



# How I Built a Powerful Network in College

*Real talk — this is what worked for me (Ankush), not fluff.*

## ♦ 1. Start Offline – Build Social Presence First

- ▶ **Sit on the first bench for the first 3 days.** Not just for "good boy" vibes — *you'll actually get better notes, internal marks, and exam prep.* Also, professors + toppers notice you early. Trust me, I did this — and it helped me stand out instantly.
- ▶ **Talk to 3 new people every day in week 1.** Why? Because every friend group gives something — One gives you free event passes 🎫 One gives you topper notes 📖 One takes you to hackathons 🧠 One gets you into the right DMs 💬 That *variety* of mindset helped me grow like crazy.



## 2. Clubs = Secret Entry to College Ecosystem

- ▶ Don't just *join*, contribute. Handle Insta pages, design posters, do backstage tech — you'll get noticed.
- ▶ I literally built my early network by saying "bhai, I'll handle it" when no one else did.
- ▶ Eventually, people start recommending you even when you're not in the room.



## 3. Online Presence = Your Campus Beyond Campus

- ▶ A clean **LinkedIn + GitHub + Insta** can land you clients, collabs, internships.
- ▶ I used to post even basic progress:  
"First time deploying a Node app — it's live 🙌🔥" People *DM'd me* to collab just because of consistency.
- ▶ Comment on others' posts thoughtfully — not "nice work" but "How did you scale this?" That's how convos start.



## 4. Cold DMing = My Favourite Networking Trick 🔥

*Most of my internships, collabs, and freelance deals started here.*

Here's my go-to DM format (works for LinkedIn, Insta, anywhere):

Hey [Name], I'm Ankush, a [College + Year] student. Saw your post on [specific thing] - really cool stuff. I'm into similar projects & would love to jam sometime or learn from your journey. Open to connect?

- ▶ It's short. It respects their time. It builds genuine curiosity.
- ▶ **Bonus:** Personalize it. If they've done a podcast, say you listened. If they posted code, ask one smart question.

This is the *most underrated superpower* in college — cold reachouts. No gatekeepers. No resume needed.



## 5. Hackathons & Fests = Real-Life LinkedIn

- ▶ I met judges who later became *mentors*, teammates who became *co-founders*, and random folks who later *tagged me in freelancing gigs*.
- ▶ Always connect **after** the event too. DM with:  
"Your review helped me polish the UI after the hackathon. Thanks again!"



## 6. Make Instagram a Network, Not a Showcase

- ▶ Use it to post your journey — even small things. People love seeing someone grow from 0 → 1.
- ▶ Tag people you collab with. Reply to DMs like you talk to friends.
- ▶ My DMs literally gave me clients, podcast invites, free tools, and even a couple paid promotions.



## 7. Relationships > Contacts

- ▶ Don't just collect people — follow up every few months.
- ▶ **One trick I use:** Every 2 months, I just reply to a story or share a small win:  
"Yo bro, saw your new reel — you're crushing it!" That 5-second text keeps the bond alive.
- ▶ If someone's looking for help, refer someone — even if you don't get credit. That kind of goodwill compounds later.



## Mistakes I've Seen (and made early on):

- ✗ Reaching out *only* when I needed help.
- ✗ Posting too much flex content, too little value.
- ✗ Ghosting people after one collab.
- ✗ Treating people like LinkedIn stats, not humans.



## TL;DR (Save This for Later)

**Offline presence + Online consistency + Cold DM magic + Helping others =  
Legendary College Network**

**Real talk:** Your network will outlive your GPA, your CGPA, and even your placements.  
It's the bridge to *real* opportunities.