

College Tips

What you need to know before you take the plunge

Friends: They shape your ideas, they shape your choices, they shape your life, and they shape you. Choose friends wisely, and be aware that you can choose wrong. Realize what you want from life and make friends with those who share those same goals. You don't **have** to be with the cool kids – they're usually the ones who are most messed up. Find your own sweet spot in your circle of friends.

Classes: Attend **all** your classes. There's nothing like learning in the classroom. Take notes, because what the professor says in class is what's going to come in the exam. The first impression is the only impression – make it a good one. Especially on your teachers. They are the ones who will shape your grades, eventually shaping the rest of your life.

If there is one thing that you should take away from this session it is that your grades and your projects will define where you go once you have completed your courses. Make sure you approach them with due diligence.

Extra-Activities: Take part in them, but only when you're sure you can cope with your classes. Remember that often the most demanding parts of your life all culminate at the same time, rendering you strapped for time. Parties are a good way to let loose, but don't lose it. Always stay in control of yourself. Sometimes the biggest mistakes of our lives happen when we get lost in the heat of the moment.

Service: In everything you do, look to give back to those who have so selflessly given to you: It may be a simple *drive to clean the campus*, or an *elaborate fund raiser for a catastrophe*. It may be a simple *give your friend who doesn't have a car a lift to the grocery store*, or it may be *hosting an elaborate session on the intricacies of building widgets*. Its because of people like this that our society continues to evolve. Be one of them.

Teachers: Respect them – and they will respect you. You don't have to just **show** it. Feel it, let it be genuine. Let them know who you are. Let them be your guide. They have the power to make or break your life. Don't let them break it. Sincerely finish all homework and assignments. Be really interested in learning. It's the only time you can.

Emotions: Don't forget to call home. It's where you can find support and solace even in your deepest, darkest moments. Remember – the ones at home *love* you. No one else in the world can love you like they do. No one. Find a friend who you can confide in, someone who is sensible and will help you through the hard times. Let your parents in on your life and your friends. Don't take their opinions with a pinch of salt. They've lived through way more of life than you have, and even their old ideals hold good in today's way beyond confused world.

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Shiroy is a recipient of several prestigious awards including the American Alumni Student Award, a distinguished award presented to ten Indian students, the J. N. Tata Scholar Award for exemplary academic achievement awarded to selected Indian students, and the Nirenski Study Award that is awarded for consistent outstanding academic performance in school. In addition, Shiroy is a talented musician, playing the piano and the guitar, and has received numerous awards for best speaker at debate competitions throughout his academic career.