

dear incoming freshmen,

welcome to the world of freedom from your parents! you will shortly realize self-control and time management is huge and with this college can be such a fun time. but, remember it is also a learning experience where school still needs to come first. i want to share with you some things i learned the hard way so you don't have to experience the same.

first of all, go to class. this is some of the best advice i can give. generally what a professor lectures is the material that will be on the exam, not the material in the book. secondly, when something is due do not wait until the night before to start working on it. start as soon as you can. you find yourself much more relaxed and happy when you're not rushing to get something done, plus getting homework done in advance is always a good feeling. third on the list,

remember to get some sleep. now that you don't have your parents harping at you to go to bed you need to take some responsibility to get a good night of rest, especially before an exam. fourth, take advantage of the free services on campus. the shs and asc are wonderful places! use them! fifth, control your spending. you will really be able to separate out your wants and needs after your parents aren't paying for everything. this part really struck me. i never realized how much money was spent on things that i can easily live without. sixth, have fun! make the most of your freshman year.

there are always events going on around the campus, attend them. some of the friends i have made will be my friends for the rest of my life. lastly, the only other advice i can give is to use your professors. they are getting paid to educate you. when you have questions do not be afraid to ask.

dear incoming freshman,

i am writing this letter to you to possibly give you some helpful advice that would help you get through your first few months here at college. so i'm going to give you some advice from some of my experiences.

first, do not procrastinate on your assignments. it just makes things more difficult for you because you'll probably end up always catching up and never getting ahead and that'll just give you unnecessary stress. it also helps if you actually work ahead on assignments you already know about so that there is less for you to worry about later on and so you can concentrate on other assignments and maybe even have more time to go out and have some fun. in addition to that, make sure to use all the resources available to you such as the academic support center. this will help you if you are struggling with an assignment.

the next advice i have is in regards to your relationships at college. one of the most important things is that you keep in touch with professors and start building a relationship with them because if they see you are trying hard and still struggling, they will be more willing to help you get through it. they will also come in handy when it comes to resumes and job references if you plan on having a job in the future. you will also want to make sure that you make contacts in all your different classes. this is useful especially if you get sick or have to miss a class for some reason because they can fill you in on what you missed and even help you study for tests and exams. you may even end up being friends with some of these people.

the last advice i will give you is about the new community you will be in. i would encourage you to go out and volunteer in different places whether it be through a group at the university or just a group of other people around the community going out and volunteering for a cause of some sort.

dear incoming freshman,

this first year of college is a huge change from everything that you are used to in high school. this is a whole new chapter in your life and you should take advantage of it. this is the start of something new. in high school you have your reputation defined and when you start college, you can become anyone you want. so make the best of the situation and be the very best that you can be. your community has just grown. i know i came from a smaller town and everybody knew me, everybody knew my family, everybody knew my older brothers, and so everybody had a preconceived notion of who i was. when you go off to college you will be starting fresh, this will be the only time in your life where you get to practically start over. when you get a job or move to somewhere new, your college transcript will follow you but your high school career has pretty much become irrelevant. so the best advice i can give you is to create connections. you need to live on campus for at least one year and meet people. you never know who you're going to meet. maybe it will be your best friend or your soul mate but if you don't put yourself out there to experience these things then you will be missing out on some great opportunities. so no matter where you are or where you came from, no matter where your going or what profession you are going into, the best advice that i can give is to join in to whatever is going on, become a yes man, you never know where it might take you.

sincerely,

an experienced sophomore

dear incoming freshman,

your first semester in college will be one of the biggest eye openers that will ever happen in your life. the responsibility change is huge when it comes to moving into college, your parents are no longer there to control your life and it's up to you to get things such as homework and other academic assignments done. my experiences this first semester have really changed how i live my life. for example, i used to just go with the flow of things in high school, and you can't do that in college. professors are a lot tougher when it comes to grading assignments and aren't as lenient with late homework like in high school. another important part of college is to be motivated to go to class, at the beginning of the semester i went to every single one of my classes, and now it is difficult to get out of bed sometimes. not going to class could be one of the easiest ways for students to fall behind in school, and it is not easy to play catch up.

