

Dear University Academy Alums,

Becoming a college graduate is a very worthwhile goal. Indeed if you become a college graduate, statistics show you will have more career choices, make more money and actually even live a longer life.

Here are 10 things to think about during your college career.

Number 1

Choose your friends carefully. Your friends are a reflection of you. If you become friends with other good students, you are more likely to be a good student. If you hang out with dogs you will get fleas. Studying with the best students will actually increase your grades. You can learn a lot from other students especially if you find the smartest ones and study with them.

Number 2

Attend classes. Many students who fail out during college are the ones who stop going to classes or don't attend frequently. Showing up for class is half the battle. Obviously doing your homework and turning in assignments are also critical.

Number 3

Take advantage of the opportunity to get to know your professors. Your professors will typically offer office hours. Force yourself to go to office hours early in the semester to get to know your professors. This personal connection with your Professors will pay off – it will make you appreciate the course more and may even make a difference in your grade.

Number 4

Don't be afraid to ask for help if a subject or concept is not coming to you easily. Go and talk to the professor and ask their advice before it is too late. Take advantage of the opportunity that many colleges offer to get a tutor or to get help from the professor.

Number 5

Once you have completed your mandatory coursework, think carefully about what classes you would like to take. You will enjoy college more and perform better if you take classes that truly interest you.

Number 6

Ask older students who the best Professors are. Try to take classes with Professors who are excellent teachers.

Number 7

If you don't get into a class that you want because it is full, don't just automatically accept no for an answer. Go and talk to the Professor and tell them why you would like to be in the class. If that doesn't work, show up for the class and be there so that if other students end up dropping the class, you will be there to take their spot.

Number 8

Use your summers wisely. Think about what type of summer job will help you advance your career or educational goals and start very early (in the fall) identifying and pursuing meaningful summer job or internship opportunities. Go to your college's career counseling office and meet with the folks there. Network with people who work in the career you are interested in and talk to them.

Number 9

Always be prepared with an up-to-date resume. You will need a good resume to apply for summer jobs, special programs, scholarships etc.

Number 10

Have fun, but not so much fun that it gets in the way of your goal of becoming a college graduate. Not everyone you start school with at your respective colleges will make it. The fact that you are standing here today as a University Academy graduate demonstrates that you are prepared to succeed in college. You are well-prepared to succeed so your success is firmly in your hands.

Above the doors to the entrance of University Academy it says "through these doors walk the leaders of tomorrow". You are those future leaders.

We look forward to following your successes in college and beyond. Please stay in touch, come back and visit, and know that University Academy cares deeply about each of you and your future success.

Best Regards,

Bush Helzberg
Chairman, University Academy