Welcome Back Advice to Students from ROAR Scholars Staff

Seniors/Recent Grads

Congratulations on the beginning of the rest of your life. It is indeed a difficult yet adventurous time where you are feeling your way through the world on your own. I read a lot and in my reading, I stumbled upon this article that has proven to be extremely beneficial for me being in my first job out of college. These tips are very simply in which anyone could apply. I cut out some of the commentary for length's sake, but the message is still clear. Happy reading and take the world by storm!

6 tips for success all college seniors/new grads should know
By Sonia Acosta, CareerBuilder Writer
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College seniors and recent graduates are in a very delicate, crucial and demanding time of their lives. During this time, there can be an overwhelming number of decisions to make, paths to choose from and obstacles to overcome.

Ever heard someone say, "I wish I knew then what I know now?" Well, it's time to walk away from the wishing well, and check out six pieces of advice that will help enlighten and improve your experience as a college senior or recent college graduate.

Cut the expense fat
Take an honest look at your expenses, and you are likely to find several areas where you can shave off a few dollars and still live to tell about it. A few unnecessary extras here and there can add up to a lot of cash, leaving you unable to accept lower-paying job opportunities with greater long term potential than a position that pays more now.

Expense: Large Car Payments
Tip: Buy a Kia or Hyundai instead of Toyota, etc.

Expense: Large rents
Tip: Rent or share a room first before you go out and get a large, expensive apartment.

Expense: Large cable bills
Tip: Drop HBO, Sports, Digital music. Perhaps drop cable all together and get Netflix and Hulu instead.

Expense: Gym Membership
Tip: Join a Y instead. It's usually much more affordable.

Expense: $100 cell phone plans
Tip: Get a $35-$50 cell phone plan. There are many reasonable options out there today for plans that include texting and data from carriers like Boost Mobile, Cricket and Virgin Mobile.

Expense: Daily Starbucks coffee
Tip: Get coffee at McDonald's. It's about half the price.

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Fall '12

♦ Operation College Success
♦ Open House
♦ New Student Orientation
♦ Advocacy Awareness
♦ End of Semester Banquet

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College of Charleston
ROAR Scholars
Senior/ Recent Grads (cont.)

Monitor your ePersonality

1. Determine what’s out there about you. Google your name and see what comes up, review your profiles on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. Try to remove any inappropriate or workplace-unfriendly content.

2. Be honest. If you know there is unflattering content posted about you online and you’ve tried to remove it without success, be upfront with your recruiters or interviewers. Ensure that the interviewers know the information is not a true reflection of who you are and how you would perform as their employee.

3. Going forward, be careful about what you post. Remember that anything posted in a public domain may remain public indefinitely and could be available to a prospective employer.

4. Use free tools to continually monitor your online presence. If you set up a Google Alert on your name, you will receive an email each time your name shows up in a Google search. This way you can try and proactively do something about inappropriate content.

Go beyond the textbooks

Heather Huhman, founder and president of Come Recommended, a content marketing and digital PR consultancy for job seeker and employer focused organizations, says, “If you’re still in school, now is the time to gain experience. Pick up an internship, volunteer in your field, and take on more leadership roles.” While an education is an invaluable asset, in order to succeed in today’s market, you have to go beyond the textbooks whenever possible. “A degree isn’t going to be your golden ticket to gainful employment, worthwhile experience is.”

Be honest, have integrity

Brooke Allen, founder of noshortcutofwork.com, shares an interesting story. “I was addressing a class of college seniors when someone asked, ‘What do you look for in an employee?’ I said, ‘Integrity and the ability to do the work.’ The class laughed and the student said, ‘Do you mean to say that, in this day and age, anyone cares about integrity?’” While it is relatively painless to find competent people who can do the work required for a position, it is much harder to find good people with integrity that you can count on, says Allen. “If you want to stand out among the others, practice being the best possible person you can be; don’t lie, say what you will do, then do what you say.”

Emotional Intelligence

According to Tim Elmore, founder of Growing Leaders, an international non-profit organization focused on developing young leaders, emotional intelligence, or the ability to manage emotions, is the single thing that will determine a student’s success after graduation more than any other factor.

Help out wherever possible

Successful people are those who work hard, and go above and beyond whenever possible. No one ever got promoted or built a successful career by doing the bare minimum.

Brettica Moody, Program Counselor

Juniors

Greetings to my entire junior class out there, Hi! This is going to be the best and toughest year out there. You will start your major course load in earnest as well as your search for employment following your senior year. It can be a confusing time as you are trying to find internships, get the grades necessary to further your education, and for some study abroad before it’s too late. Either way here are some tips from Donald Asher, author of How to Get a Job with Any Major, From College to Career, and Graduate Admissions Essays.

