

Ten Tips For Succeeding Academically

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Here is a look ahead at ideas and practices that will prepare you to deal with life in college. As in all things, it is important to make the most of this unique opportunity. *Carpe Diem!*

1. Take responsibility for your own learning.

As a young adult, you have crossed the threshold of independence. But with greater independence comes greater responsibility, and this equation holds true for your academic advancement as well. No one is going to hold your hand and tell you when to finish your homework or how long to study. Those decisions are yours to make.

Take advantage of every opportunity that you can, including tutoring resources and other services that will support your academic efforts. Instead of waiting for something to happen, you need to be proactive and seek out these opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom.

2. Set goals.

It is difficult to arrive at a destination if you do not know where you want to go. Take time at the beginning of each term to write down specific goals that you want to achieve. Include details such as how much time you wish to study in the library each day, and refer back to these goals regularly to measure your progress. Map out a plan for every course and for your daily, weekly, and monthly routine. Setting goals is a proven method for keeping you motivated when times get tough. Even when you do not feel like studying or working, a goal can inspire you to stick with it. The only way to achieve a major success is to advance in small increments, step by step, day by day. Your goals will guide you to success.

3. Make an informed decision when choosing a major.

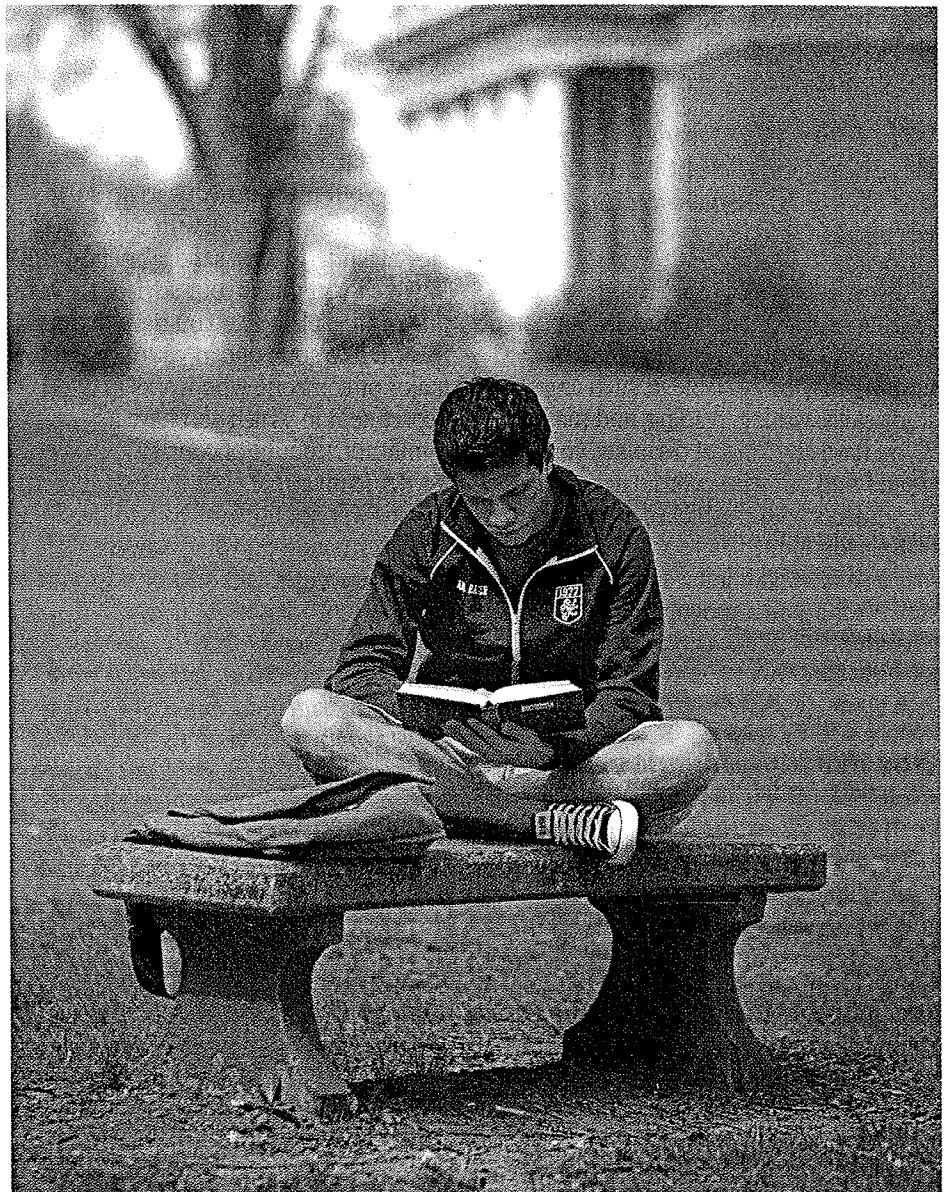
Choosing a major is not like choosing an outfit in the morning. You will not wake up one day, pull a major out of your closet, and feel good about it. You will need to spend some time investigating your options before you will feel confident about your chosen major.

