

Top 10 Tips for Being a Successful Freshman

- 1. Make use of academic resources on campus.** Whether you are an 'A' or a 'D' student, you can strengthen your learning skills by utilizing available resources.
 - S.O.S. workshops
 - Peer tutoring
 - ASC advising
 - ASC website – <http://asc.uindy.edu> offers helpful calendars and study skill downloads
 - Writing, Math, History, and Accounting Labs
 - Textbook guides and publisher websites
 - Professor-led discussion and review sessions
- 2. Make use of campus resources.** Other departments offer good resources for freshmen:
 - Healthcare
 - Computing Services
 - Ruth Lilly Fitness Center
 - First Year Programs
 - Free Counseling
 - Media Services
 - Career Services
 - University Police Department
- 3. Talk to your professors and advisors.** Research indicates that the number one success indicator for college students is contact with faculty members. Freshmen should take the time to introduce themselves to professors and advisors, and to visit professors during office hours at least once during the semester.
- 4. Carry and use a calendar.** Time management is often a new skill for freshmen. Students will need a calendar/planner and a system to keep on task, submit assignments on time, and work on long-range assignments.
- 5. Be your own advocate.** Please do not ask your parent(s) to call your professors/advisors. You should be the person making contact with them. It might be a little intimidating at first, but over time it will become easier.
- 6. Do your own work.** The work that is being presented, submitted, and graded should be your own. Family and friends should not offer too much assistance. Remember, if you need help there are resources on campus to assist with academic work.
- 7. Consider enrolling in 12-14 credit hours your first semester.** Many students become overwhelmed during their first semester because they enroll in more than 14 credit hours. Freshmen who limit their classes to 12-14 credit hours have enough time to acclimate themselves to campus and the new academic demands of higher education, thus providing a more successful transition period.
- 8. Stay on campus.** Because it is easy to rely on the comfort of home, family, and friends, you may be tempted to go home every weekend or to return home after your last class. Whether you are a resident or a commuter, you will benefit academically by staying on campus. . . computer labs and the library have extended hours; it is easier for students to meet outside of class in the evenings and on the weekends; and students will get to know more people on campus.
- 9. Check your mailbox and email at least weekly.** Just like at home, important information is delivered through the mail. University announcements, bills, registration deadlines, financial aid reminders, and class information are often missed because students do not regularly check their mailbox and email.
- 10. Remember that you don't become a college student overnight.** Students learn to be successful college students through experience. Patience will be required while you make the academic, social, and emotional transitions from high school to college. You will make mistakes, but with perseverance, you will succeed. Best wishes!