

Things Every College Student Should Do*

(An addendum to Things Every MSU Student Should Do)

- Learn **RESPONSIBILITY** before your sophomore year.
- Talk with your parents often, about anything. Frequent status updates put their mind at ease.
- Understand your health insurance coverage and how to access it while at school. You may get sick at some point, and you won't feel like thinking about it then.
- Ask questions. There is no such thing as a dumb question.
- Get a class project done a week ahead of time.
- Prepare a good reason if you have to ask for an extension on an assignment. A heavy workload is not a good excuse.
- Spend a summer on campus. It's a whole different world.
- Eat fruits and vegetables everyday.
- Write home.
- Go to three parties in a row without drinking alcohol. It can be done.
- Read a book written by one of your professors.
- Develop friendships with classmates outside of your normal circle of friends.
- Learn to live **WITHIN** your means.
- Become a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, local hospitals and nursing homes, Big Brother/Big Sister programs, holiday projects or the Salvation Army.
- Ask a faculty member to lunch.
- Get a mentor and apply that person's wisdom to your college life.
- Admit that you're homesick.
- Learn the phone number for the counseling center—don't be afraid to use it. At MSU it's x5211.
- Become knowledgeable about your financial aid. Money, as it turns out, really doesn't grow on trees.
- Read up on binge drinking and its negative—and sometimes deadly—effects.
- Study. It'll get you closer to graduation.
- Play at least one sport or intramural activity that's different from any you've played before. This is the time to try new things.
- Use the sidewalks instead of the grass. Put those tuition dollars to better use than reseeding the lawns.
- Challenge yourself. Try things that are different or that might be difficult.
- Take road trips. Many places are closer than they seem.

- Say hello to everyone you pass.
- Surf the Net often, but only after you finish the 25-page paper.
- NEVER assume anything is ok or will work to your benefit.
- Go to an event, concert, religious ceremony, or dance party where you will be in the minority.
- Be nice to the department chair's secretary. This is the person who handles a lot of your paperwork.
- Support your musician classmates by attending their performances.
- SLEEP. It's good for you.
- Create your own website.
- Promise your closest friends you will get together regularly after graduation and make plans to do it.
- See how long you can go without doing laundry—then do the entire load on Saturday. You have just created study time.
- Promise to be a loyal and involved alumnus. Join the Alumni Association as soon as you graduate.
- Put away childish things, but never let go of your childhood.
- Never forget to study.
- Stress is the enemy, so RELAX.
- Meet your school dean.
- Treat your parents to something at least once before graduation.
- When you are frustrated go to the gym and workout.
- Learn to live without MTV, soap operas, and anything else that distracts you from your studies.
- Remember your sense of humor. With assignments piling up and deadlines fast approaching, sometimes a good laugh is your last & best defense.
- Commit a random act of kindness.
- Take some course outside your degree program.
- Experience new relationships. Be open to friendships with everyone you meet, including those who are ethnically or culturally different from you.
- View the university campus from afar, and then get in the middle of it and BE INVOLVED!!

*Adapted from Syracuse University Magazine.