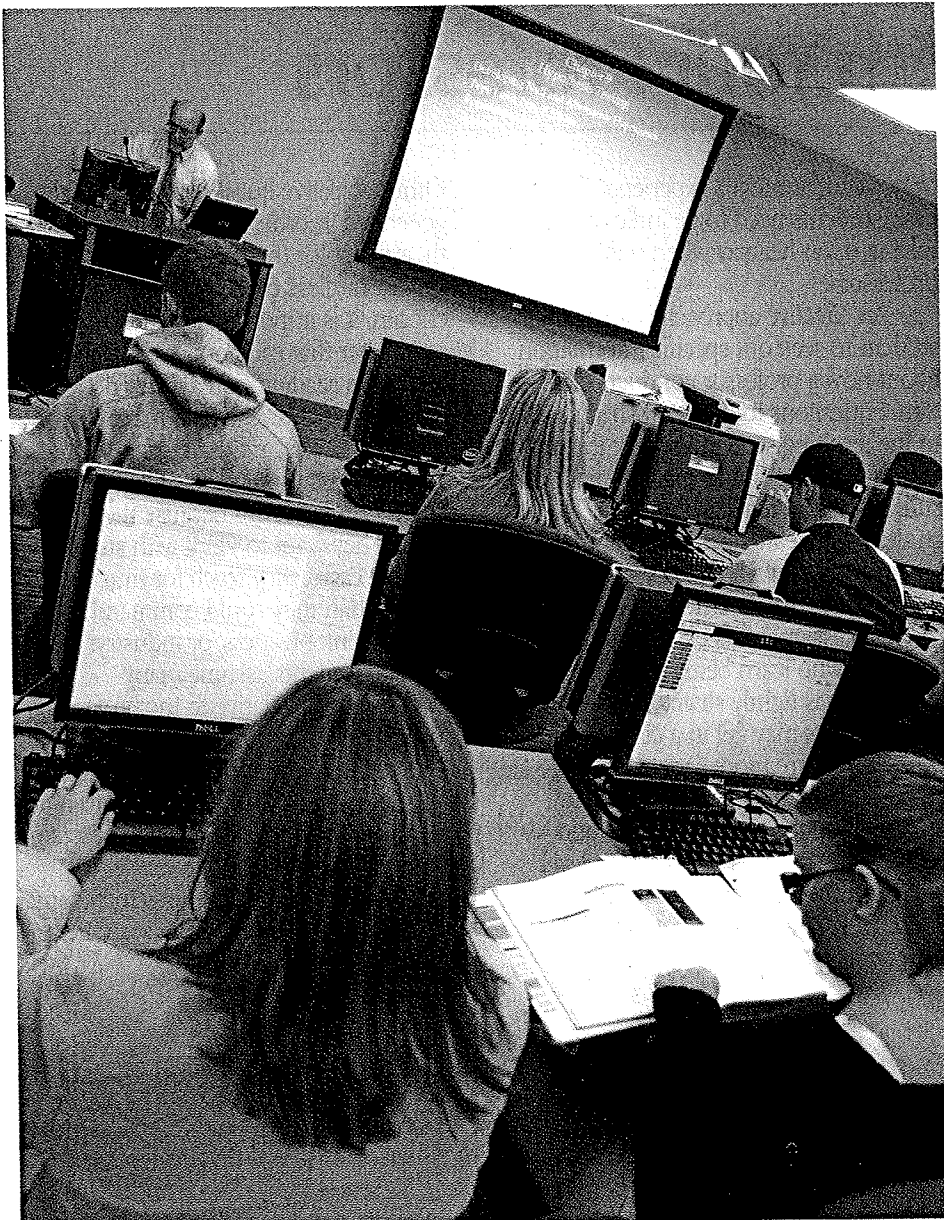
Choose a program that really interests you and that you will enjoy, because you will be putting a lot of time and effort into it. Do not look for something trendy or something that seems "hot" in the current job market, because these things

