

# Letters to Future Students

Short link: [bit.ly/hccletters](https://bit.ly/hccletters)



At the end of my first year classes, students write letters of advice to future students. Below are those letters from students in the on campus and online sections. Note: these letters have only been slightly edited for grammar and to ensure anonymity, and they represent these students' views and opinions. I also highlight their major when it is mentioned to help you with picking one relevant to your interests.

For some tips on succeeding in college, please see:

- [University Survival - Student Success Skills](#)
- [OpenStax College Success free ebook](#)

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# AI Summary of Strategies From Letters of Advice

The following are the strategies students recommend for success, ranked by frequency of mention:

1. **Time management:** This includes not procrastinating, making a schedule, doing assignments early, and setting reminders.
2. **Organization:** This includes keeping a planner or calendar, writing down assignments and due dates, and keeping notes organized.
3. **Asking for help:** This includes talking to professors, tutors, and advisors, and asking questions in class.
4. **Taking care of yourself:** This includes getting enough sleep, eating healthy, exercising, and taking breaks.
5. **Staying focused and motivated:** This includes setting goals, finding a study buddy, and avoiding distractions.
6. **Attending class:** This includes going to class regularly and being present and engaged.
7. **Using college resources:** This includes tutoring services, libraries, and academic workshops.
8. **Reading the syllabus.**
9. **Choosing the right classes and major:** This includes talking to advisors and exploring different subjects.
10. **Building relationships:** This includes making friends and connecting with peers, professors, and professionals.

# Letters from Students in On Campus / Hybrid Sections

## Fall 2023 On Campus Student Letters

I am here at HCC majoring in **psychology**, The idea of helping those struggling with mental health and knowing I am going to be able to research mental health and find new solutions for future generations is truly amazing. In the pursuit of my career, I will also learn and grow through the process. So far, I have been able to learn discipline, time management, personal growth, and NO PROCRASTINATION. My first semester has been a learning experience and I hope to be able to give you some advice to help you through your journey.

1. Go to all your lectures!!! They teach you so much even if you have 0 motivation get up and go future you will thank you.
2. DO NOT procrastinate! it may work well for you the first couple of times, but you are causing yourself so much unnecessary stress.
3. Talk to your professors I know it may seem scary, but they are there to help through your journey. Make relationships with your professors as well, this will help with recommendation letters.
4. Ask questions, someone else may have the same question as you and it will help you understand so much better. You can also write down any questions you have throughout the lecture.
5. Use those tutoring resources when you are struggling or just in general! They have helped me grow so much in my courses.
6. Prioritize your classes over going out, the fun will still be there after you finish.
7. Time management is very important set up a schedule for studying throughout the week as well as time to relax everything is a balance.
8. Be on time! Missing parts of lectures can get very confusing.
9. Don't stress its all a growing process

My major is **psychology**, and my main advice would be to keep up with your work. When I was in high school, I would wait until the last minute to submit things and I did not even realize how bad of a habit that was. I think by submitting your work on time it just allows you to experience less stress. Classes can be incredibly stressful so if there's things you can do to avoid that I would suggest them just to keep your own peace of mind intact. In my experience, paying attention is also extremely useful. That might seem obvious, but I am the type of person who gets easily distracted and my mind tends to wonder, so just try your best to focus. The classes required for psychology that I have taken so far have not been too difficult, it's just a matter of staying on top of your work. I also suggest asking questions if you are confused about anything. They'll be able to clarify things and it's also a good way to practice being assertive. Good luck on your journey!

My major is **psychology**, as a psychology major the first steps that I am doing are taking my core classes as soon as possible, that way when I transfer to a university, I can take all my needed psychology classes from a university that has a stronger psychology program. Long term goal is to become a psychiatrist, but depending on how life goes, I would also be happy working at any field that involves psychology.

Some advice that I would like to give to future students is to remember that you can go at your own pace, don't overwhelm yourself, remind yourself that you are capable of succeeding regardless of how your pace is. Remember to give yourself time to relax and breathe, just be cautious as to not turn in assignments late, do your best not to procrastinate.

Attending classes can be one of the most helpful learning tools that you can use to ensure you're a success, getting an in-person experience and being able to ask questions and receive answers quickly it's something I feel students will benefit from most. Don't be afraid to ask your professor questions if you are struggling, they are there to help you, take advantage of it, don't let yourself down just because you were intimidated to ask a question.

To the future students of Hillsborough community college, I'm a **psychology** major and looking back on my first semester of college I've learned many things. Things I felt like you all might want to know entering your first year of college. Let's begin with one of the biggest challenges many of face in college is remembering to take care of ourselves and trying not to stress. There are some strategies I would like to recommend for you all to keep in mind if you ever feel very stressed, and swamped. The very first Strategy I recommend if you ever feel stressed is take the time to set away for a bit and go for a walk to relax your mind but not only relax your mind but to take your mind off of the everyday things your worried about. Listening to music I found always helped when it came to taking my mind off of things. As for the last recommendation I have for you is don't wait to the last minute to do something, I understand with wanting to procrastinate but trust me when I say this as a serial procrastinator it doesn't help you at all it only hinders you and you'll spend more time panicking with assignments than focusing on actually getting them done.

My major is in **psychology** and my career interest is to be a Marriage/ family therapist. Some advice that I would like to offer is in the beginning never think that you have it all figured out from the start. While starting the class I changed my Major from business to psychology. Assignments that were conducted throughout the semester helped me reflect. I was able to align my career goals with personal beliefs. Always stay on track with your classes, do not procrastinate and take everything seriously, there are not as many chances as there were in high school. Always seek help when you need it, don't ever be afraid to find a peer or reach out to your instructor when you need help understanding an assignment or you just need a little help getting started. Remain positive throughout your time here everything won't come easy you get out what you put in. Be proactive. Take mental breaks when needed, just don't procrastinate. I found that making a schedule for yourself is very helpful in keeping you organized and takes away the sense of anxiety of thinking that you have too much on your plate. Try your best to balance school, work and life as best you can, you don't want to feel as if you are spending too much time in one area.

Dear future HCC students. It is an honor for me to write this letter to you. My first year at HCC was not easy but with the help of this class and my motivation it was a success. I am majoring in **Nursing**, and it requires a lot of work to get into the program such as having 21 credits and 9 prerequisite classes. My dream is to become a travel Nurse and help people all over the world. I know it is not easy to be in school and work at the same time but if I did it so can you?

I was able to manage my schedule by setting up alarms to notify me when it is time to study, when it is time to do homework, and when it is time to take a nap because you have to get some rest in order to stay motivated. I suggest to not be on your phone during study time because it can easily distract you. With the help of the HCC tutoring staff, I was able to pass all my classes, they are here to help you as well if you need extra help. Do not feel embarrassed to ask questions if you don't understand something in class. When you are feeling stressed, just take a moment and take a deep breath and relax your muscles. I also suggest to always talk to an adviser before you sign up for next classes. I wish you a wonderful and a successful first year at HCC.

I am a first time college student my major is **Business Admin** I'm older so I waited a long time because I thought I couldn't do it. I was nervous I had anxiety because I thought why would I come back at this age. Believe me it's worth every bit. You have to be strong willed and ready to work. It's best if you can find a partner so you can link up and study together. You can enjoy yourself but you have to know that doing your work takes time and patients it can not be rushed. Always reach out to your teachers they will not mind they want you to succeed. Make sure you are able to sign up for classes as soon as possible you can get great classes. I know that you will be great keep your head up and push through.

