

Five Tips for Students to Succeed in College

Let's face it: College can seem overwhelming at times. Between attending your classes, meeting new people, obtaining financial aid, and figuring out the best ways to cook instant ramen in a dorm room, college life can make your head spin. But it doesn't have to. That's why having a plan is absolutely vital to succeeding in class, getting the most out of your experience, and earning your degree on time. Thankfully for freshmen and transfers alike, there are many resources on campus to help you thrive – not just survive – in the classroom and beyond. It all starts with a plan to Finish in Four.

1. Come Prepared

Remediation courses in math, English, and science take up valuable units, time, and energy – and they don't even count toward your degree. Remediation is one of the biggest reasons students take longer than four years, costing them thousands in tuition and fees for every additional semester. Be sure to come into college prepared to take college-level courses, and start earning units that will help you graduate.

2. Map It Out

Academic advisors are here to help you succeed every step of the way. Meet with your advisor regularly to build your roadmap to graduation. Meeting with advisors helps make sure you stay on track, and when you pick a major, meet with your department advisor to guide you through the home stretch. Visit the Academic Advising Center to make an appointment today.

3. Take 15

It may seem like a grind to take five classes, but it's ultimately far more rewarding: Freshmen who take 15 units are more engaged in the college experience, are three times more likely to graduate, and post an average .59 points higher on their GPA than those taking fewer than 12 units per semester. For most degrees, taking 15 units per semester, or 30 total per year, is the quickest, most efficient way to graduate in four years.

4. Work Smart

It's no secret: College isn't cheap, and most students have to work in addition to taking classes. It's possible to balance your job and school. You just have to work smart: Take advantage of financial aid to offset the cost while you're in school – it'll pay off big in the long run. Then, find a job on campus. There is a huge variety of flexible University Enterprises Inc. jobs that can work with your class schedule.

5. Reach Out

There is a whole community on campus with a ton of resources to help you navigate the complex world of college. Go to a workshop on anything from time management to résumé-building; seek out study groups in your classes; join one of the hundreds of student organizations and clubs. The more immersed you are in the campus experience, the better your time here will be and the more you will succeed – so get out, get involved, and get moving!

Contact an academic advisor to help you create your plan to graduate on time.

