Dear Rider Broncs,

Welcome to Rider! We are thrilled to welcome our new and continuing students to campus and another exciting year at Rider University.

As you settle in to the routine of campus life we ask that you consider what it would take for you to **thrive** at Rider this year. To us, the word thrive denotes harnessing your potential to be successful and fulfilled individuals. We look forward to witnessing your ability to thrive academically, personally, professionally, interpersonally, and spiritually this academic year.

The start of a new academic year is a fresh start for new students and a restart for returning students - an opportunity for you to set goals, develop an action plan to achieve those goals, and utilize all available resources to ensure progress along the way. As you set those goals, we suggest you consider the following academic advice.

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| ***Every Day:*** | ***Your Classes:*** | ***Your Assignments:*** | ***Your Professors:*** |
| Ask yourself why you are at Rider. Then do something productive toward that goal. | Be on time. (Find your classrooms before the first day of classes.) | Spend the first few days of class creating a semester planner noting assignment dues dates and dates of exams. | In the first week of class, introduce yourself to your professors. |
| Spend time reading. | Understand the attendance policy which is located in your syllabus. | Meet all deadlines. | Go to office hours; meet your professors outside of class. |
| Attend (or plan to attend) a co-curricular activity. | Don’t multitask during class – focus! (Put down your cell phone and if allowed, only use your computer to take notes.) | Be familiar with expectations and guidelines (check the syllabus). | If you must miss class, particularly due to illness, email your professor in advance. |
| Review your syllabi for upcoming assignments and check your Rider email account for important messages. | Participate in class discussions and be willing to answer questions even if you are uncertain if you are right. | Understand and avoid plagiarism. | Email your professors as if they are potential employers. Do not expect an instant response. |
| Look for connections across your classes. | Be prepared to be open-minded, challenged, and respectful of other’s ideas and opinions. | Do not presume there is a “make-up.” Most likely, there isn’t one. | Your professors are invested in you and your learning. You, too, should be invested in your learning, which will be appreciated by your professors. |

Additionally, to maximize this opportunity to shape your entire Rider University experience, we hope you will utilize the abundant resources available to you, some of which are outlined below.

**Get connected**

* Get engaged in [Welcome Week events](https://www.rider.edu/about/events/welcome-week).
* Review the [fall student events calendar](http://rider.edu/virtual-student-events) and schedule some events into your own personal schedule. Review the weekly *This week at Rider* emails for up-to-date campus activities.
* Reflect on how you’ll get involved this semester. Mark your calendar for Broncapalooza involvement fair on Tuesday, September 6 3pm-5pm and check out student organizations on [Broncnation.rider.edu](http://broncnation.rider.edu/).
* Determine ways to fulfill your [Engaged Learning requirements](https://www.rider.edu/academics/engaged-learning) - even as early as your first semester on campus.

**A few of the many resources available to you on campus**

* The [Academic Success Center](https://www.rider.edu/academics/academic-support/academic-success-center) provides course-specific tutoring, writing, reading, and study strategies support in addition to academic coaching.
* The [Student Navigation Office](https://www.rider.edu/academics/academic-support/student-navigation-office) offers coaching for new students during their first year on campus.
* [Career Development and Success](https://www.rider.edu/careers) offers support to gain hands-on experience and job-search skills.
* [Student Accessibility and Support Services](https://www.rider.edu/academics/academic-support-services/student-accessibility-support-services) (SASS) is available to assist students who have documented disabilities by determining appropriate accommodations.
* The [Counseling Center](https://www.rider.edu/student-life/health-wellness/counseling-center) is available for individual and group support.
* The [Student Health Center](https://www.rider.edu/student-life/health-wellness/student-health-center) is available for your medical needs.
* [The Rider Resource Pantry](https://www.rider.edu/about/offices-services/service-civic-engagement/resources) provides food, personal care items, and school supplies for any student in need.
* [COVID-19](https://www.rider.edu/student-life/health-wellness/student-health-center/covid-19) related information.

**Key campus contacts**

* Public Safety: Emergency 609-896-7777 and non-emergency 609-896-5029 or [publicsafety@rider.edu](mailto:publicsafety@rider.edu)
* Office of Residence Life: 609-896-5057 or [reslife@rider.edu](mailto:reslife@rider.edu)
* Dean of Students Office: 609-896-5101 or [deanofstudents@rider.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@rider.edu)
* One Stop Services (Financial Aid/Bursar): 609-896-5360 or [onestop@rider.edu](mailto:onestop@rider.edu)
* Food Services: [apignataro@rider.edu](mailto:apignataro@rider.edu)
* Registrar’s Office: 609-896-5065 or [registrar@rider.edu](mailto:registrar@rider.edu)
* Office of Information Technology Help Desk: 609-219-3000
* Student Health Center: 609-896-5060 or healthcenter@rider.edu

**Academic dean’s offices**

* College of Arts and Sciences: 609-896-5155 or casdean@rider.edu
  + Westminster Choir College
  + The School of Communication, Media and Performing Arts
  + The School of Humanities and Social Sciences
  + The School of Science, Technology and Mathematics
* Norm Brodsky College of Business: 609-896-5170 or [ugbusiness@rider.edu](mailto:ugbusiness@rider.edu)
* College of Education and Human Services: 609-896-5048 or [ridercehs@rider.edu](mailto:ridercehs@rider.edu)

Less than half of the world’s population has obtained a college degree. Your personal commitment to entrust Rider University in helping you achieve your dream of a college degree will advance this statistic, and lay a foundation for ***your future***. We hope you’ll make the most of every opportunity and resource available to you along the way - we are all here to support you in this journey.

Sincerely,