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Category: Academics

Subcategory: Class Attendance

Tip: Don't Skip Class

Aside from the fact that you're paying for it, showing up for class will give you an immediate advantage in learning what your professors think are important, and what is most likely to show up on those final exams. Class is also where you get the chance to meet new people.

Subcategory: Preparing for a Test

Tip: Have Fun!

As good as it is to remain totally dedicated to your college career, remember that having a little fun goes a long way in increasing your productivity. Giving yourself a reward to look forward to ("I'll go to this weekend's party if I study 50 hours.") makes the grind all the more bearable.

Tip: Know Your Study Style

Sometimes, studying in groups is good. Sometimes, group studying just leads to problems and distractions. Know when to study alone, and when to work with study groups that can stay focused and are productive.

Subcategory: Professors

Tip: Follow Your Favorite Professors

Once you find a professor who truly engages you, be sure to take classes by that professor in the future. The familiarity is a plus on both sides, and you are likely to learn even more and create a better rapport. Professors can become great resources for future scholarships, internships and jobs.

Tip: Office Hours

Take advantage of your instructors' office hours. The one-on-one discussions will give you an opportunity to have questions answered that were unanswered in class.

Tip: Research the Professor

Research the professor as well as the course. Many universities have a lot of flexibility when it comes to electives or when you can take a course. Take the time to find out who

is teaching the course before you take it. Ask friends who know the professor and also go to the student union office where they can often give you the information you need. If you are already enrolled in a class with a professor who has a bad reputation, consider dropping the class and retaking it when it is taught by a professor whom you will enjoy.

Subcategory: Scheduling Classes

Tip: On Literature Courses

For you English majors and/or literature enthusiasts out there, do NOT take more than two literature classes in one semester (unless they are your only two classes). Literature classes are notorious for requiring a plethora of readings, usually several novels, poems and essays, not to mention any quizzes, papers, etc, all with a need for thorough knowledge and retention. Don't overdo it or you may overwhelm yourself.

Tip: Schedule Classes Carefully

If you are not a morning person and don't think you can make it through a morning calculus class, don't depend on caffeine to get you through. Know your limits and your abilities. Similarly, if you're afraid of walking to your car in a dark parking lot or get really sleepy after dinner, don't schedule a night class.

Tip: Take What You're Interested In

You will do much better in classes where you already have a strong interest or passion. Not only are you more likely to stay awake, but your interest will most likely make it easier for you to translate your skills (and yes, all classes will teach you, directly or indirectly, basic skills) into a career in the future.

Subcategory: Student Resources

Tip: Ivy League - Not a Sure Win

Believe it or not, ivy league institutions are not the only place to get a good college education. Although ivy league institutions are prestigious, and will look absolutely wonderful on future resumes, yet what you get out of the educators, the textbooks, and the lectures will boil down to one thing: your effort. Even if you go to the best school in the country, it won't make a difference if you don't work hard.

Tip: Study Groups

Take advantage of study groups. The interaction allows you to share your knowledge with others and others to share their knowledge with you.

Subcategory: While in Class

Tip: Don't Be Afraid to Ask Questions

In a lecture situation, it is often easy to just sit back, take notes, and stay silent. Still, if something is unclear to you, try raising your hand. If you're acknowledged, consider it a plus on recognition. If not, put your hand back down and then approach the professor with your question after class. Either way, you'll be showing the professor your interest as well as singling yourself out from the other students in your class.

Tip: Listen for Cues

Professors will be sure to emphasize what is most important for you to remember and write down. Get to know your professor's lecture styles and listen in for those ever-important cues. Some professors will outright say, "This will be on the exam."

Tip: Study

Instructor requiring you to form a group to complete an assignment? Find those in the class that have the same goals as yourself. If you strive for A's you will have a conflict with a classmate that settles for C's.

Category: Admissions & Entrance Exams

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Tip: Step Away From the Common Path

In order for your college application to stand out from the crowd, you have to be fully, deeply yourself - and then communicate that self effectively through your application. Give yourself time in high school to reflect on who you want to grow up to be, and why, and what you love the most. Move past the mall and past popular culture, and explore whatever piece of the world is unfamiliar to you. Get to know people who are outside the comfy circle of your own family, friends, and schoolmates. It's important to get good grades, but plenty of people accomplish that; it's more important in the eyes of admissions offices that you be a thoughtful individual, with your own strong interests and drive.