I am majoring in **computer science**. Here's some advice and tips for my first experience going into college. One of the most effective strategies to do is to develop strong time management skills. Prioritize tasks based on importance. Try making homework a priority when possible. Set important reminders for homework and to piece out work like doing a piece of it day by day. Breaking larger assignments into smaller chunks makes them easier to approach and can lead to better productivity. Avoid procrastination and leaving things to the deadline. If you know you can do something today don't wait until it's tomorrow. Address this problem by using the technique of working in focused intervals with short breaks. Try to use free time left over for full time job or to engage in other social activities. Taking breaks can improve your focus and can prevent burnout. Prioritize your mental and physical health. Can use a planner or a digital calendar to organize your tasks and set different tasks into specific time slots. Exercise good note taking techniques. Choose a method that fits with your learning style. Make a point to stay organized like color coding. By being more organized it will be easier to find and review information.

Hello future student my major is **exercise science**. My career interest includes becoming a personal trainer, or a physical therapist. It has been seven years since I have been in high school and to say the least college was a little over whelming at first. I had to get back into "school mode". The best way I can describe that is by being hyperactive on assignments. I was constantly checking when they were do, what else I owed, and what my grade was. For me staying on top of everything made it a little easier. Also actually going to class and being present in class. Do not just go through the motions and leave. Be present ask questions. No question is a dumb question who cares what other people may think if you do not understand it you do not. If you need help, then get help. There is so many different avenues to get help if you need it. College is solely on you and how much you want it and apply yourself too it. Have fun and do not take things too seriously because you might get burnt out. Even if you think you don't need to study just study it's not going to hurt and more than likely you are going to get a better grade because of it. Good luck on your first semester of college and don't give up.

My professional interests are in livestock animals, particularly horses, and I'm pursuing a degree in **veterinary medicine**. I would tell you to stay organized and focused. Purchasing a calendar that will remind you when tasks need to be completed is something I would suggest you do. If you work a full-time or part-time job, for instance, schedule your working hours accordingly. Make time for your loved ones, family, and friends as well. You're going to be busy, so you need to be organized. It will be difficult for you to learn how to prioritize what is important and what is not, but if you know what your ultimate objective is, you should be alright. Additionally, I would suggest obtaining a full-time job if you are enrolled in four classes. I had a really hard time with this, but I made it through, so you can too.

When you are given an assignment, just dive right in and start typing. Avoid leaving it till the last minute since you'll be racing through it and receiving a poor or passing grade. Remember that while we strive for greatness, we are also aiming for good. It won't be the end of the world if you don't perform well. You still have the option to try again and again. I'm reminded of a quote by this. This reminds me of one quote. If you fall, make sure you land on your back, because if you can't look up, you can't get up. Be positive and consistent, and I promise you, no matter what, you're going to do and be great!

I am pursuing a **finance** degree with the goal to fly for medevac. My advice to the next wave of students looking to secure a degree, dedication needs to be your number one priority. Why are you here if you're not trying? Map yourself a schedule and stick to it, structure is the most essential thing you can have here. I understand money and work and family are all important but so are you. You have a goal, or you wouldn't be here JUST DO IT! Sometimes in life it is okay to put yourself first, get after it focus, and breath. Do not let this consume you, you are because you want to be here.

This is my advice for future students of HCC studying to get an **art degree** or anything related to the arts. Always have a gap period between your classes or at least a break during the day to unwind your brain. Constantly taking courses without a break of at least 30 minutes can also be tried on the mind and make you stress out. Taking a lunch break, nap, or even playing games on your phone/computer will decrease your stress levels. Another tip, if you struggle with studying and grammar in writing papers, is to use apps such as Grammarly and Quizlet to help you pass classes and have an easier time writing papers and studying for exams. Another helpful tip I got from one of my classmates is when applying for classes, use sites like Rate My Professor to see how good the professor is and how they work on their courses to see if they score on work/attendance or hard on grading. You don't want to end up with a professor whose student rate isn't reasonable, even more so within a subject where you struggle with understanding and need extra help. Going off that note is, to apply for classes. You can never do it at the last minute, or you will not get into classes. It would be best if you had teachers who aren't as good. Also, as an art major, try to get into art clubs, be with your art classmates, and see each other's styles and tastes. Also, last tip: if you have a job, never ever put the job first,

then your education. If you don't need the job, don't get one, ask for fewer hours, or just quit the job if it's stressing you out. Also, using the school's free items can never hurt if you are struggling.

Personal advice that I would give you when starting college would be once you get your classes and you start your classes to write everything down such as assignments when your classes are which you need to get done due date start dates. That was my mistake starting that I did not write everything down so I was behind a lot of things. I thought that I had a lot of time turning in assignments but when I actually go check in on canvas I was late to the assignment or I had literally a couple of hours to do things, plus do not procrastinate on doing any of your work once you get your homework and if you have the time I would advise you to do it the moment you get it just to get it out of the way so you're not worrying or stressing about it later in the future and that is one thing off your Plate. Use all all of your sources if you have friends or at least people to study with make sure that they stick close to you, always at least study for an hour or an hour and a half so you at least have some kind of information and you don't feel like you're left behind or lost when it comes to taking your exams. And if you're struggling with something it's always best for you to tell your professors right away and not when it's too late because it would be easier for them to help you later in the future than to help you when the semester is almost over and you are like far behind.

My advice to future freshman at HCC is, when your given an assignment finish as quickly as you can, try not to procrastinate, because it can hurt you in the long run. Those assignments stack up quick, and before you know it you have 30 missing assignments. Also get your Pre recs out the way you kind of need these or you won't be able to graduate. make sure you study for those exams, it's not like high school where you can just walk in guess all the answers and hopefully get a good grade. Exams are usually worth the most points so failing them could potentially cause you to fail the class all together. Communicate your problems with your professors, let them know if you have a problem or can't make it to class or if you have an emergency They will probably understand. If your taking hybrid classes or in person classes try to show to class as much as possible, professors usually go over work you might've missed or assignments you had trouble on, from my experience being class also helps me understand the material a lot better. furthermore don't really worry about buying books, the classes that told me it was required to buy the books we never even used them.



I advise future students to firstly, DO NOT PROCRASTINATE. Procrastination will make your college life a lot more stressful and not fun at all. It does help to finish assignments early when you won't be rushing in the end to keep up your grades. It helps to stay focused on the task at hand and only that task. When you try to multitask that can cause unwanted stress that can affect your life in multiple different ways. Not just at school. Work, home, extracurricular activities, and a multitude of other factors are affected when you decide to procrastinate on your work. Not just the hard work, but the easy work too. The easy work can be misleading on how simple it is. A 30-minute task could take well up to 2-4 hours to complete if you want to complete it the right way. If you want to keep your grades up and your unhealthy stress down, I suggest starting early on as much as you can so that when the final days of the semester approach you can expect a nice break instead of an extremely stressful last few days. Remember things can come up and that will affect the amount of time that is allocated for you to finish your class work. Good luck.

## Fall 2022 On Campus Student Letters

Dear future/current student at HCC: It is my understanding that you may have struggles, or just a hard time trying to figure out how to prepare yourself for your major. Or maybe you've become overwhelmed. Perhaps you're just very tired. Whatever the case, there is no need to worry! As overwhelming or stressful as college can be, there are always tips and strategies to help you get through it.

First, time management. A VERY important part of getting through college is managing your time properly. Of course, it's easier said than done. You, among many others, might not know exactly HOW to do this. Arguably the easiest way, is to start by creating a spreadsheet for your average week for every 30 minutes of each of the seven days. After which, mark all the activities you've completed throughout the days. Once the list is complete, go over and see what can be changed. How much time are you on your phone, rather than studying? COULD you find time to study? If, like myself, you are a visual arts major, it would be very beneficial to practice your skill during your free time.

