Making the Transition to College

One of the hardest parts of college is the transition from high school to college. It's an incredibly different environment compared to high school or even the town you came from. It's also something that isn't talked about much when preparing for college, so it may feel like the rug is being swept from your feet when you first get to campus. We hope to keep the rug under your feet and help provide you with some advice and tips to help make the transition period a little easier for you!

How to Succeed on Your First Day of Class and Beyond

Start off on the right foot by having a successful first day of class, then carry that energy with you through your first year by using these helpful tips from some of your more experienced soon-to-be peers.

Go to class

- You do not get anything out of class if you are not showing up. This includes lectures and discussion sections. Besides, attendance will likely be a part of your grade, so why lose points over something as simple as showing up to class?
- Plan on arriving early so that you have more than enough time to find your class and get a good seat.

Take advantage of the resources being offered to you.

- Office hours are a great way to build a relationship with your professors and teaching assistants (TA). Learning communities and study groups are some of the most underutilized resources on campus and they can have a huge positive impact on your academic performance when used as needed.
- If you think that accommodations would help you succeed in class, seek them out sooner rather than later.

Don't be afraid to speak up.

- You need to take responsibility for your learning, so if you are unsure about something or have a question ask your professor or TA. They are there to help you succeed!
- Talk to the people sitting next to you in class. You never know who you might meet! Also, it is helpful when you can reach out to someone else in your class if you have quick questions on an assignment, missed a day of class, need a partner for a group project, or want to start a study group.

Get organized.

- You're in charge of your own schedule in college, whether it's selecting class times, deciding how to spend your free time, or working to complete assignments and study for tests. It's a good idea to set up a system for managing your time as soon as possible. That could be using a planner, an app (like Evernote, Remember the Milk, or myHomework), or even a calendar.

Getting Involved & Finding Community

Getting involved on campus through different clubs, sports, volunteer work, and jobs is a great way to find smaller communities within a larger university and help students develop a sense of belonging. Getting involved through these avenues can boost your resume, help you find like-minded individuals, learn about different perspectives, and even support your academic achievement. Check out some of the resources we named below!

NOTE: These are specific programs and groups for UW-Madison, where we are attending. All colleges and universities have similar programs, groups and centers to provide community and support to students and their identity groups. Check out the campus website - or ask other students and your professors and TAs - to find our what's available at your college!

First Generation Students	• First Wave Learning Community • First-Generation Student Success • First-Generation Badgers
Students with Disabilities	• The McBurney Disability Resource Center • Disability Cultural Center (DCC) • Advocates for Diverse Abilities (ADA)
Students of Color	• Multicultural Student Center (MSC) • Identity Centers • Black and Latinx Student Unions
LQBTQA+ Students	• Gender and Sexuality Campus Center (GSCC) • The Pride Society • Queer and Trans People of Color
Bilingual & Transfer Students	• International Student Services (ISS) • Practicing English and Cultural Exchange (PEACE) • Global Café

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