

TIPS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Tip #1: Go To Class

New students often hear that in college, "you can go to class anytime you want." NOT TRUE. Some classes may seem less interesting than others, but college is not for entertainment. Experienced students often say that the more time they spend in class, the less time they need to study outside of class.

Tip #2: Learn the Campus

One campus tour seldom provides the geographical knowledge necessary to get around a major university. Become an explorer and spend time locating where major academic and service departments are located. Don't become a senior who is still trying to find the library.

Tip #3: Know The University Has Academic Rules

No one memorizes all the rules-but have a copy available. Academic policies are usually found on the web page and almost always in the student handbook or catalog. Do not become one of those who says, "But nobody told me..."

Tip #4: Check Out Rumors

Rumors of all types fly across a campus. While almost all do have a particle of truth, most rumors are

exams. Don't join every group, but be selective and participate in activities that will offer balance to your life. Take advantage of the variety of university experiences.

Tip #10: Get To Know Your Professors Before You Graduate

Begin by targeting some faculty that you think are worth knowing before you graduate. Who are you likely to have in more than one course? These are the professors who will evaluate your work, supply references for future career options or graduate school, and help guide your intellectual development. Most faculty are very approachable; don't let titles of "professor" or "doctor" frighten you. Those titles are their achievement, and these are the people who will help you attain the goals you have set for yourself.

Tip #11: Have The Courage Of Your Confusions

In high school, a good student is supposed to know all the answers and get everything right. But in college, you take on more difficult challenges and more demanding material. It is no longer possible to have "all the answers." Beyond college, that kind of high school perfection isn't even remotely possible. Learn to be patient with others and with yourself. Learn to function well in situations where 100% success isn't possible; seek out and value the big questions which are more important than answers.

If what you say and do is prompted by others, or if nothing is ever your fault because others "pushed" you, you cannot claim to be an adult, just an immature follower.

Tip #19: It Does Not Help To Blame Others For Your Academic Problems _____

If you are not doing well academically, get help. Very few students get through college without some assistance. If it takes you longer to learn material or even to graduate, so what? Remove distractions when studying. Go to review sessions and use tutoring services. GO TO CLASS and participate. Don't blame your professors, your roommate, or your teaching assistants. Get their help to eliminate the problems.

Tip #20: Locate And Use All University Services _____

The university DOES want you to succeed and will help you by means of all its services. These range from math and writing skills centers to personal counseling. Let the university serve you. After all, it is your school. You are paying for these services anyway, in the form of tuition and fees.

Tip #21: Write Home _____

It may sound silly but parents and family can prove to be the best support service. Families honestly want to know how you are doing. They may not be able to do more than listen, but that act alone is essential to your well-being. Siblings, grandparents, and neighborhood friends are in your corner and want you to succeed. Let them share in your new life. P.S. E-mail works great!

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