Communication with your professors- this one is super straightforward. If something goes wrong, you can always email your professors for help or extensions.

Last- but certainly not least- give yourself a BREAK every once in a while. Rest up, hydrate, and eat what you NEED TO EAT.

I do hope any of these pieces of advice do help you in the foreseeable future.

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Advice to future students,

My major is **computer science**. I am enrolled in my first year at HCC. It's taken a bit of getting settled into the groove of classes but after reaching the end of my first semester there's a couple of tips I've found useful to share when applying oneself to successfully completing their initial term at HCC.

The effective strategies I've employed have centered around a key theme of time management. An important reminder about homework for instance is that piecing out one's work in moderation, day by day, will free up time to pursue other tasks like a full-time job or engaging in other social activities. Free time which is detrimental to one's mental health. It's important to stop and smell the roses. Burnout is real.

Instead of chasing the completion of a large scale project in haste, break it down into fragments you can overcome way ahead of any deadlines. This is especially true with online/hybrid classes where it's easy to fall into a trap of putting things off until several modules of homework have combined to form a trail of assignments you'll need to spend countless hours of your day catching up on. Exercise good note taking techniques. Make it a point to organize them neatly so you're not struggling to find them when needing a resource for test taking or the like.

I strongly suggest time blocking. Draft a weekly schedule and include important details to attribute to each day, making homework a priority when possible. Excel spreadsheets and daily planners are excellent tools for steering you in the right direction. I've found that outlining my calendar year along with an accompanying agenda has increased my productivity in several areas of growth.

Best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

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I am currently a student here and my major is **Cybersecurity**.

My advice is to READ THE SYLLABUS! Everything you need to know regarding the coursework will be there and it will guide you in how you need to schedule your time.

1) From the syllabus, schedule your assignments 2 days ahead of schedule, this way you can complete your assignments ahead of time while also giving you that “pressure” to complete the task. If you don’t finish the assignment on your timeline, you still have a few days to complete it for the true deadline.

2) Ask questions, no question is dumb or pointless.

3) Plan to get to campus a few, at least 15 minutes. Getting to campus or to class is also a toss-up until you get into a routine. Especially in the first few weeks of class, finding classrooms or meeting places can be tricky for some people.

4) Get proper sleep and maintain a routine/schedule for meals so you don’t waste time trying to figure out what to eat or purchase. Meal planning will be your friend here.

5) Have your class notes for each class organized so you can find any notes for an exam.

6) If you have the option, upgrade your technology. Depending on your major, you may need to use certain applications that are more compatible with Microsoft operating systems. I know students prefer the Apple ecosystem but using the new Intel Unity application windows machines have the same shareability or close to the Apple Ecosystem.

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My major is **Nursing**. I want to be a Registered Nurse RN. I have always wanted to be in a profession that mattered. I feel that health care matters to everyone in one way or another. I wanted to be a nurse because its rewarding helping people get their life back on track. Most of the time if you encounter a nurse its because you or a loved one is in trouble medically. I mostly would like to work in Mental Health or Orthopedics when it comes to the specific field of nursing. I have had alot of expreience in those particular fields.

Going to school for anything is hard work that takes time patience and dedication. Time management plays a big role in how one performs in your respective classes. Homework and studying are factors in how you perform as well. You should try to cut out some time on specific days to study and do class work. Using different memory exercises can also help with studying as well. If you have a better time with reading, maybe you can take note while you are doing a particular passage. Highlighting words or sentences can help retain information as well. But try not to do too much in a day as well. Over studying can lead to you not retaining as much info or feeling as though you are burned out.

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**Engineering** is a very particular thing to study that to succeed you must be organized and structured. Engineering is not as hard as people say, just by looking at the number of engineers there are in the world if it was such a difficult thing to do, we would see engineers like astronauts or Astrophysicists. The key thing to keep in mind for engineering like I said is to be structured and organized. You can't skip assignments because you have a good enough grade to take the 0 because you never know if there will be future assignments that will bring down your grade.

Another thing as well is to keep a schedule of when and how you will complete class work, because if you don't have dedicated time to do something and just keep delaying it you will eventually just not do it or leave too little time to complete it in a satisfactory way. One key tip I've heard for studying is to find a study group that can not only help you but keep you in line with studies making sure you don't spend too much time on distractions that risk you failing and having to retake a class.

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To new students

My major is **accounting**. So far, I completed about a semester here, but I still have a long way to go. You must be organized. If you're not organized everything will feel out of place and you might risk having a bad grade. Being organized, will help stay on top of your work and for you to know the deadlines of your assignments. Many professors do not accept late work. Even if you stay on top of your work, it would be good to do it early. Leaving homework till the last minute makes everything so much more stressful and it's not worth it. Plus, if you finish work early, you'll have more time to yourself than you though you would've, especially if you work full time. Set goals for yourself each semester and if you achieve those goals reward yourself. college is hard and can be overwhelming so don't forget to also prioritize yourself along with your work.

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I am an **Education/Teaching** major. My best advice to incoming students is getting general education and required classes done is tedious but your hard work will pay off. Once you get past these classes, you'll get into the fun classes and learn about becoming a teacher. Try your best when it comes to your general education classes, don't treat them like they don't matter.

They affect your GPA and your eventual transfer potential in a couple of years.

General advice to students:

1. Try to meet new people. College is a great opportunity to try new things and make lifelong friends.
2. Time management. School can be overwhelming, but with good time management skills, you can stay on top of your assignments and still have time for fun. Make a schedule and don't procrastinate.
3. Take advantage of HCC's academic resources. HCC offers a variety of resources to help you succeed academically, such as tutoring, study groups, and academic resource centers. Use these resources if you need help. Speaking to your professors about your needs and struggles is also extremely helpful.
4. Prioritize your mental health. College can be stressful, so it's important to take care of yourself. Don't be afraid to seek help if you're struggling with mental health issues.

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There are a lot of things i learned from my first semester of college. For starters, hcc has a lot of recourses that you can use, so if you ever need help, you are not alone. You may be like me where you arent really sure what you want to do yet. Counselors are there to help you with that kind of stuff and you can access them pretty easily. Another big thing is sleep. its better to get a good nights sleep than spend all night studying, because odds are you will be too tired to remember what you were doing. College is also very different from high school, it depends on the teachers, but ive found that most teachers are very understanding and are willing to give extensions as long as you are really trying. Showing up to class is a must. Sometimes it might seem like its not worth it or its easy so you dont need to go, but the more you skip the easier it gets, and then you fall into a place where youre just missing all your classes and you get super behind.

Classes will also require more effort than high school and you should take things more serious.

## **Fall 2022 Students:**

Advice to future students:

How your college experience is depends on you and the choices you make while in college. Some advice for incoming freshman would be:

1. Get as much sleep as you can before your classes
2. Prioritize your assignments and quizzes over going out and having
3. Try to get your work done a couple days in advance so you have free time
4. Stay on top of your work. It's easy for your grade to drop but it's hard to get it back up
5. Try to aim for c's or higher in your classes
6. If you're a full-time student don't overwork yourself. Students deserve breaks too. Try to take small break in between assignments and studying
7. TAKE NOTES. Taking notes may seem like a lot of work but it will help you so much especially if your instructors allow you to use them during quizzes
8. Pick classes that work for you. If you aren't a morning person try to aim for classes in the afternoon if you're an early bird aim for classes in the morning.
9. REGISTER FOR CLASSES EARLY. Set a reminder when registration opens for you and sign up for classes early it makes scheduling them according to what works best for you so much easier
10. Don't spend all you financial aid money in a short amount of time try to save some on the side just in case you may need it for future books or classes, etc.
11. Be kind to your instructor. Don't be rude just because it's not a good day for you or whatever reason.
12. Don't miss class unless you absolutely have it. Missing one day can set you back and can influence your grade
13. Set goals for yourself each semester and if you achieve those goals reward yourself . college is hard and can be overwhelming so don't forget to also prioritize yourself along with your work.
14. Lastly have fun you're only a college student once so enjoy it while it last. Try different clubs or activities. Go to school events.



