

# Foster Care to Academic Success

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## 10 Ways to Make Your First Weeks Count

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- 1. Go to every orientation session you can.** Tour the campus, tour the library, find out where the tutoring centers are, make sure you know where all your classes will be held and how to get from one building to the other.
- 2. Get to know people.** If you're living on campus, keep your door open sometimes. Talk to your RA (residential advisor) and smile and say hello to people in the hallways. Show your school spirit by attending a sporting event.
- 3. Talk to your academic advisor.** Meet with your academic advisor and make sure you understand your school's rules and requirements.
- 4. Get organized.** Unpack thoughtfully. Make your room look nice and prepare a comfortable place for studying.
- 5. Develop a routine.** Okay, this might be hard during the first few weeks while you're still getting the lay of the land, but keeping to a schedule and managing your time wisely is one of the BEST ways to do well and have fun in school.
- 6. GO TO CLASS.** Go to EVERY class. Take good notes and ask questions if you don't understand something.
- 7. Get the books.** Get your textbooks as soon as possible. If you can't afford to buy them, check out [www.chegg.com](http://www.chegg.com) to rent them, or ask your professor if they're available on line - more and more textbooks are. Stay on top of your reading and your homework from the very first class.
- 8. Meet your professors.** Meet with each of your professors to talk about their class. Bring along the syllabus. Write down any questions. If your professor knows you as a person and not just a sleepy-eyed face in the crowd, it will stand you in good stead throughout the semester and throughout your college career.
- 9. Take some time for yourself.** Take a walk, relax, exercise, or listen to your favorite music. The first few weeks of college can be very stressful and you need to recharge your batteries.
- 10. Stay in touch with FCS/ETV.** We're here to help you - always, any time. We've been there and done that, and our only goal is to support you through to success.