

20 Things Your Mother Never Told You About College

1. Learning to please your instructor is part of your education and will be useful in learning to please your future boss.
2. Sit in the front row, in the middle. This has several benefits, including fewer distractions. You'll have to get there early the first week or two, but then the seat is yours.
3. Get a study buddy or group and quiz each other.
4. Do your papers well ahead of time so you can make last minute changes if you have to.
5. When scheduling classes, pick the professor, not the time.
6. Join a club affiliated with your major. You'll meet faculty and make contacts that you will need. Get an internship to gain real world experience.
7. Take advantage of all of the academic resources on campus. Reality set in when I received my first F on a paper. After a few trips to the writing center, my grades improved by three letters. I encourage all students to use the AAC.
8. Be aware of underage drinking, date rape, drugs, overdose, STDs, etc. Amazingly, these are not other people's problems any more—they are yours. Be prepared. Don't accept drinks from strangers at parties—you never know what's in them. Always have a designated driver or money for a cab. Better yet, be a designated driver.
9. You need to have a goal that you can actually write down on a piece of paper.
10. Meet people from all walks of life and learn from them.
11. The number one cause of plunging GPAs is putting partying before studying.
- 12. Go to class!** Sitting in class is the easiest part of college and it cuts study time in half. Why make it hard on yourself? Go! If you must miss, check the attendance policy first.
13. You can postpone laundry until you run out of underwear and socks. Bring lots of each.
14. Put the school decal on the back window of your parent's car. They will think of you every time they look in the rear-view mirror.
15. Be careful about who you date. Most people don't care if someone breaks your heart.
16. Piercings and tattoos may seem cool, but think of what your mom will say. Better yet, think of what your kids will say.
17. Not everyone will like you. Stick with those who do.
18. Credit cards and debit cards can be dangerous.
19. Call your parents at least once a week.
20. Try to schedule some exercise time everyday. It is a great stress reliever.