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Dean incoming students,

My major is in **liberal arts and sciences**. Being a student in college can be stressful at times and I have learned as a student with learning disabilities to never be afraid to get that extra help needed to succeed in your classes. Take advantage of the free tutors that has to offer. I have attended English, math, and computer tutoring and have benefited from going. Try it out even if you only have one quick question.

Don't be embarrassed about your questions as tutors get all kinds of questions throughout the day and are there to help you. You could also ask questions and seek help from your professor as their job is to make sure you understand the material being taught. Also, to any students with accommodations, always email your professors as soon as possible to make sure that they have received your accommodations and that they have applied them to your assignments throughout the course. You don't want to make it to the end of the semester (like I did) realizing that your professor hasn't been applying your accommodations. Trust me, these tips will save you from adding stress to your college experience.

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I came to this college because I was afraid of the student debts I was soon going to get from college and that I was never an excellent test taker. I'm majoring in **criminology** since this area of expertise spreads around the family. You should always have a plan b in case you didn't achieve your goal. You never know what will happen, so it's safe to be cautious. I do not know if other students have as bad procrastinating habits and bad studying habits as I do, but I decided to make a change when I came to this college.

College is definitely more laid back than high school, and I caught on to that really quickly. The one way I studied throughout this semester was to write the subject that I was studying on notecards and to test myself. It was something about writing the topic down and then constantly looking at them, and after about 30 or so minutes, I would scroll through social media for about 5 to 10 minutes. The important thing, though, is that you have to be studying that topic the day you first hear about it in class. Doing so has made me remember more things than I did in 2 quarters in high school.

Procrastination, on the other hand, I thought of it as the quicker I get it done, the more time I can spend on myself. Getting anything done first and out of the way makes your

life a whole lot easier. I recommend spending time in the library doing work because of how peaceful it is; everyone is just getting work done or studying.

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Dear incoming or former Students getting back on track to his or her degree,

I am a current **Psychology** major. My Advice to you is do not over focus on anything. Nothing is as serious as it seems, if you feel overwhelmed about something just take a few steps back from the situation and find your inner peace. I also advise you to find some form of mediation or some form of happiness to not over-stress yourself. If you need some form of peace and quiet to be able to finish an assignment, I recommend finding a quiet place away from distraction or at least having music [played in the background (everyone is different when it comes to trying to get in the flow of doing an assignment)].

Whatever works for you to be able to achieve your end goal, find your focus, find what works for you and stick to it. The end goal of it all is to get that diploma in your hands. What I recommend is what works for me: Finding a quiet place to be able to focus on what's needed, having a friend motivating me to finish as assignment, Lighting incense for stress relief. Everyone is different finding what helps them, but you may take advice from several different people as to what helps them get through the difficulties and trying them to see what best fits.

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To new students,

My major is **nursing**. So far, I completed about a semester here. I still have a long way to go but I wanted to share some key tips on being successful in college; tips that helped me.

First, you must be organized. If you're not organized everything will feel out of place and you might risk having a bad grade. Being organized, will help stay on top of your work and for you to know the deadlines of your assignments. Many professors do not accept late work so be organized!

Another tip to keep note is to study for understanding the concept, not for memorization. As a nurse major, I'm required to take Human Anatomy and Physiology I, and I know that simply memorizing definitions will not cut it. For example, later in my life when I become a nurse, I need to understand how the body works not "what is the definition of that organ". I need to understand not only the functions but also how the organs work together. I plan on taking anatomy in January when the term starts and I'm looking forward to it because I enjoy learning about anatomy - which brings me on the next tip.

Make sure that the major you are pursuing is what you want in your life; for two reasons: money isn't everything- happiness is. And you do not want to be in thousands and thousands of dollars in debt for a degree that you're not satisfied with or a degree that you're not going to use. Unfortunately, it happens, so do what you enjoy.

To add on, read the syllabus! I understand it may seem pointless but, the syllabus says everything you need to know, and you do not want to be that student that ask a question that can be answered simply by looking at the syllabus.

Another tip - and this is crucial - understand what classes you need for the degree you want to pursue. It would be terrible if you take several classes that are not needed for your major.

Contact an academic advisor as they will guide you on what you need. For students that are transferring, contact both advisors; the advisor at your current institution and the institution you plan on transferring to.

As a student, showing up to class, completing schoolwork on time, staying organized, and studying are all key components to being successful in college.

Also remember, if you're overwhelmed by the workload (I personally have been many times), just remember that you're not alone and there are many ways to receive help.

Best,

A current student

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I am currently a student here, and I'm a major in **Information Technology**. My advice to you is do not procrastinate in any of your course. Doing Essays the night before or the same day it's due and doing an assignment that's due the same day will have you stressed to get it done and you probably should want that for yourself.

2) Always ask questions, don't be afraid to ask questions on things you don't understand about a topic.

3) Coming to class on time, that is a skill everyone needs to have because when your at your job you can't show up to work late or you will be fired.

4) Make sure you get enough sleep so you won't be sleeping in class.

5) Have your class notes for each class organized so you can find any notes for an exam.

6) Don't be afraid to talk to stop by Advising for planning your schedule. Trust me you won't regret it at all. I had to move some classes around in my plan to make sure it flows perfectly, also you might find out you have to take some prerequisite classes before your main courses provided on your Advising guide for your specific major. One of my favorites that you would love as well is you're able to make your schedule how you want it with the times,days and teachers. Way much better than being in high school for 8 hours a day.

I hope you have a wonderful first year here and apply some of my tips to you.

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My advice to future students for a **criminology** degree would be to study and take it seriously, not to play around with due dates and to just generally have fun with the knowledge u won't truly learn if you aren't enjoying the or are interested in the information you're processing. Overall for other classes it would be to stay on top of assignments do work ahead of time if possible for less pressure on yourself and so u won't have no time to do it last minute. For freshman especially in their first semester I would say not to be too laid-back like high school where they let certain things slide. u have to think you're paying for these classes now there's no time to mess around . Another piece of advice I would give for future students is to not be afraid to ask for advice and counseling. These are valuable resources that are more than willing to help you out even if you're nervous because you're failing classes. They're not there to judge but to help.

Another good piece of advice is to know whether or not you thrive with online classes or in person learning so that you can mainly have your classes in the one u thrive in. For me at least doing both is a bit of a struggle and in person learning is a lot easier. This is also depending on your outside activities from school like if u have a job or if you're just doing classes it all depends on you and your situation / way of learning.

My last advice would be to also not be afraid to socialize and make connections.

