

Tips & Tricks for First Years

By Ashley Marzolf

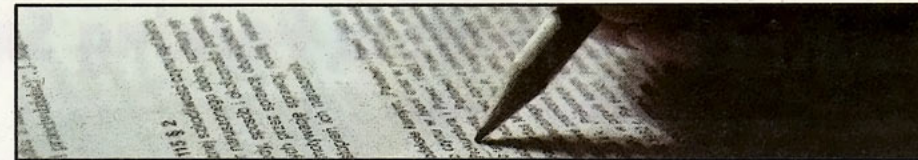
HELLO FIRST YEARS! Welcome to your first year in college. My guess is that you're realizing right about now that this is nothing like high school. So, I am here to provide you with some helpful insights, so you do not end up a quivering blob of Jello by the end of the semester.

First and most importantly do not under any circumstances look an upperclassman in the eye! They are diligently working towards their majors and do not have time for you and your general education classes. Guess what? I'm just kidding! I'm sure that any upperclassmen would be more than happy to help answer any of your questions (but seriously don't look them in the eye).

Next we have the bathroom policy. Do not raise your hand and ask to go to the bathroom. If this has not reached you in time congratulations you have successfully interrupted class and made yourself look extremely stupid. NEWSFLASH YOU'RE AN ADULT! If you have to go to the restroom quietly get up and leave the classroom. Freedom, it's a beautiful thing isn't it?

In time you will probably have the urge to skip class. DON'T! Do you know how much money you waste by simply missing one day?! Trust me in thirty years when you're still paying off your student loans you'll thank me!

On a similar note, there will most likely come a time when you will have the



option of doing your homework or go do something fun. Your brain will tell you that it's not due for a while, so it's no big deal. YOUR BRAIN IS LYING TO YOU!

Your professors will not stop giving you homework because you wanted to take a night off. Then the next thing you know you have an impossible amount of homework to complete by tomorrow! You think I'm joking, I'm not it will happen.

Finally we get to the good stuff, laptops! I am sure that during your time at Concordia you have been in classes where you can use your laptops. I am equally sure that you have used said laptops to check your Facebook and other such sites. You are doing it WRONG! MULTITASK PEOPLE! Take notes simultaneously, look up and nod in agreement every now and then, and actually listen to some of what the professor has to say. So when they ask you a question about the lecture you are not sitting there with a dumb blank expression on your face. You may

be surprised to hear this but your professor is smart, and if you are blatantly not paying attention they will notice. Then the next time you go to class your professor will tell everyone to put their laptops away, and you will successfully have ruined it for everyone. Good job kid!

Need Financial Aid?

By Bill Lueck

There are many grants and scholarships out there. "But where do I find them and how do I obtain them", you may ask. I think most everyone knows about the federal and state aid that are available, so I'll move on to additional aid you may be looking for to help pay for college.

The internet is probably the best place to start. There are many different sites out there that claim to be able to help you find financial aid, but do they? Most often you'll find sites on the internet that are just looking for your personal information. The trick here is to forget about even trying to weed out the mess and just go to sites that will be most likely to help. If you do a search you will find some sites that have many links from other sites directed to them. This is often a good sign that the site is well recognized and may be trust worthy, so it's a good place to start based on the number of times certain sites pop up in the search menu. Here are some things to look for once you begin looking over a site.

- Look at it to see if it looks professionally done. Most unethical sites will not spend any more money than they have to get what they want, especially since they may be shut down at a later date for illegal activity.
- Does it look well thought out? Even if it is a legit site it may not be worth your while to look around if it lacks organization, such sites often lead to others and are mere gateways to increase flow to other sites.
- How many ads does it have? Do the ads appear to be for reputable organizations?



When the screen seems to be swallowed up by ads, especially ones that appear to be from organizations of little to no reputation are a sign that you may want to check out another site and not waste your time here. Also keep in mind that birds of a feather flock together, it isn't likely that a legit site will knowingly host an ad from a questionable source.

There do not appear to be many other good ones that seem to be a financial aid info center. However there are many sites out there that are on the web for specific financial aid application that the bigger sites may not have listed. You can start by searching for aid based on your major, scholastic interest, and even personal background.

There are many specific grants and scholarships that are based on a specific interest and region. Let's say I going to college for a business degree, taking some music classes, and am from Alabama. Start with a narrow search and expand out since as you expand out the number of scholarships increase but the percentage of the ones you qualify for will be a lower percentage as you progressively expand out. So a search for "business Alabama grant scholarship financial aid" and "music Alabama grant scholarship financial aid" would be a good place to start out, and then expand the search from there.

Good Luck Hunting.