Subcategory: Getting Ready to Go

Tip: Avoid Confusion

Contact the school ahead of time to confirm your room, roommate, class schedule, registration times, etc. It's better to be safe than sorry. This is a great time to find out any last minute information.

Tip: Packing for the Move

Keep a notepad with you at all times to jot down "must not forget items" to pack for school. This will help to prevent you from forgetting anything. Also while your making a list you might remeber things you would have forgotten.

Subcategory: Preparing for College

Tip: High School Preparation

How will I prepare for the SAT? You should begin by taking the PSAT (Practice SAT) in October of your Sophomore year in high school. The test will evaluate your need for further preparation.

Tip: High School Records

Obtain all special testing records before high school graduation. Some schools will destroy these records upon graduation. These records will be required by colleges.

Tip: Student Handbooks - Your First Course of Study

In the excitement of those first days of class, you might overlook the student handbook. Don't! It provides valuable information about various school policies (harrassment, computer usage, dress codes, etc.), and everything else from tips on study techniques to important holidays to remember.

Category: Books & Supplies

Subcategory: School Supplies

Tip: Appliances You'll Need

So you're not sure what to bring with you to school. Well the first place to start is by calling your roommate(s) and find out what they are bringing. After that then you can decide if you need your radio, television, DVD player, hair dryer and the many other various appliances you use. ** Special Note: Don't forget the can opener**

Tip: Computers a Must for Any Student

Many universities today recommend that students have a personal computer or laptop. Although universities have computers on campus, using a campus computer means having to work around the computer lab's schedule. Many students find it easier to do projects and research when they have their own computers.

Tip: Free School Supplies?

Be sure to take advantage of the resources on campus that offer free school supplies. The library usually has a stapler, hole puncher, paper clips, computer disks, etc. You can also get free pencils and pens from clubs, organizations, Student Government, etc.

Subcategory: Textbooks

Tip: Buying Textbooks

Today's students have many options for buying books. They can buy them online, at the campus store, from the local book store, or even from a friend who had the class. Which ever you chose make sure to look around for the best price. Make sure that you will get the textbook by the beginning of the semester.

Tip: Don't Go Crazy Buying Books

Most bookstores have a list of the books your professors want you to have for class. Usually, there will be some books that are required and others that are recommended. In most cases, you do not have to buy the recommended books. Not only are they unnecessary to do well in the class, you probably won't have the time to read them.

Tip: Text Books

Be sure to purchase your text books used. Shop early to find the best selection. Also look into seeing if there are any off campus bookstores, they sometimes provide books at a lower cost. If you are lucky, your scholarship or loan will pick up the cost of books. However, even if your books are paid for, you should still try to find the lowest price so that you can keep the left over money. At the end of the semester...sell it back to the bookstore.

Category: Career Preparation

Subcategory: Careers

Tip: Stepping into a Career

When looking for jobs after college graduation, focus on your studies. Hopefully you

considered your future career when you chose your courses. Your college activities should support your post-graduate plans. You should have a major in your career field, but you can minor in an unrelated area. Get involved with campus organizations connected with your career choice, also. Many majors have clubs that you may want to join.

Tip: The Perfect Career

Afraid of making the wrong choice when applying to college? Not sure of your unique skills and talents? Give the institute of your choice a call and make an appointment with a career resource counsellor or registrar. Your conversation will provide insight into your personality and long-term goals, enabling you to make the best possible career/education choice.

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Category: Dating & Relationships

Subcategory: Dating

Tip: Asking Someone Out

Great way to ask someone out is to ask them to join you for a campus activity. These are usually casual, friendly activities that make a great first date.

Tip: Do You Have to Date in College

It all depends on the person. You must first realize if you are capable of handling both school and a relationship. College is a great time to meet new people and date. that doesn't mean it has to be on your "must do list."

Subcategory: Family

Tip: Family Day at School

Many college campuses have a family day. This is a chance for parents and students to participate in campus events and find out more about the school. We recommend that

parents try to attend family campus days. Students that means make sure to let your parents know when they are coming up.

Tip: Get a Calling Card.

Getting a calling card with good rates will save you money in calling home and keeping in touch with old friends. If you can, keep in touch with e-mails or write letters the old way. You need a support system but that doesn't mean you should go bankrupt because of it.