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Dear Freshmen,

I am in **Dental** Pathway, here are some tips that I recommend for you to succeed in your first year in college:

- \* Create a calendar for each assignment and exams, put it to remember a day before.
  - \* Download apps like: Socratic, Quizlet, Brainly etc.. This will help you on way through College.
  - \* Have yourself take mini-breaks between 1-2 hours of study to relax, concentrate and comprehend better.
  - \* Create new friends on class and join clubs of your interest, that most of the times helps.
  - \* Remember that this is College. here does not exist turning in late work, have it done before its date. DON'T PROCRASTINATE IT.
  - \* For students who has English as a 2nd language (For the ones that are still learning it), I don't recommend taking online classes. If you do, make sure you do know how to work with this online websites and if you have any questions ask the teacher or a friend for help.
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I am a first-time college student this semester. When I began my journey, my major was Business Administration, during my journey through this course I am now a **Business Entrepreneurship** major. My advice to you is this:

- \* Take the time through this course as a reflection on self
- \* It's never too late to change pathways
- \* Know and utilize the resources available to you
- \* Never be afraid to seek help
- \* Use your classmate as resources
- \* Trust the Process (Your Development)
- \* Enjoy the Journey

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Welcome, I want to take a moment to give you some advice I wish I had taken seriously when I was a new student, I am a few semesters in and can share with you some habits you will want to develop now. I'm majoring in **business admin**, the first major mistake I made was thinking this was as easy as high school, it isn't. My first semester I skipped classes went to a lot of parties and failed all 4 of my classes due to these poor decisions, now don't get me wrong I'm not saying you can't party just recognizing that college assignments take time and to make sure you give adequate time to do them even if it means doing them before you go out and have fun. The other thing I recommend is finding a friend that has a similar major and taking classes together that way you have a study buddy and somebody to keep pushing you in the right direction. College is a very fun and crazy environment with the right attitude and mindset you can do anything. Don't be afraid to email and reach out to your professors show up to their office time show them that you care but that helps show them who is worth giving more time to because professors would like to see you pass their classes. Lastly sign up for classes as soon as possible seats fill fast and if you want to decide your schedule you should want to sign up first, with that use rate my professor it may give you insight on a professor about how they run a classroom so you can compare that to your learning style. Best of luck with your college career, you will do great, I believe in you.

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I'm majoring in **computer science**, and I'm looking forward to graduate as a bachelor degree which is hard and time consuming but my best advice is to meet people that are doing the same career as you and get to meet a lot of people and have fun with college because It can be stressful sometimes, but as long as you having fun, getting good grades and learning. Also always be around with the right people because even if you don't notice it the negative people or non-progressive people will keep you behind, you will start getting lazy and you won't use your full potential to make them A's and learn how you should instead of joke around when you in class. You can fall behind so quick for example, me this first semester I have learned a lot and I probably won't make the same mistake as leaving my homework for last or getting distracted.

What I want to say is that don't give up and if you know you can do something today do it, don't wait for tomorrow. My career interest is starting my own business, learning new skill, becoming more proactive and becoming expert in my field.

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Congrats on your next journey. I am currently a student here, and I am majoring in **Criminology**. I'm a veteran, I joined straight out high school and served six years in the Navy. Our transitions might be a little different, but this is what I can say. The challenges you face is only hard if you let them take control over you. I can imagine the transition to college will be a tough thing to do just as it was for me. Here's my advice, learn how to manage your time, ask questions, take care of yourself, and do your homework.

Be on time and don't miss class. You'll be able to choose what classes you want to have on what day and certain times. If you know you're not a morning person don't choose early morning classes. There could be a day where you woke up late or you forgot about class, talk to your professor, you could be able to make up for it. Professors are not out to get you and make sure you fail. College compared to high school is just cramped up into a few months. Lessons could be fast paced as professors are trying to put lessons out before your class ends. I felt overwhelmed at first, but I realized that some of those lessons were on the website where you can access your assignments. The school even offers free tutoring. If that didn't work, I would look up online to see from another perspective of the assignment. Do your homework. It's easy to forget and you won't always have someone to remind you. Have a calendar, set reminders to make sure you have enough time to complete it and not have to cram everything in possibly in one night. In the beginning of your enrollment to when you start class and so on, if you're ever in doubt or confused about anything, ask questions. It's better to know and understand to not know and be confused. Avoid problems or conflicts if you can prevent them from happening. In class, maybe you're not the only one that's unsure of the lesson. It could also help your professor into making sure their students are understanding in what's going on. But most importantly, don't stress yourself out. There's no fun in that. Ask for help, eat well, get some sleep and drink water.

You made it this far, now keep going. Good luck on your next journey.

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As a future **nurse**, the advice one would pass to a future student would be to make sure to go after what you are passionate about. Many people go off to college to study for a career that may pay good money or has some type of security but go through their whole life doing something they aren't passionate about. This is understandable and some may say "reasonable", but a lot of times these people live a life that is unfulfilling. Most people go the route that is considerably reasonable and safe, but the best advice to give someone who is just making their introduction to the adult world is to chase after what you are passionate about. No matter how silly, or unsecure it is. We only have one life to live, and most of us ignore what we call a talent, gift, or calling to go the route of least resistance. Forget all that. Go the route that energizes you, that puts a smile on your face, that makes you want to get out of bed because life is too short to not be doing these things Whether that career is to be a doctor, teacher, or lawyer or to be a dancer, painter, or traveler chase after the things that make you happy because the last thing you want to do is to look back at your life and say "wow, i wish i would have". The world is your oyster, cease it and live it fully. Once you figure out what you want to do, study hard, get to know your professors because they want to see you succeed and buckle down in order to give your all because at the end it will be worth it.

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Procrastination is not your friend. take your classes seriously and ask questions if you are confused the great thing about asking a stupid question is you only have to ask it once but if you don't ask the question you will remain ignorant. study and use all the resources available to you . college is not a gotcha game. most of the people here are here to help you. understand yourself and how you learn and shift yourself accordingly. good luck and I wish you all an amazing college experience.



# Letters from Students in Online Sections

## Fall 2023 Online Student Letters

My major is **nursing**, achieving success at HCC requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses effective time management, meticulous organization, and a comprehensive understanding of available support resources. Central to this strategy is the creation of a well-structured schedule that not only accounts for class hours but also dedicates sufficient time to studying and personal activities. This not only ensures that deadlines are met but also helps in prioritizing tasks based on their significance.

In parallel, maintaining an organized study space is crucial for optimizing focus and productivity. By keeping track of assignments, exams, and important dates through tools such as planners or digital calendars, students can navigate their academic responsibilities with greater ease. A tidy study environment further facilitates concentration and reduces potential distractions.

Equally vital is a proactive approach towards leveraging available support services. Students should familiarize themselves with the various resources offered by the college, including tutoring services, study groups, and online platforms for research and study materials. Establishing an early connection with professors during office hours can also be beneficial for seeking clarification on course material and gaining valuable academic guidance.

Success is not solely about individual effort; it is also about building a network and collaborating with peers. Forming study groups provides an opportunity for collaborative learning, offering diverse perspectives and insights. Additionally, staying informed about available online platforms and tools ensures that students can navigate the digital aspects of their courses seamlessly.

Ultimately, the key to success lies in finding a balance between academic commitments and personal well-being. By staying organized, managing time effectively, and utilizing available support resources, students can navigate their academic journey at HCC with confidence and achieve the desired outcomes.

