

College Plaza

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College Transition Priorities

1. **COMMUNICATE when you have questions and concerns!** This is a time to take initiative to ensure that your transition to college is a smooth one. If you are not sure who to contact about a particular issue, please ask and we can assist you with finding the right person!
2. Familiarize yourself with the college/university resources listed on the back of this page. Ideally, if possible, visit your college campus before the semester actually begins to stop by these offices/programs so you know where they are when you need them!
3. Check your email and college account(s) DAILY to keep on top of information, specific dates and updates etc.
4. In particular, check your on-line financial aid account to be sure you understand what specific costs you will need to cover and when these payments will be due. Be sure that there is not any remaining documentation needed by the financial aid office. If there is anything that is not clear, call the Financial Aid office immediately!
5. Complete housing forms, health insurance forms and any other remaining forms required by your college.
6. Sign up for Freshman Orientation according to the information your college has sent you. Call the Admissions or Dean of Students Offices if you have not received any information about Freshman Orientation.
7. Begin to research Work Study job opportunities by going to your college's student career/job website. Summer (the sooner the better!) is the ideal time to apply for Work Study jobs before the rush of the fall semester when hundreds of students will be looking for jobs!

8. If you have not already done so, establish an *appropriate_email* account – this will be so important as you continue to communicate with your college, scholarship organizations, potential employers etc.

Self-Advocacy: Effective use of College/University Resources

Your commitment to learning about and effectively using the many support resources at your college/university will be key to your college success. We highly recommend that you begin to research the resources listed here at the college/university you will attend. In general, orientation programs for incoming freshmen include introductions to these offices and programs. Plan to set a goal for visiting/meeting with as many of these offices as possible in your opening weeks of school...or even this summer! *Do not wait until you are facing a personal or academic crisis to learn about the resources available to you!*

Key College/University Support:

1. Any specific program that supports your college transition as a first generation college-bound student, undocumented student etc. (College Enrichment Program and Enlace at UNM, for example.)
2. Academic advisor/ Advising Center
3. Tutoring and Writing Center
4. College/University Health Services including counseling services
5. Dean of Students Office/Residence Life (Housing) Office
6. Individual professor's office hours
7. Financial Aid/Bursar's Office
8. Registrar/Student Records
9. Campus Bookstore
10. Campus security