Category: Dorms & Campus Life

Subcategory: Dorms & Campus Life

Tip: Moving Off-Campus with Friends

Once dorm life has gotten old, and you're really done with getting woken up at 2 am the night before your final exams, a fun next step can be renting a house or apartment together with some friends. Expect to have both wonderful times and awful times together, because you actually will have both. Try to figure out enough of a chore / task schedule so that nobody ends up stuck with all the housework. But remember to schedule fun things with your roommates as well: a household trip out to the beach or the mountains, a dinner together once or twice a week, or whatever works for all of you. Living with roommates can (and will) have its difficult moments, but it's a learning experience that is absolutely worthwhile. It can teach you as much about life as any academic course.

Subcategory: Study Abroad

Tip: New Experiences

Studying abroad can be a great way to have a new adventure. Studying in a new place can change the way you look at yourself and the people around you. Most people feel that studying abroad gave them a better understanding of what the world is like. So if you're curious what life in England, India or Mexico is like. Look into finding programs through your school to study abroad. It might just be the chance of your lifetime.

Tip: Study Abroad

One of the easiest ways to study abroad is to "exchange places" with a student of a similar age in the country that you desire to visit. Many students want to come to the USA but need a host family. Their family hosts you, your family hosts them.

Subcategory: Who You Need to Know

Tip: Make Friends In Class

Making a friend in each class you have will make a big difference in those times when you have to miss class. That friend of yours will be more willing to lend you notes and give insight than a person whom you do not know.

Category: Money Management

Subcategory: Credit Cards

Tip: About Credit Cards

When you get a credit card, make sure it has a good interest rate. Remember that these rates may fluctuate depending on the credit card. Don't buy anything on your credit card unless you are sure you can pay it in full within the next three months. If you can't handle that, then depend on a student loan rather than a credit card.

Tip: High Interest Credit Cards

Beware of credit card offers on campus, especially when they give away free t-shirts, frisbees, etc. You'll pay for those "free gifts" 10 times over with the interest and finance charges you get on the card. If you get a card, pay it off at the end of the month. Credit cards are not free money.

Subcategory: Saving Money

Tip: Coupond Online

The Sunday paper is not the only place to get coupons. Company's have coupons at their Web sites. You can also sign up for free samples and benefits at Web sites.

Tip: Watch Your Money

Balance your checkbook, keep track of that savings account, and pace yourself! You never know when a professor will assign a mandatory book to buy, or you'll have a financial emergency. Back yourself up.

Subcategory: Shopping

Tip: Smart Shopping

When you get a print out of coupons at check out, consider that these are the highest value coupons you will find. For example, if you have bought Coca-Cola, you'll get a Pepsi coupon for future use that is usually more valuable than other Pepsi coupons, because manufacturers are trying to entice you to switch brands.

Tip: Time and Money Savers

Some larger supermarket chains offer online promotions, and, in some cases, if you click on them, savings are automatically deducted from your bill when you use your frequent-shopper card at checkout time.

Category: Online Education

Subcategory: Benefits

Tip: A must for online classes

If you decide to take an online class, 99.9% of the time you will need a computer. You may need the computer to submit your work, take test, watch videos, chat with students, etc. You may also want to think about getting fast access internet. Online education with dial up will be a slow process.

Tip: A Range of Courses

When it comes to online universities there is a wide range of what you can study. There are art courses, business courses, computer courses, and even medical courses to name just a few. The internet can be a great source in finding out what online courses are available to you. So start looking you might be surprised by the high number of courses you can take.

Tip: Online Education Courses

There are many courses available to students online. They vary from vocational courses to obtaining your masters. To find out more about the courses and subjects available, do some online research and see what you come up with.

Category: Scholarships & Financial Aid

Subcategory: Financial Aid

Tip: Federal Financial Aid Deadline is Fast Approaching

Mark your calendars! Beginning in January you may start the process of applying for federal aid by filling out the FAFSA. Now is the time to educate yourself on the process and begin gathering all of the documents required.

Tip: State Tuition Programs

Take advantage of state sponsored Pre-Paid Tuition Programs. It is a great way to purchase a college education at today's cost and use it in the future.

Subcategory: Scholarship Preparation

Tip: Scholarship Seekers Beware

Do not use scholarship search services that sell your personal information to third parties. You will get bombarded with credit card applications, advertisement mailings, e-mails, spam and other nuisances.

Tip: No Time to Find Scholarships?

High school students and college students have busy schedules. It may be difficult for them to find time to search for scholarships. To save time, use a scholarship search service.