

"5 Things I Wish I Knew Before Going to College."

COLLEGE IS A DIFFERENT WORLD

It happens every year. Millions of high school students prepare to embark on their next academic journey. This is an exciting time for students, families and relatives. It has become one of my most exciting times as well, as I welcome freshman students into my student success course.

One of my favorite icebreaking activities is called, Think, Pair, Share. I pose a question to the class: "What do you wish you knew before coming to college?" Students think about the question and write down their response. After a few minutes, a student will choose a partner to share their answer. Continue reading to see their top 5 things they wish they knew before coming to college.

Successful students see themselves as the primary cause of their outcomes and experiences. Successful students master self-management by planning and taking actions to pursue their goals and dreams. (Downing, 2019)

1. **Personal Responsibility** - In high school, students are reminded of assignments and are allowed to turn in late work. In college, you are responsible for reading the Syllabus, setting up a schedule and reminding yourself of due dates. Some instructors may take off points for late assignments, but most instructors do not accept late assignments.
2. **Hours After Class** - Even though you are out of class for the day, you still need to put in hours after class. In other words, the instructors expect you to do homework. There are textbook readings and online work to complete before the next class session.

ACADEMICS

3. **Procrastination is not an option.** Instructors will give you an assignment that may be due in two weeks. Do not think you have plenty of time. It is best to work on the assignment each day to meet the deadline. I soon realized that I could not stay up watching Netflix or play video games for hours.
4. **Class Schedule** - I wish I knew that it was not a good idea to schedule all of my classes on Tuesday and Thursday. At first, it was fun not having class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. However, it was not fun on exam days. One Tuesday, I had four exams! I was not prepared. Balance your schedule to allow two classes on Monday and Wednesday and two classes on Tuesday and Thursday. It is important to allow time to work in the library for research and the Writing Center to receive help on writing your essays.
5. **Learning Management System** - Many colleges and universities have a Learning Management System like Blackboard, Angel, Moodle, Canvas or Desire2Learn. It often serves as a communication hub for students and instructors. You will find your Syllabus, handouts, grades and other important information posted on this site. Your instructors will let you know their preferred method of communication. So, be sure to check and read your announcements daily.

College is a different world with different college customs. Students have to develop personal responsibility, complete homework outside of class, avoid procrastination, develop a good class schedule and be familiar with the Learning Management System...just to name a few.

Success in college begins with a knowledge of understanding the college culture. You can do it! Have an outstanding semester!

Your Virtual Success Coach, Professor Childers

www.mvitaconsulting.com



