

5 WAYS TO GET READY FOR COLLEGE



It is that time of year when the emotions of saying goodbye to high school family and friends are mixed with the excitement of your future and new college life. Many high school graduates are handed their diploma but walk off the stage questioning their future at college. If you are wondering how to get ready for college, you are definitely not alone!

We have rounded up the 5 most important things to help you get ready for college life.

1 MAKE A LIST, AND CHECK IT MORE THAN TWICE!

If you want to get ready for college, you must start with preparing to move! Whether you plan to live on or off campus, make a list of everything you need now so you have time to buy the items and pack for the year. It's surprising how quickly the summer months pass and how long it actually takes to buy and pack your college supplies. Waiting until the last minute can be incredibly stressful! Get the supplies throughout the summer months and enjoy every moment, including that last week, with your friends and family. [Click here](#) for our Ultimate Packing List of items to take to college.

2 CREATE A BUDGET

Knowing how to handle your money, from your dining card to your wallet, is an essential part of college life and beyond. Know your budget: what you can spend, and what you will need to save for books and tuition. While this may seem overwhelming when you are used to being cared for, it is empowering to save and pay for college expenses on your own. Also, by having a budget, you can save for fun activities and trips with friends without worrying about being in debt later or feeling discouraged that you missed an opportunity.

3 KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES AND COLLEGE LECTURES

To get ready for college, you need to start thinking and behaving like a college student. This means knowing how to listen well and take thorough notes. Throughout your high school years, many teachers lectured by teaching the information you would need to pass a test. Much of that will go away in college, so you must know how to listen well in class, study, and even teach yourself! Do not go into college expecting all of the exam questions to be discussions in the classroom. Instead, take the summer months to build your skills in becoming an independent learner. Challenge yourself to be a self-taught learner this summer. [Create a summer reading list](#), [learn a new language](#), or [teach yourself a new skill](#).



4

UNDERSTAND HOW YOU LEARN BEST

Many students leaving for college have no idea how they learn and retain information, both of which are essential for excelling in college academics. Take a Learning Style Assessment this summer so that you know if you are a Visual, Auditory, or Kinesthetic learner. Once you find out how your brain processes information, you will understand your strengths and weaknesses when it comes to reading. For example, many Visual learners have a difficult time with multiple choice questions, because once they see the options they can rationalize every answer. By knowing your learning style in advance, you can combat those struggles and find a better approach to learn what you'll need to know. Try Bridgeway's [Learning Style Assessment](#) and get the *101 Ways* Booklets for free, they give helpful tips for your unique learning style.



5

FIND A BALANCE BETWEEN STUDIES AND SOCIAL TIME!

Get ready for fun! You should and will have a lot of opportunities to make friends, be social, and get involved in college. However, now is the time for you to take control of your social calendar AND balance all that you let into your life. You don't have to say "yes" to everything, in fact, you should often say "no." Make a list of your priorities and think through what you do and do not want to participate in before you move into the dorm. This summer, start practicing how to find a healthy balance between work, school, and social time and discuss your goals with your parents. It's vital to learn time management skills for your work and study responsibilities, but make sure you make time for fun and get involved with school activities.

Heading off to college is one of the most exciting times in life, but it can be unsuccessful for those who don't prepare. Hopefully these tips will help you have a smooth and painless transition to your new life this fall.

Happy Summer!



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