

## **Group #1**

### **What advice would you have for next year's students?**

- Don't procrastinate
- Pay attention in your lectures
- Take every class/ assignment serious
- Go to your classes
- Takes notes
- Remember to have fun as well. Embrace college life while being responsible
- Remember you are not alone
- Ask questions, if you don't understand something you're probably not the only one.
- Homework  $\neq$  Study
- Read the textbook
- Refer to the syllabus often
- Take care of yourself. (Mentally/emotionally, and physically)
- Get to know the teachers in your major
- It's okay to change your major
- **What do you wish last year's students had told you?**
  - The first year of college is the hardest adjustment year.
  - The classes are about the same level of difficulty, just a bigger workload
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- **Things that have worked for you so far this semester**
  - Attending office hours
  - Formed study groups and group chats for help
  - Emailing professors whenever there was a concern
- **Things you wish you'd done differently**
  - I wish I did more of the suggested problems instead of only the assigned ones
  - I wish I had taken better notes than I did because I had to go back and redo all of them because I wasn't understanding the material.
  - I definitely procrastinated in high school, and I still do pretty bad so just try your best to stay on top of your work.
  - I wish I put myself first
- **Resources you discovered**
  - Khan Academy
  - Counseling Center

Dear Incoming Students,

Congratulations on making it through high school. The college experience is so much more than just school work, but don't be afraid. When it comes to difficulty, the course work isn't much more difficult than your high school classes. One thing to remember though is that workload is greater, so don't procrastinate because everything takes longer.

One thing to keep in mind is, enjoy college life as well. It is important to have fun and enjoy the little things along the way. Don't get sucked up in the work and put too much pressure on yourself. The first year of college is an adjustment period so use that time wisely. Stay on top of your work, ask questions in class, but also make friends find a group of people that will take your mind off the stresses of college.

However, that doesn't mean that you should party every weekend. You should focus on your work, but don't forget to reward yourself now and then. I would advise that you pay attention to your lectures, go to all your classes, take good notes, ask questions, read your textbook, and study when you can. Doing just the homework doesn't mean that you studied. I also recommend that you refer back to your syllabus often, take care of your mental health, and maybe even get to know your teacher. Just know that it's okay to change your major.

As for what has been the most beneficial for this semester, I highly recommend that you attend office hours to get help and email your professors whenever you are concerned about your grades or anything. They are usually more than willing to help you, especially in your freshman year. What was most beneficial to me was forming our own study groups and group chats for help.

Lastly, there were some things that we (yes we, we wrote this as a group) wish that we had done differently. We wish that we did more of the suggested problems instead of only the assigned ones, had taken better notes, had put ourselves first, and wished we stayed on top of our work. Although this class offered multiple resources that we have access to, none of us really used them, but I recommend using those resources if you ever need any help.

# Dear future students, welcome to college!

Here are some things we think might be helpful for you to know:

- Reach out to people - they're helpful!
- Stay motivated! Giving up is easy, but we're paying a lot to be here :)
- Go to bed early or on time!
- Calendars/Planners help you keep organized and keep track of homework
- Going to class actually matters, it's way more work trying to catch up later
- Take things one step at a time.
- ASS.U.ME: making an ASS out of U and ME
  - Professors are most often pretty nice, assuming they're mean just makes things stressful

## What do you wish last year's students had told you?

- Invest in a good computer and headphones
- If you are going to be taking a computing class get a mouse.
- Always trust the advisors and the professors as they are here to help.
- No 8am classes! It's not necessary
- When signing up for classes, know that classes without meeting times or classrooms (or if it says it's asynchronous), there's not going to be a professor teaching, you'll be mostly on your own to complete assignments and manage your time.
- Midterms aren't as scary as they're made up to be, especially in intro classes

## Things that have worked for you so far this semester

- Find a note taking style that works changes the whole game
- If there are hybrid options during the future semesters, go in person, it helps way more than you would think.

## Things you wish you'd done differently

- I wish I looked at who the professor was before picking my classes as professors make a huge difference
- Wait to buy supplies - you might not need everything you think you will need.
- Get more erasers and paper than you think you would need.

## Resources you discovered

- Google
- Grammarly
- Easy Bib
- Google Doc add ons
- Rate my professor - I used this when I was signing up for classes, and it helped me find professors that matched my learning style and past students had liked
- The calendar function on Canvas is really useful for keeping track of assignments

Dear future students,

Most of the time older students will tell you things like how amazing it is to live on your own and the freedoms that come with that. While that is nice, it's not exactly useful to prepare. I want to make sure that next year's students know how much more homework there is compared to highschool. The way the classes are structured is a lot different than highschool, meaning that while you're only in class for maybe 4 hours per day at most, you make up for the other time by doing lots of studying on your own. Make sure you get on top of it and use that time to your advantage, because the assignments will just keep piling up if you ignore them.

Many people will tell you that the first year of college is going to be hard. However, it actually isn't, as long as you have self discipline, and know the reason as to why you are attending. For people with an undecided major, if you don't already have most of your credits, I would highly suggest you attend a community college for financial reasons, but if that is not one of your concerns, by all means stay here. Also, keep in mind that this is an education that *you* are *paying* for. Don't be afraid to say no to friends, or clubs. With that, don't be afraid to ask questions, or even help (but if you are just going to ask for answers, at the very least make sure you understand the content, and cut to the chase), again you are *literally paying* for this school, and its resources--so get your money's worth-- this ain't cheap. Keep in mind that you applied to go to school, your application wasn't for friends, jobs, or extra activities. Know your values and purpose, and start prioritizing.

This semester, I have found that staying organized is extremely important in order to be successful. I've done this by keeping an agenda along with making daily to-do lists. Using these together has allowed me to figure out what I have to get done and to check things off as I do them. Another important factor in my success thus far in the semester has been not procrastinating. I know it's easier said than done, but setting a plan of when things need to get done and from there executing said plan is very important in order to make sure everything is done by, if not before, the due date. I tend to make sure everything is done the night before it's due at the latest, that way I don't have to worry about rushing to get it done the day it's due and can instead worry about other things, such as other assignments and anything else I want/have to do in my free time. Organization is the number one factor that has influenced my success this semester, combining organization with not procrastinating is the key to success.

The best resource I discovered this semester was Geogebra. This is an online resource that has so many different resources available in it, including different kinds of calculators along with geometric models and note-taking resources, it's a great math resource. This is similar to Desmos, but it has more options and I think it's easier to navigate than many other similar resources. I also learned how to better use a spreadsheet, which is a fairly useful skill to have. Being able to utilize spreadsheets is important in many ways, but especially for people interested in becoming teachers in the future because I know some teachers like to keep a second copy of students' grades in case something happens with the online grading used by the school. The resources I've discovered in this class will be extremely useful for me in the future.

When I look back on these past few months, there are certainly many things that I either did or didn't do that I regret. These actions ended up causing me to have a slightly more difficult time than I had originally thought. I surely wish that I did not procrastinate as much as I did. I ended up pushing assignments too far back and not having enough time to complete them fully or complete them correctly. This ended up causing my grades to suffer a little bit. I also wish I had taken the time to use the resources that were available to me like tutoring or math help. I undoubtedly feel like I would've had an easier time in my classes if I had used those resources. In my classes, I definitely regret not trying to make more friends. I feel like friends in my classes would've made it easier to study and get motivated to do school work because we could do it together and help each other when needed. Obviously, many different people regret many different things, or at least wish they could redo some parts, but for a first year at college, being aware of these three actions would've definitely helped my time here.

- A group of fall 2020 math students