Advice to future students,

My major is **Nursing**. My goal is becoming a nurse practitioner. I am currently enrolled in my

first year at HCC. The medical has always been a dream of mine since most of my family work in the medical field. And wanted to do the same with my life. I wanted to help others with the best of my abilities. So with that I want to work the pediatrics field and with diabetic care also since I'm a type 1 diabetic. So I would like help others share knowledge to kids who have the same medical condition. Cause I know growing up with it is hard especially as a child. With that being said I have some helpful straggles with keeping up with your classes. One setting up a set schedule for yourself. This was so helpful for me especially since I work 30+ hours per week. So having a schedule for me was really helpful when it came to what time my classes are, what time I have work, when I had free time, and setting up a specific study time or time to complete homework. Also another one I hear a lot college study say read your professors syllabus. Some might have different opinions on it. But for me it was helpful with the information it had. For example, how and when to contact my professor if and when I had questions or concerns. So two are my main strategies that help this pass successful for my first semester I hope you find this useful :)

Dear future student at HCC, i am majoring in **nursing**. I would like to be a trauma nurse. As someone who is a huge procrastinator, i had to learn really quickly that you should do at least one or two assignments a day so that you're not overworking yourself. You can feel like you're have a lot on your plate, which you do, but if you spread out assignments and make sure you get them done in time, you'll feel better and do better. Also, i recommend studying and using school resources like the library. The library provides a quiet, comfortable place to do homework and study, either alone or in a group. If you have a research assignment, our library resources includes databases, and if you need an article or some type of document for that assignment or research, the librarians can get you that article within twenty four to forty eight hours. The biggest advice i can give to you though is that you should NOT miss your classes for an reason unless it's absolutely necessary. Attendance is really important in grading policies. you could miss 5 days either not being in class or being late and it could bring you all the way down to a B or C. I hope that you enjoy being a student at HCC and that my advice can help you in anyway throughout your experience here. Good luck !!

I am in the **Finance** pathway, pursuing a bachelor's in Finance. This is my first semester as a college student, and it has come with a lot of self-learning. First, the most important thing is time management, it is what is going to help you succeed and enjoy your time in college or make you fail and feel miserable. Schedule ahead of time ordering homework by due date or difficulty. Another advice is to start getting familiar and used to all the websites and online features if you are taking classes online, since it can be sort of confusing the first time and you might miss important information by not knowing where or how to look for it. Use all the resources that HCC offers, believe me, they can really help you if you are lost and do not have any friends or family to lean on. From my own experience, you should sit down with an advisor, they can really point you in the right

direction on what classes and what path to follow based on your interests and goals. I would highly recommend using the tutoring center in person or online since they provide meaningful help and feedback in the different classes, never hesitate to sit down with a tutor and ask a bunch of questions until you get it. Also, ask your professors, and communicate with them, they are here to help, despite what most of the students might think. Always try to go to their office hours to seek help or ask questions through emails, it is better to be annoying with an A than not bother at all and get an F. Something I still struggle with and am trying to improve at is the life balance, it is especially hard when you have a full-time job but always try to have time for yourself and for what you love so you don't burn out. Do research regarding your interests so you can have an understanding of what people do in the career you like, and know that it is never too late to change, it is important to have a good salary, but it is more important you do not hate what you do to earn it, you work better and harder if you love it. Finally, do not underestimate the first-year orientation class, for first-time students with no one to turn to regarding college it provides the guidance we are missing, and helps us discover resources we did not even know were available.

My major is **Entrepreneurship**, my goal is to get my associate degree in entrepreneurship to be able to run a successful business. Starting college can be a bit overwhelming. But working hard pays off. Time management is a big deal in college to be able to stay ahead and make good grades, always find effective time management skills. Balance coursework, extracurricular activities, and personal time by using planners, digital calendars, and setting aside specific times for studying. Adopt study techniques such as active recall. This technique has been shown to improve memory and learning efficiency. Don't sit and study for hours on hours. Take breaks, studying 25 minutes take a break do something to distract or mind and then go back to studying. A few other examples of strategies to gain while attending college are setting realistic goals. Set short, small goals at first, set reminders and also set the time out of your day to be able to reach your goals. If your struggling with a course take the extra steps needed to get the help that you need. College has a few different options for help. This can include academic advisors, mental health professionals, or trusted mentors. There is always someone there to help even if it's a personal reason.

Dear future students at hcc, im currently in my first year here as a **social work** major. Social work can be an extensive major that includes a lot of research and studying but itll be so rewarding to be able to help people change their lives. My advice to you is to

remember to manage your time effectively. Always have an app or calendar that you can put all your assignments in and it will give you alerts as to when they due. Your professors are there for a reason, ask them any questions you have, ask for help, give feedback, it'll only better your experience and knowledge. Make sure you're communicating with your counselors to stay on track with your education plan, the sooner you know your major, the soon you can take the prerequisites for the major and eventually transfer to a university to complete further education. Lastly take care of your health. College can be so stressful and overwhelming and sometimes we forgot to take care of our needs. Prioritize eating, taking in the sun, socializing with friends, finding hobbies you enjoy, sleeping , and talking to a professional or trusted adult if you ever need it.

My major is in **Psychology** but will switch to **social work** so I can get a job as a marriage counselor. As far as advice goes, I would say that the best thing you can be doing throughout your semester is keeping a planner or something easy to place so that you can keep track of all your assignments. Keeping track of what you need to do throughout the week will be essential in keeping up with all your classes, especially if you have flex start ones. Another really important piece of advice is that you should always look at the assignments thoroughly to see how much time you will need to spend on it. This personally threw me off track a lot at the end of my semester because I was not prepared for the increase in time that my assignments began needing. This last piece of advice is something that I struggle with the most, talking to your teachers and keeping them updated on any essential information they might need to know will carry you further than allowing silence to grow. If you can clearly communicate, plan ahead, and look at your assignments thoroughly then I have no doubt that you will thrive in this setting.

P.S. Keep your head up and never give up.

Some advice I would like to share to our future college students is first and foremost, prioritize time management. College life introduces a lot of responsibilities, from attending classes to completing assignments, engaging in extracurricular activities, and possibly working part-time but for myself is full-time because I have a lot more responsibility being a father and head of household. Create a schedule, set realistic goals, and allocate time wisely to ensure a harmonious blend of academic and personal pursuits. Establishing a strong support system is equally crucial. College can be challenging, both academically and emotionally. Build relationships with peers, professors, and mentors who can provide guidance, support, and encouragement.

Furthermore, be open to exploration. College is a time of self-discovery, and it's okay not to have all the answers from the start. Explore different subjects, join clubs, and engage in activities that sparks your interest. This exploration contributes to personal growth and may lead to unexpected passions and career paths. I have changed my major from Business Administration to **Psychology** just because I have explored different subjects that lead to a different career path. Also, financial responsibility is another key aspect. Understand your financial situation, budget wisely, and explore scholarship and grant opportunities. Being financially aware alleviates stress and allows you to focus on your studies without the burden of financial worries. Other than that, have fun and enjoy the journey and the experience because it goes by fast but the memories will last.

Hi! I am in college so that in the future I can become someone who can protect and serve as a police officer. My major this semester was an A.A in **Criminology**, but I am switching to an A.S degree in Criminology. Which brings me to my first words of advice: don't be afraid to switch it up! You'll be in the career of your choosing for awhile and you really want to choose something that you'll love. You don't want to end up in a job you absolutely hate, right? So, take all the time you need to figure out your life's purpose, and when you have time go to see an advisor, their entire job is to help with stuff like this, so they'll be helpful in giving you some insight.

Another thing is to make sure you plan out your assignments ahead of time to make sure you'll make your deadline; trust me this is coming from someone who is currently writing this with 31 minutes till the deadline. This has really helped me out with time management and somewhat with procrastination too. Another thing that'll help with time management is to turn notifications on for canvas and download the canvas app on your phone. If the notifications don't work for some reason, then take your calendar app and type in reminders for the days your assignments are due, or if you think it will take a longer time then put it for the day before.

One last thing that has helped me the most with my procrastination is to go through all my assignments and break down the instructions into smaller, easier to complete sections. This way whenever you're feeling like the work is too daunting you can look at your smaller sections and start there. This has helped me because once I complete one thing I'll usually want to continue. And for the times that I don't, I can return to my book, or show feeling a bit better knowing that I at least started on the assignment.

