

HOW TO MAKE IT IN COLLEGE

No one succeeds in college alone. Everyone has questions and needs help. This is normal. Connect to other people and keep trying. Don't let anyone keep you from finishing college.

Speak Up

- In a new place and don't know how to make it? Stuck with a problem you can't solve? Ask for help.
- Did you know that the people with the most money and power in our society are also those who ask for help the most? Asking for help increases your chances of success; it's a sign of strength.
- Maybe you're the first person in your family to go to college or an adult who has decided to start or return to college. Check out *Never Too Late* by Rebecca Klein-Collins, a comprehensive college guidebook for anyone who wants to know how to do it right.



Get and Keep Your Financial Aid

- Paying for college is an ongoing challenge. The first step is to apply for financial aid as early as you can. (studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa) The earlier you apply, the more money you are likely to get.
- Think you can't apply for financial aid because you don't have documentation? Check out which states might make your life easier. (nilc.org/issues/education/basic-facts-instate/)
- If you think there's something wrong with your financial aid, go to the financial aid office and ask for help.
- Once you get financial aid, check with your school to find out what is required to keep it. At most schools that means passing your classes, getting good grades, and staying on track to graduate.



Find Other Money to Help

- Almost 3 in 4 college students work. Try to find a job that gives you flexibility so you can make it to class. If you are given the chance for a work-study job on campus, take it.
- See if you can get food stamps or other public benefits to help you afford things like health insurance.
- Your campus may also have a food pantry with free food and/or a program that provides free meal vouchers in the cafeteria.
- Need help getting to school? Lots of colleges partner with public transit to provide cheap or free bus or rail passes or offer vanpool services for commuters. Check with the campus transportation office for more info.
- Have kids? Check to see if there's a program to help students with children.
(iwpr.org/student-parent-program-finder/)
- Stuck in a bad situation? Your college might have an emergency aid program or emergency housing. Ask the Dean of Students or the financial aid office.



Support is Just a Question Away

- Asking for help before you get into trouble is crucial. Think you're in over your head with a class? Go see your academic advisor ASAP. Wondering how to do an assignment? Ask your professor immediately.
- While your college has likely assigned an advisor to you, you're allowed to ask questions of other people too. Meet someone at a campus event who understands you? Get their card and follow up. The more people you know, the more resources you'll have access to



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