secondly, in college try and make good relationships right away with new friends. be outgoing and don't sit in your room with your roommate all day. i know plenty of people that just hang out with their hometown friends in college. i am not saying something is wrong with that but college is all about becoming a part of a new community and make new relationships with new people. i have met several new friends at college and they will most likely be close friends to me for the rest of my life.

to wrap everything up, make sure as a freshman, you go to a majority of the classes you sign up for and make new relationships to make your college community strong.

dear freshman,

first off congratulations on making it to college, it is definitely a lot better than high school. i feel as though i need to tell you how to make the most out of your freshman year. i recommend staying in the residence halls even if you are from billings. i have lived in billings and i am so happy that i decided to stay in the halls. i have the space i need from my parents but can still go and visit them whenever i want and i also got to keep my job that i had while i was in high school. living in the halls helps you make more friends than if you were at home.

step out of your comfort zone because college is a time to start all over. don't stress out about grades because there are many ways to get help. the best way to succeed is to get tutored and have your papers edited. also, having a great relationship with your teachers is very important. a planner and desk calendar are going to be your best friends because you are going to want to write down all your due dates on them so you do not forget to do an assignment. also, i am going to leave you with the advice that it is all right to not know what you want to do with your life because it is normal to change what you want to be when you grow up. don't stress out too much; enjoy your time in college before you have to step out into the real world. i hope this helps you a little bit.

college. the word itself seems scary, it represents the unknown; it represents the future. with this thinking, anyone would be intimidated. don't look at college as an obstacle, but a challenge to overcome. remember that life's challenges make us grow stronger. you've prepared for years to reach this moment, and now you'll prepare for years to reach the next. think about your freshman year of high school. that was scary, but you survived and became a better person for it. college is the same way.

there will be some adjustments to make, as you can probably imagine. if you're living in the dorms, you need to face the responsibilities that accompany this. nobody is there to tell you to do your homework or eat your vegetables or go to sleep before two o'clock in the morning. it's all on you. don't let this pressure weigh you down. plenty of people surround you to help you out: your roommate, your RA, your friends new and old. if you're not in the halls, you're missing an opportunity to meet lots of people but don't let that prevent you from reaching out in other ways. everywhere you turn, a new organization on campus has something planned. go to as many as interest you, and maybe some that don't just for fun.

among all this chaos and adaptation, never lose sight of why you are here. maybe you've chosen college to prepare for your dream job. maybe you are trying to discover your dream job. maybe you just want to study more math. whatever the reason, academics are the key. it's easy to let all of the excitement on campus distract rather than enhance your learning. stay strong in a resolve to go to class and do your homework.

dear freshman,

as an upcoming freshman at msub, the best advice i can give you is take a deep breath and relax. the first few weeks of college can be very stressful, but just look around at everyone near you, they are all in the same position. if you are feeling nervous, homesick, lonely, or stressed don't worry it's normal, and try to remember that there are plenty of resources on campus that are here to offer help. i advise you from the very beginning to prioritize, plan your schedule and stick with it!

it will benefit you form relationships with your professors- most professors at the university love talking to students. never be afraid to ask for assistance, whether it be on a homework assignment or a personal issue. first year of college is your fresh start, so don't procrastinate because it's the worst habit and can affect you. stay focused on your academics. this is why you're here at college. you are not simply here to make friends and party; your main goal is to maintain good grades. i'm not saying don't be social, just remember your priorities. be active in clubs, organizations, and sports to socialize and meet new people.

get sleep. i cannot stress this enough. don't stay up until three in the morning, especially when you have an 8am class the next day. try to find a healthy sleep pattern that allows you enough sleep to feel refreshed in the morning. lack of sleep can be disastrous. sure it can be funny sometimes ("oh look, you look like a zombie!") but ultimately it can be very, very bad for your health. don't stay up to watch your favorite tv. show: that's what hulu.com was invented for. take naps after classes (not during classes), and get to bed early. the last bit of advice i would like to pass on to you is to just enjoy your college experience. good luck to you in the next four years of college and to your future career!

dear incoming freshman,

welcome to msub! i am so glad that you made the decision to pursue your college experience here. msub is really a great school and i would love to give you some advice to help your freshman year be the best that it can be.

