

SURVIVAL TIPS FOR YOUR FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE AND BEYOND TO GRADUATION

1. **Attend the first day of each class.** Attending the first day of each class is vitally important. You will learn the format of the class and expectations from your professors about what to expect in the class, tests, assignments and due dates. Avoid the temptation to skip class.
2. **Don't procrastinate.** Prioritize your life. In high school, it may have been easy to wait until the last minute to complete homework assignments and still get a good grade. That will not work in college. Give yourself deadlines and stick to them. Many professors will not accept late assignments or allow extra credit.
3. **Meet and get to know your academic advisor.** Your advisor is a key resource for you and should be the person you seek for any academic issues. This is the person who will help you with course conflicts, adding or dropping courses, scheduling classes for future semesters, deciding on majors and minors. If you do not click with our first assigned advisor, don't be afraid to request another one. Your future is at stake.
4. **Find the best place to study.** For every 1 hour in class, you should study 2 – 3 hours outside of class. Your ideal place to study may be your home or a cozy place in the library. What is important is to find a place that works best for you to get your work done while avoiding as many distractions as possible.
5. **Get to know your professors.** There are only positives to getting to know your professors. Schedule a time to meet with them. Professors schedule office hours for the sole purpose of meeting with students. Take advantage of that time. They want to help you to be successful!
6. **Strive to make the best grade possible.** You may have been able to “glide” through and good grades could have come naturally for you in high school. You will have to earn them in college! You should set goals for yourself and make sure that you work as hard as you can to achieve them.
7. **Get organized.** In high school, teachers tend to lead you through homework and due dates. In college, the professors post the assignments – often for the entire semester – and expect you to meet them. Buy an organizer, big wall calendar, post-it notes, or whatever it takes for you to know and submit assignments when they are due.
8. **Make connections with students in your classes.** Meeting at least one new person in each class will expand your network of friends and can be an excellent resource at times if you have to miss a class.
9. **Take advantage of the study resources on campus.** Take advantage of the learning labs and tutors that are available on campus. If you are having troubles, these resources are another good tool that is available to you. Another good idea is to form study groups, if it works for you.