

Transitioning to College: Helping You Succeed

<http://www.transitioning2college.org>

Transcript of *College: What to Expect*

Brian: Anyways, thanks for agreeing to do this. I think the students will really find it helpful.

Emily: Hey, no problem. I wish some college students would have talked to me before I got here.

Jason: Actually, I get kind of nervous speaking in front of groups.

Brian: Don't worry. Just answer the questions as best you can.

Emily: Just relax. Follow my lead.

Brian: On that note, let's get started. Good afternoon, everyone. I thought since you were here today touring the campus and learning more about the university that you'd like to meet a couple of students. So, let me introduce two friends of mine, Emily and Jason.

A couple of years ago they were where you are now—juniors in high school thinking about college. Now they're almost done with their first year in college. So, in a few minutes you'll have an opportunity to ask Emily and Jason any questions you want about college, but first let me get things started.

Emily, can you tell us something about college that's different from high school?

Emily: Sure. For me, it was about being in charge of my own schedule. It's not like being at home or going to high school. There's no bells to tell you when the periods are over, and there's no one to take you to your next class. You could have three classes one day and then maybe the next only one class. Basically, it's up to you to figure out your own schedule.

Jason: And also it's really hard to not just take it easy in your spare time—like just watch TV or sleep. You can't always put everything off until Sunday night. For me, I like to try to do as much work and studying as I can during the day so that way, at night, I'm free to do whatever I want, like relax or just go out with my friends.



Emily: A lot of the students have part time jobs as well. This makes it even more challenging to manage your time. But Jason is right. You want to avoid wasting your time, unless you get all your homework done.

Brian: What about you, Jason? What did you notice?

Jason: Well, there are a lot of things I noticed, but probably the biggest was the amount of work and studying I had to do. Professors will tell you you need to take out at least five or six hours of your time outside of class each week just to do your studying, and for the most part, they were pretty much right. At first whenever I had a test, I would wait until the night before to do all my studying, and then I'd be up late, all tired and just doing my work all night and dreading my test. And then in the morning the test would come and I'd be tired and confused and wouldn't know what to do. But now, what I like to do is, I like to read over my notes and also rewrite them.

Yes, do you have a question?

Student 1: Did you say rewrite your notes?

Jason: Yeah, I thought it was crazy at first, too. But what it does, it helps me review my lecture and correct my very sloppy handwriting.

Emily: Yes.

Student 2: What's a *faculty*?

Emily: Well, if you say faculty, as in faculty member, it's just another name for a professor. But if you say faculty, as in the English Faculty, then it's another academic unit of the university.

Jason: You know there are a lot of terms in college that we use that I had never heard before. Another really good one is a *syllabus*, and actually, I have one right here to show you.

What a syllabus is, it shows you what you'll be studying in class and also what is expected of you. It includes required texts you'll need for the class and other recommended readings as well. It includes your weekly schedule and also the assignments you'll be doing for the class.

Emily: It also lists contact information for your professor, including office hours, and office hours are weekly times a professor sets aside to meet with students one on one.

Jason: A syllabus is basically your road map to your class. If you ever have any questions about it, make sure you ask your professors. Go ahead.

Student 3: Are your classes all lectures? Is it a lot of note taking?

Emily: Many professors do lecture, but there are also a lot of group assignments, and group assignments can take time out of class to work on. So, this will be very, very challenging. But if you are in a group, you want to get everybody's contact information, and this will make

scheduling so much easier. Group work can be time consuming, so start early and make sure you pull your own weight. It's really not that fun to be the slacker in the group.

Student 4: Is college fun?

Jason: You know, it is mostly. But you have to do your work, ask questions, and meet new people. Once you get into the swing of things, college can be very exciting.

Emily: You meet new people and learn new things every day.

Jason: You'll get plenty of opportunities to try new things and learn more about yourself. And for me, my first year I've learned a lot about myself and I had a lot of fun, too.

Emily: Are there any more questions?