first, i'd like to talk about academics. coming from high school, i wasn't quite sure what to expect but it is a very different environment in college. it is so important that you take the time to figure out what major you want to pursue and what career options that will give you. i was a major in elementary education and special education but i recently decided to switch my major which has been stressful but definitely worth it. it is so important to be in a major that you enjoy and want to pursue. next, it is crucial to get your homework done. try your hardest not to procrastinate because the work load can be a bit overwhelming. lastly, it is very important to study, study, study! you can honestly never be too prepared for an exam. in some classes, those exams are your only grades so it is crucial that you get good grades on them.

while you're in college, another aspect that is very important in having a successful career is building relationships. at first i didn't have many friends and that made it very hard for me. once i let my fears of branching out go away, i made some friends that are very close to me now and that has helped make my first semester so much more enjoyable. don't be afraid to take a step out of your comfort zone! go to the events that are being held on campus; go to the sporting events and just get out there and meet new people.

lastly, it is important to embrace your community. billings is now your home away from home! drive around and explore what this city has to offer because it really is a great community. if you have time, it is important to volunteer in your community because you can really make a great impact and help improve your community.

i hope you thoroughly enjoy your time at msub!

i've had many great experiences through the last few months and only a few struggles. many of my great experiences had to do with getting involved with different things going on, on campus, meeting new people, and trying new things. i was totally against living in the halls but my parents made me and i am greatly appreciative of that. i have many great new friends who i think could be in my life forever. we've only been here a few months and i already feel more comfortable around them than i do some of the kids i grew up with.

relationship-wise all the advice i have is, do not come to college for a boyfriend. have fun and forget about the past. if it's meant to be, in the end it will all work out. try new things and enjoy your time in a new environment. being in a new community was a little different for me because where i'm from everyone smiles at everyone. when i first came here i was a little more shy than i normally am because i was around a bunch of new people that i wasn't completely comfortable with but it's definitely worth reaching out and breaking out of your shell. college is a great experience but can be very stressful at times. my best advice to avoid that is to get your stuff done as soon as possible and not wait until the deadline. the only struggles i ever had was just being stressed from schoolwork and my job. sometimes it seems over whelming but it will all be over soon enough and more than worth it.

dear incoming freshman,

i am sure you are very nervous, and trust me that is understandable. you are not the only one. your first couple weeks are going to be very overwhelming, but so much fun. the school is going to host events like games, bbqs, and much more. go to them! do not be shy, like i said every other freshman is in the exact same shoes as you. your ras are going to have floor activities, go to those also. the more familiar and friendly you become with your neighbors, the more at home you feel. the more activities you go to, the more friends you meet. the scheduling definitely takes getting used to. now you only have a couple to a few classes a day, and each are at least an hour long. you will start to notice you have a whole lot more free time because you are not in school from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon. if you challenged yourself in high school and were a diligent student, college will not be difficult for you. keep continuing those good study habits. if you are struggling though, it is okay, many students do. do not be afraid to go to the academic support center and get a tutor; it is what they are there for. you will eventually learn how to balance your social life and school, and a job if you decide to get one. always remember though, have fun! college can be very stressful but just always try and enjoy yourself and your experiences.

dear incoming freshman,

experiencing college is one of the best things a person, especially teenager, can do. although the thought of college may be a bit scary at first, it grows on you quickly. in the beginning you are not quite sure what to think about it all. if you come from a small school, college may be a little overwhelming. as time goes on, it gets better. being on your own, it is hard to motivate yourself to get up and go to class every day. with so many activities going on throughout the halls and around town, it is also difficult to be motivated to do your homework. some advice i would tell you about academics would be that grades are number one priority. although most of the time i think hanging out with friends is more important, you need to make sure you set aside plenty of time per day to work on homework and study. also, do not overload yourself. as a freshman, i wouldn't recommend taking 18 credits. i would take 15 or 16.

go to class every day. do not skip class. if you do happen to miss class, make sure it only happens very minimal. another piece of advice i would tell you is be active. i would not recommend sitting in your residence hall room watching tv or playing video games. be social. try to make many new friends in the first few weeks.

the last advice i would like to give you is working and going to school is tough, however, it is manageable. when working and attending school, you get worn out. i would try to make it easy on yourself. make sure to get plenty of sleep and good nutrition. overall, colleges is a wonderful experience and always make the best out of this time in your life!