

# How to be a Successful College Student

*Suggestions from the  
College of Charleston New Student Mentors*

## College is different from high school

- Use a planner. This should be your best friend. It's the easiest way to stay organized.
- Make use of your professors or the college's study skills center if you're confused. They are here to help you.
- Go to class! Listening will actually help you obtain information.
- Get to know your professors. Most of them don't bite. If you do have a really scary teacher, remember that there will be better ones. Whatever doesn't kill you will make you stronger.
- Get to know your professors—they have office hours for a reason.
- Stay on top of your work and study a little each day.
- Find a great study group—two or three people.
- Just because you don't have an attendance policy in a class doesn't mean you should just go when you feel like it; go to class no matter what!

## College is full of new experiences

- Have fun, but remember you are here to get an education—so studying comes first.
- Relax—don't study 24/7.
- Stay active—make lots of friends. Join something you are interested in.
- Join a group and stay involved.
- Be open-minded! Not everyone is like you, raised like you or looks like you, so don't be judgmental!
- Pursue your own interests—don't just follow your roommate around.
- Be open-minded and expect to meet people that are not open-minded.
- Find ways to stay healthy.
- Join clubs ASAP!
- If you have to work, explore on-campus job opportunities.
- Get involved as soon as clubs/organizations start having events on campus—you'll meet friends and faculty in addition to doing something you love.
- Talk with older students about different classes and majors.
- Get enough sleep; sleep is essential to functioning at your optimal level.

## College is about living and learning with new people

- Be aware of cultural differences. Not everyone was born or is like you.
- Get in touch with your roommate before moving in.
- Don't room with your best friend.
- Don't be shy—meet tons of people and experience new things.
- Don't try to bring everything—there's not a lot of space, so just bring what you need. Talk to your roommate beforehand.
- Get out and explore the area instead of sitting in your dorm.
- If you go to college with a friend from high school, you should both allow each other room to grow.

### **College is about living and learning with new people, cont.**

- Start communicating with your roommate before you arrive to foster good relations.
- Get out and meet people right away. Everyone else is new to the experience and is looking for friends as well.
- Keep in touch with your parents—you never know when they might be able to help you out.
- Get involved once you get here. Go to different activities, try new things and meet new people—branch out from your high-school friends.

### **What you can do in high school to be ready for college**

- Be really active in high school—try to hold leadership positions and don't let your grades slip.
- Make sure your attitude is such that you are ready to meet people; don't play the I'll-just-hang-back-and-wait-for-people-to-greet-me game. Be outgoing.

