


Advice for New Freshman from Successful Juniors & Seniors

Transition to College

- ◆ Try not to go home so often. You never know what you might be missing. Home will always be there, but you only have so many days as a college student. Make EIU your home.
- ◆ Don't over pack. You'd be shocked on the difference between what you actually need, and what you just can leave at home.
- ◆ College students shake hands. Leave the super crazy bro-shake to the high school students; time to act like a grown-up.
◆ It is okay if you don't know what you want to major in. Don't jump into a major you are not sure about. Take the first year and enjoy gen eds and base it off your interests.
- ◆ Use the facilities and services. EIU has a wonderful library, computer labs, and career services. They are there for all students.
- ◆ Locate the buildings and rooms of your classes prior to the start of classes. This ensures that you won't be late on the first day.
- ◆ Pick up your textbooks before classes. This gives you a chance to look through them.


Learning About You

- ◆ Be yourself. This is a place where you discover more about yourself than you ever had before. Don't worry about impressing others or trying to fit in, you will make friends no matter who you are or what you do. No one cares who you try to be, we only care about who you are.
- ◆ Stay encouraged. Post encouraging words around your room; listen to happy music. College can be stressful, so the more encouraged you are the better.
- ◆ Keep a positive attitude! Your first year of college comes with plenty of challenges and setbacks (as well as opportunities). Don't get discouraged.



- ◆ Try new things. This pushes you into discovering a bit about who you are. Push yourself outside of your comfort zone.
- ◆ Be open-minded.

Academics & Studying

- ◆ Organize all your materials in a way that you won't misplace things or become unorganized. For example, buy notebooks with folders to keep all your papers together.
- ◆ Find a quiet place to study away from your room. Leave your room for relaxing. Consider the Union, the library, or the lounge of your residence hall.
- ◆ Stay organized. Write assignments down in a daily planner. Set a daily schedule. This way you will be less likely to get off track.

- ◆ Prioritize. Know what is most important. You can always hang with friends. If you know you have a test coming up, then study for it. You can play later.
- ◆ Actually do the reading. Textbooks aren't exactly "page turners," but they do help you understand the material. It's definitely worth the extra time.

In Class

- ◆ Even though the first week is syllabus week, it's important to attend ALL your classes because teachers discuss particulars about the class for the semester.
- ◆ Make sure that if you have any questions about the syllabus or anything else that you ask your professor.
- ◆ Make sure you turn in all assignments on time. Do not procrastinate. The deadline may seem a long time away, but it will be here before you know it.
- ◆ Don't skip classes. You are paying for each

day and you will miss important material. Take responsibility and set your alarm clock (or two!).

- ◆ Read your syllabi and understand what the professor expects and how you will be graded.

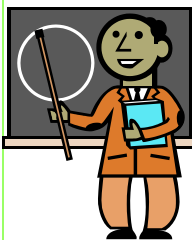


- ◆ Participate in class a lot. Teachers like that. They will get to know you better, which could help you out in the long run.

- ◆ Do extra credit assignments whenever they are offered. You never know when those couple free points could really come in handy.

Faculty & Advisors

- ◆ Talk to your advisor if you think you want to change your schedule.
- ◆ If you miss a day, make sure you get the notes from someone and always talk to your instructor about what you missed. Don't let yourself get behind or miss out on information that could be important.
- ◆ Get to know your professors. Talk to them during office hours—especially in large lecture classes. When you go in and introduce yourself from the start, your professor will have a name to put with your face. This also makes it easier to go talk to them during the semester. And, he/she could be a key reference.



- ◆ Don't be intimidated by your professors. At the college level, teachers are even more passionate about their class/content area. Remember they are there to help you.

Classmates

- ◆ Try to make friends with people in your classes. Having a study buddy helps a lot—especially if you miss class and need notes.

The Curriculum

- ◆ If you have a declared major, try not to take all of your gen eds at once. If possible, try to mix in some of the classes for your major. It is more likely that you will do better in those courses, which makes this a great gpa boosting strategy!

Getting Involved

- ◆ GET INVOLVED!!! You will take more ownership of your college experience, meet way more people, and develop yourself as a leader.
- ◆ Getting involved on campus is a simple way to start building a solid resume. EIU has 150+ organizations to choose from.



- ◆ Getting involved helps build your character, and it shows you a lot about who you are.

Meeting People

- ◆ Make sure you have fun and meet new people!
- ◆ Find people on your floor and in your classes to study with and form study groups.
- ◆ Make time for YOU! College can be stressful—especially being new. Remember to enjoy yourself, too. It is known to be the best 4(ish) years of your life. Embrace it!
- ◆ Talk to that person next to you in class. Odds are he/she is looking to meet new people, too.
- ◆ Surround yourself with like-minded people.

