

13 Rules Every College Student Needs to Know

Very smart advice from a self-described worst student in the world.

Post published by Katharine Brooks Ed.D. on Aug 28, 2012 in Career Transitions

Sometimes amidst all the books, articles and guides to being the perfect college student, a clear simple voice of wisdom emerges. This voice acknowledges that students aren't perfect, that they are awkward and anxious and going to make mistakes, that they just need to try again, and that a small thing like saying hello to someone before class can make all the difference in their college experience.

1. The first class is very important.

We don't do anything well the first time. Your first day of class can be overwhelming but it's important to be there.

2. Be nervous, grasshopper.

It's OK to be anxious and wake up at 4 in the morning wondering if you're going to do it right. You'll figure it out.

3. Get to know your classmates.

Use your time in the hall waiting for class to say hello and meet people. Being able to get a good grade in a class may depend on your connections.

4. Don't be a loner. It's inefficient.

Some of the best learning opportunities take place in groups.

5. Get to know your professors.

Ninety percent of the inability of students to develop a relationship with the professor is on the student, not the professor, according to Dr. Laude.

6. Getting to know new people can be really hard. It's worth the effort, though, and it gets (slightly) easier with practice.

This rule and section of the video will warm the hearts of introverts (and their parents) or anyone who has ever felt awkward or like they don't fit in.

7. Boring is in the eye of the beholder.

Can you find a way to make the course material interesting to you?

8. Don't make college harder than it has to be.

There are ways to do your work efficiently.

9. Forethought + discipline = time left over for fun.

You can have fun and still get good grades if you organize your time.

10. Create routines.

Good study habits can be created and become as natural as brushing your teeth. Your brain needs time to absorb what you're learning.

11. Failure's inevitable. What's important is what you do next.

Stop comparing yourself to others. Focus on internal victories- set goals to improve yourself.

12. Success is almost always incremental.

Here's where you'll learn why getting a 67 on a test can be a successful experience.

13. College is hard. Life is hard. Be courageous, and be compassionate toward yourself.

If you're going to achieve something that matters, you will likely fall on your face a dozen times first.