Tips for Juniors:

- Prepare in the first semester to get a summer internship
- Settle on a major and meet with an academic advisor
- Consider a semester abroad
- Begin to talk about your future career with fellow students, faculty, alumni, visiting speakers, and etc.
- Visit alumni and professionals in your chosen field for a “shadowing” day, or at least an information interview.
- Research graduate schools: look up prominent graduate faculty in your field of interest and read articles in the academic journals for your field
- Begin to correspond with faculty in graduate schools of interest
- If grad schools on your list require the GRE, plan to take it late in the second semester, or in June of the coming summer.
- If grad schools on your list require a GRE subject test, register in February for an April sitting.
- Visit all the graduate schools you can during the school year.

Anwar Staggers, Office Manager
Greetings sophomores. Well you made it to year number two. That’s right, you battled the new experience called college, managed to balance your time and successfully passed.

As we all know, college can be an exciting time in our lives as we travel to new places and are away from home for the first time in our lives, having to establish new support systems and become accustomed to a new climate and culture. The sophomore year of college is one full of both excitement and worry for some students, but do not get worried. This is normal, the sophomore year of college brings with it both challenges and exciting new opportunities for growth.

When we started our first year of college, our freshmen year was all new with all new experiences, new culture, new people and the experience of being responsible for ourselves. The second year of college is a little bit trickier, as many of us know or have personally experienced the sophomore year “Blues”. The blues is an expression for how we deal with the pressures, new experiences and navigating our way through college. It is completely natural to feel a sense of longing or wondering where am I going now. Here at the College of Charleston there are many programs that can help students with navigating their collegiate experience;

Whatever route you take be advised that the success of college starts by being engaged and taking an active role with your educational experience. The key to success in college is to know when to ask for help and realize that college is not meant to do everything on your own, instead realizing that others have already traveled your path and can assist you with the support, guidance and planning that is necessary to make a successful transition.

Embrace change for a successful future and realize that you will grow, be challenged and as a part of life possibly have a shift in your paradigm. After all, college is about the journey and all the challenges we experience along the way.

Do not forget the Sophomore Blues or the Slump. There are some additional helpful links for students dealing with the Sophomore Blues. If you feel that you truly are experiencing this in your current reality speak to someone, do not hold your emotions, feelings and or frustrations in. There are people here to help assist you and to make life a little more supportive. Remember the key to success is realizing when you can do something on your own and when and how to ask for help when something is over your head.


**Office for the Academic Experience**
Academic Advising & Planning Center
ROAR Scholars Program (TRIO – Student Support Services)
- Counselors; coaching, guidance and support utilizing a holistic model
- Individualized planning & assistance
- Peer Mentoring
New Student Programs
Undergraduate Academic Services

**Student Affairs**
Career Center
Counseling, Alcohol and Substance Center
- Peer Counseling Program
Dean of Student Affairs
Disability Services & SNAP Services
Multicultural Student Programs & Services
- Safe Zone
Residential Life and Housing
- Residential Director
- Resident Assistants

Come and see our new spaces!
(We have had great improvements to the space since this past summer!)

Tom Holcomb Jr., Program Director
Freshman

On behalf of the College of Charleston ROAR Scholars program I would like to welcome you to the ROAR family. I hope that your first couple of weeks are innovating. Although it’s a new experience please remember to balance your schedules accordingly. There are so many opportunities waiting for you. Remember no question is a dumb question and closed mouths don’t get fed. You have to be willing to step outside of your shell to attain academic success and a social life.

A lot of the dorms on campus don’t have a readily available kitchen for student access so I know most of you have Meal Plans. However the cafeteria is not open after hours and I’m sure you’ve started reaching in your pockets and spending money on King St. Please be mindful of the eight and nine dollars spent here or there. Every dollar adds up when you are on a budget. If you are a college student without a budget already made drop this newsletter and go create one.

Financial literacy is a major part of overall college success. Be on the lookout for meal deals if you are buying food off King St after the café closes. And do remember if you have a meal plan you can always switch from a guaranteed meal plan to a block meal plan with dining dollars or just dining dollars. This way you’ll have some flexibility with where and when you eat. This saves you time and money.

At the end of the day Academic Success is pertinent to your enrollment at the college. The Center for Student Learning is located in the library and is open for students who need help in certain areas. Don’t be afraid to go to your professors’ office hours and talk with him/her whether you’re doing bad or good in the class. If you’re doing badly, remember academics are your first priority. I understand you want to mix and mingle to make new friends. However, don’t get caught up in the hype. If you do decide that you want to party or hang out with friends in general always find a balance. Because when finals come you don’t want to be overwhelmed with studying and trying to squeeze in a party. Enjoy your freshman year, but do so responsibly so you’ll be back for a sophomore year.

Britnee Smalls, Summer Intern and Peer Mentor

Scholarships

Scholarships can be found at fastweb.com

A list will be in the upcoming newsletter.

Riddle Me This:

At dusk I come without being fetched. At dawn I disappear without being stolen. I’m a poet’s tears and a sailor’s guide. What am I?

Answer will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

The previous riddle:

What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?

Answer:
A Towel

Operation College Success
students outside of Randolph Hall

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