend 1/3 of your life in bed, so you should be comfortable. Consider upgrading or replacing your mattress and/or pillows.

# GO TO BED SLEEPY

If you aren't asleep in 20-30 mins, get out of bed & do something else.

## **MAKE SPACE**

If thoughts keep you from sleeping, jot them down to relieve your mind. 5

#### BANK YOUR SLEEP

If you're on night shift, plan to get 10 hours of sleep a night for week prior to expected sleepless nights.