may change by the time you graduate. Choose a major that not only fits you well but that also challenges and inspires you.

4. Take some courses in your intended major as early as you can.

Taking a class is the best way to find out whether a field is right for you or not. If a certain class catches your eye, consider taking it as early as possible to get a real feel for the type of work it entails. Do not be intimidated because of a lack of knowledge; like everyone else, you are here to learn.





Lincoln Memorial University

Do not wait until later in your college experience to try out a new field. If one area of study is not working out for you, you will want to change to another field as soon as you can. Do not be frivolous about changing majors, but if something does not appear right for you, make a move. Make certain to consult your academic advisor in order to maximize the use of credits already taken.

5. Appreciate your time in college.

Although you are taking on more responsibility, you also have lots of support around you. Your classmates are experiencing the same things that you are, and sharing it with others makes it all so much more enjoyable. It is a wonderful

time to make new friends and to expand your horizons.

Never again will you have so many opportunities. Do not waste the chance to learn a new language or culture, delve into science, and awaken your talents. If you have ever been curious about something, now is the time to explore it.

6. Take risks.

College is not just about getting good grades. It is a time to learn more about the world and yourself.

Sometimes you may have to let go of an old way of thinking in order to learn something new. Do not be afraid to think in a new way or to try a new activity. Branch out into something completely new, and you will mature very quickly.

7. Expand your horizons.

Well-rounded people appreciate more than just their own work. Try taking an elective class in a subject outside of your major and even outside of your comfort zone. You may find that you actually enjoy it.

Take advantage of the arts on and around your campus. Visit exhibits, attend plays, and consider participating in some way. Appreciating the arts is a great way to celebrate life.

8. Go abroad.

Most colleges offer some type of study abroad program, and many students find it to be the highlight of their college experience. You may be able to study for a semester or year in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, or South America. Imagine the possibilities.

Get to know the requirements of these programs, such as any required language studies, so that you can plan accordingly. Visit websites devoted to studying abroad to gather ideas, and talk to returning students about their experiences. Studying in another country is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.

9. Keep a positive attitude.

Difficult times are inevitable, and the challenges of college may seem overwhelming at times. We often learn best from our mistakes. Also, remember that one failure or disappointment does not mean that you cannot succeed. Take a deep breath and move forward. Positive energy will grow if you share this attitude with others. Keep a balanced perspective and be thankful for the opportunity before you. Many people never have the chance to attend college.

10. Celebrate you.

Each individual has a unique history and personality. Express yourself and find ways to personalize your work. Your professors and friends will appreciate knowing the real you.

Shake off feelings of inadequacy and self-consciousness, and give yourself permission to smile back at the person in the mirror. You are now becoming the person you really want to be.