Okay that's about it, some final words of advice though, make sure you eat and drink lots of water, don't drink just coffee, don't cram unless you really need to, quizlet is a godsend for when you need to study and your teacher didn't give a study guide, get sleep, don't give a hoot about what other people think about you because if they don't



know you they are IRRELEVANT and if they do know you and aren't actually trying to help then dump them, wear whatever you want, always have water and a snack on you, and for my fellow procrastinators if what I said doesn't work for you then feel free to experiment and just find whatever method works for tricking your brain into doing the thing. Okay bye have fun!

Dear future HCC students,

As a student at HCC pursuing a major in **criminology**, my journey has taught me valuable lessons that I'd like to share with you. Regardless of your major or career interests, embracing the uniqueness of your academic path is essential. Have fun with it. Engage in discussions, connect with professors, and consider internships to gain hands-on experience. Surround yourself with positivity and support. Having positive connections with your professors and higher uppers allows you to have a less bumpy college road, the more your professors know you the more likely you are to succeed with their help. Remember their job is to help you learn. In terms of broader success strategies, time management is your best friend. Develop a schedule that balances, coursework, study sessions, work, and personal time. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE. Stay on top of all your assignments to avoid last-minute stress. Be open to meeting new people and discovering new things, a change is good occasionally. Take advantage of office hours, tutoring services, and academic workshops. HCC provides sooo much help when it comes to tutoring, do not be scared to "seem dumb", we're all humans and this is our first time on earth, struggling especially in college is completely normal. Lastly, do not forget to take care of yourself. College life is so demanding, but maintaining a healthy balance is crucial. Prioritize self-care, get enough rest, eat healthy, and ask for help whenever you need it. Approach your day with enthusiasm even when the world feels like it's shattering beneath you, manage your time wisely, and actively engage in opportunities that enhance your learning and future prospects. This holistic approach will not only ensure academic success but also contribute to your personal and professional growth. You can do absolutely anything you put your mind to.

Best regards,

Your fellow HCC student

The major that i am going for right now is **cybersecurity**, and the career path i am going for is also cyber security. Right now i am planning on going into the airforce to persue this career since i will get a lot of knowledge and experiance that i can use once i get out and it will take just about as long as college would, and i getr it all while being paid instead of paying an institution. But i will say i have already started college and it is hard. You have to manage your time and you classes very well esspecially if you have a job because you can very easily lose track of things. When you are picking your classes each semester think about how hard these classes will be and how much time they will take. You also have to think about how you will manage with certain classes because they could be easy but have a lot of stuff to do and learn. Another thing is how you mix you classes because you dont want to take a bunch of hard classes at once unless you have a bunch of time on your hands, mix them around a little and try to choose them in a progressive order as well.

Dear future students at HCC,

As you step into your college journey, I was hoping to share some insights that could assist you in your time at HCC. College offers you numerous opportunities and experiences that can help shape your future. I am majoring in **information technology** but no matter your field of study, there are many universal tidbits of advice that can aid in your academic journey. One piece of advice would be to stay open minded. College can help you begin to explore new ideas, experiences and perspectives. Another piece of advice would be to build relationships and community. Connect with your peers and professors. Attempt to build connections with professionals in your field. Connections can offer guidance and support and can possibly open doors in your future. You should also participate in classes and discussions. Ask questions and engage with your fellow students. Another important thing to implement into your college journey is effective time management. Finding a balance between class work, jobs, extracurriculars, and personal life is difficult but necessary for a successful college career. Colleges offer a surplus of resources, and you should take advantage of them. Go to libraries, participate in study groups and whatever other resources you have access to that can enhance your experience. As for more personal advice, it is okay to not have everything figured out right away. Use college to explore different areas. Your college years are going to be a rollercoaster with failures and successes and highs and lows. Everyone's college experience is personal and different but however it goes for you I wish you luck.

To students of the foreseeable future, I am, as of this letter, currently enrolled at HCC. I am working towards an associate degree in **history** and will later work on a degree in

**education.** College is both as easy and not as easy as everyone says. You must organize your own schedule by registering what classes you want, when you want them, and where you want them. This may sound great but be aware that once you have registered for a class you are expected to dedicate everything you have to that class. Classes generally have a lot of depth and information to take in but with only a few months to go through it. Not to mention that college classes are not something you can slack in without consequences. When registering for multiple classes, it can feel like a lot if you're not totally prepared for it, so something I can recommend is that you should only register for a class or two at a time until you feel you're truly ready for more. Yes, this will likely make your stay in college longer, but it will most definitely make it much more manageable and smoother. Follow this and you will be able to enjoy College.

Dear Future Student,

My major is **anthropology**. I am going into a career with the government, or maybe archaeology. I'm not sure yet, but it will be one of those two. I just finished my first year and my advice to you is to take care of yourself. If you are like me, an academic people pleaser, anything less than an A may feel like a failure. Don't beat yourself up over a small mistake; learn from it and do better next time. Don't do like I did and do schoolwork instead of eating, sleeping, or anything else you need to do to maintain your own self. You may have a stressful night a few times. That's okay, college is stressful. But I advise you to remember it is okay to take a break if you need to, and sometimes all you need is to stop and take a nap, or grab a snack, to do your best on your work. Ask teachers for clarification or help if it is needed, as they would rather you ask to make sure than for you to fail a class.

My last piece of advice is to not feel like you have to do something the way everyone else does it. What I mean is don't feel like you have to have a clean desk in your room if you can be more productive on your couch with music playing. Create a schedule and plan that works for you, as you are a unique person and as long as you are fairly completing your own work before deadlines, there is no "right" way to get it done.

Dear HCC Student,

as I am writing this, I am also a first year college student who had just graduated right out of high school so just like you may i am confused, overwhelmed and honestly you may feel like this is more than what you expected and let me just say

I feel the same way.

as a student majoring in **communications** I just want to give you little words of encouragement and say this is nothing like high school, you are adults now therefore college will not treat you like high school students, this means your education is your own and whatever happens is your responsibility. everything up until now was just a small taste of what the real world really is and college is only the beginning

So my words of advice to you is to take this seriously don't take college as a grain of salt like I said this education is your responsibility therefore a teacher will not say anything if you are late or decide not to show up they will mark you for it, if you have an assignment it is better to do it early because they will not remind you when it is due and if you don't turn it in some teachers may be generous enough to let you make it up because most of them don't, checking your classes is also helpful because sometimes they send in new assignments and it could be a surprise.

Tutoring is always available if you feel you have no one to help you and other resources for you. I wish you luck and I hope one day you will be the one writing a letter for future students as well.

Dear Future Students,

As you embark on your educational journey, I wanted to share some advice that has helped me immensely throughout my time as a student. It is quite simple, yet powerful, and can make all the difference in your academic experience.

First and foremost, always remember to do the work. It may sound obvious, but many students underestimate the importance of consistent effort. Stay committed to your studies, complete your assignments on time, and never shy away from seeking help when needed. Education is an ongoing process that requires dedication and active participation.

Another crucial aspect is impeccable time management. As you navigate through deadlines, exams, and extracurricular activities, it is vital to prioritize and allocate your

time wisely. Plan ahead, create a schedule, and maintain a healthy balance between work and play. Mastering this skill will enhance your productivity and also reduce stress. Lastly, never forget to always give yourself grace. There will be times when things don't go as planned, when you stumble or face setbacks. Remember that you are human, and it's okay to make mistakes. Learn from them, grow, and persevere. Be kind to yourself and believe in your abilities, for self-compassion can work wonders on your journey to success and your overall mental health.

I hope these three foundational pieces of advice serve you well in your future endeavors. Embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, stay focused, manage your time mindfully, and always extend grace to yourself along the way.

Best wishes

Dear Future Students,

Welcome to Hillsborough Community College and your educational journey, I am proud of you for making the decision to continue to learn. My best advice starting off is to give yourself grace, you are only human, and college is HARD, I don't care who you are. Don't wait until the last minute to work on assignments because that is when issues arise. Please, don't bite off more than you can chew, if you have a big exam or more assignments due than usual don't pick up extra shifts at work. Online classes are not less time consuming in any shape or form so, if you are able to go on campus, PLEASE DO. Also, don't make life changing decisions mid-semester it's not always worth the headache, study if that's your strong point but don't force it if it isn't, take notes how you see fit and if music helps you absorb the information, then please use it. What I am trying to say is everyone learns differently and just because your best friend can get an A on her final without studying for a second doesn't mean that you aren't just as smart because you pulled an all nighter studying and got a B, a B is still passing. Do your best but still have fun and take it all in. Good luck!

Fall 2022 Online Student Letters

Dear Future Students,

I am a **Nursing** major, pursuing my BSN to become a Labor and Delivery Nurse. I have attended an HBCU and I loved the college experience but this college has provided me with supportive professors. I failed a lot of my classes because I wasn't prepared for the college atmosphere. I took a break and tried again here, and still had struggles. Some of my professors were very helpful through my situations, and due to them and my determination I am passing my classes and will be able to continue on next semester. My advice to you all is make sure you are effectively communicating with your professors. They can assist you as long as they know what you are going through. Do not be afraid to open up and ask questions when you don't understand and take advantage of the assistance and resources provided too you. Push your self to the fullest and try new things. If you do not feel prepared it's okay, just make sure to not overwhelm yourself. Also keep your options open when looking at other universities to transfer to if that is an option for you.

I wish you the best on your journey, you are not alone even if you don't have a big support system. We are here for you I understand it can get stressful. Push yourself to the fullest, your future will only be as great as you make it.

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Dear student,

Sometimes I feel like college isn't for me, I think this is a feeling we all get when navigating our journey through school and life. I'm here to tell you that those feeling are valid, starting anything can come with its difficulties, but there is obviously a reason you

chose to come here right? All the work piling up in front of you can make it easy to want to give up, or doubt yourself but this really is an amazing school.

The last few years I've been struggling a lot with anxiety and just generally getting myself out there, since starting here I've seen a lot of growth in myself. The beginning was challenging to say the least, I didn't feel like participating or being noticed whatsoever. But through the course of my first in person college semester I've started raising my hand and participating, I feel like I'm being engaged.

The teachers here are extremely caring and helpful, so if you are falling behind speak up! They do care and want you to succeed just as much as you do. There's plenty of events happening on campus, movie nights, tables set up in the commons, clubs to check out, there's options for everyone. This is a school you will be accepted at, just make sure you're attempting to use the resources provided for you. Don't be scared to get involved. This is your time to break out into the person you envision yourself as.

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Hi, this is my first year in college, going here has taught me a lot. My major is **medical sonography**, and my career interests are to go into pediatric cardiac sonography or general sonographer. This is my dream and it interests me because it's safe, low-risk, and it does not expose anyone to bad radiation, I've always wanted to understand how the body worked, and becoming an ultrasound technician helps me get there. Because this course is very hard my advice would be to listen and try to understand everything you're taught, take notes and make this your priority since it's your future we're talking about. Think hard and long about what classes you need and try to ace them with all high grades, this isn't like high school. Plus, it is very good to ask questions, if not the professor will continue with the lesson.

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My advice to future students would be to choose a career which perfectly aligns with your life goals as well as financial goals. I am pursuing a degree in **Graphic design**, my goal is to become a freelance graphic designer when I earn my bachelors, yet I hope to gain experience by working in graphic design as I am still attending school. I think it's good to gain experience in your chosen career, by the time you graduate your resume will be filled with experience for future employers. I also believe it should be mandatory to get in touch with an advisor before choosing classes, this helps you understand which classes you need to complete, how many credits you need and what your desired path comes with. Organizing your career goals by speaking to an advisor helps keep a clear mind and a more well planned out future. I also believe journaling, eating healthy and exercising helps students succeed in their academic goals. It's important to keep a healthy mindset while going to school, an unbalanced mindset will affect grades as well, meditation and time outside is very helpful to keep stress and anxiety at bay. Remember to choose a career that you know you will excel at both financially and mentally as well. Mental health is more important than a salary, keep that in mind. Always choose a career that will align with all of your goals.

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Dear incoming freshman,  
I am currently in college as a nursing major. I'm currently enrolled here in the medical pathway. **Nursing** would be a great field for someone if you're looking to help others and change their lives in a beneficial way. So, this field is



recommended to those who are ready to put in the hard work.

As you're coming into college, I recommend you come in fearless, because you got this! Don't be afraid of anything because it's really not as bad as it seems, once you're all in and focused. Although you will need to make sure that you are focused on your classes. In order to maintain good grades, I definitely advise you to prioritize your time when studying, for instance if you have a hard time paying attention while studying, I recommend setting a timer for your time to study and for that entire time try to stay off your phone and limit distractions you should do this whenever you need to study. Getting a planner is also going to be an extremely helpful tool to utilize through out not just only your freshman year but through all your college years as with this you can write down upcoming test/or exams as reminders, reminders for upcoming assignments and just little notes you can add in there for yourself to keep focused.

Also don't overwhelm yourself with work. Space out your work as much as you can but still keeping in mind when the assignments are due. Always recheck your work as well to perfect anything that may be wrong.

You've got this and you are going to do so good your first year! As well as your many years to come! Good Luck!

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Hello new student,

The major I plan on studying is **Microbiology**. Some advice to you is to always remain organized. Plan ahead and finish work before the due date. This way work does not pile up and you can reduce stress.

Although it may seem simple, asking for help and seeking professional advice will greatly help you through classes. The professors can help you get more clarification, class advice, and help set personal goals. Taking math and science classes are not easy, from time to time I will find I do not fully understand the concept. This is okay and human. I should feel comfortable talking to my professor and ask for more clarification. It is best to do this early before the lessons begin to get more challenging and complicated. Having multiple agendas and online notifications is also helpful. This way if you forget to check your agenda your computer will remind you of the due date. Set your alerts a couple days before the due date so you do not procrastinate and have time to edit your work before submitting it.

Finally, most importantly, find time to enjoy some free time and social time. It is important to find friends and interact with people. All students are dealing with deadlines and classwork. In life you need to find the right balance of work and 'play'. Life is not always about work and friends can be beneficial for your academic performance.

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Dear freshmen,

This is my first year of college, and I am taking my AA (**Allied Health**) degree. There are some useful tips that I used throughout my first term of college. Number one, please attend your class. This is extremely important since all the lectures and information will

be covered. I know that there are recorded videos of the lectures; however, if you attend class, you can focus on the subject and not get disrupted by your procrastination since they are people doing work just like you. Number two, ask for help. I know, sometimes it is hard for people to speak out their curiosity or questions. But the only way that you will get that answered is to ask for help. Trust me, there are no judgments or laughing if your questions since your classmates will not criticize you. Maybe they are having the same questions as you are but just too afraid to ask. Number three, please do your homework in advance and better your time management because there will be lots of due dates and homework. If you are being so procrastinating, I pretty sure that you will be drowned due to the overwhelming amount of homework. Next, just rest and exercise. I know that you might feel stressed and overwhelmed with the amount of work but resting and exercising are important too. Resting and exercising will distress your stressful mind and give your brain space to rest and relax. Lastly, please go make some friends as they will be an emotional support for your stress and they can help you to overcome it.