



Scholar Talk

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Important Dates:

- 11/26/09**
Happy Thanksgiving!
 - 1/12/10**
Class of 2006 Winter Workshop*
 - 1/13/10**
Class of 2007 Winter Workshop*
 - 1/14/10**
Class of 2008 Winter Workshop*
 - 1/15/10**
Class of 2009 Winter Workshop*
 - 1/15/10**
Fall 2009 Grades and Spring 2010 Schedule due
- *All workshops will take place at Morgan State University/ Communications Center.

Information on Swine Flu

The Swine Flu (also known as the H1N1 virus) has hit multiple college campuses so far in 2009 and is expected to continue to do so. While there is a lot of information available about swine flu in general, getting the specifics for your college or university might be a bit of a challenge. Fortunately, most campuses are making information readily available for students (and families) who have concerns.

Check With Your Campus Health Center

Your campus health center is probably the best place to start. They should have information available for students and families who have questions about swine flu. Your campus may already have policies in place for how

to deal with things like a major flu outbreak. Stop by your campus health center, call, or check out their website to find out what your school's policy is. Additionally, if you think you might have swine flu, heading to the health center as soon as possible is probably a good bet, too!

Check Out the American College Health Association

If you're concerned about the number of swine flu outbreaks in your area (or if your parents are making you bonkers with their worrying), you can check out the %Bandemic Influenza Surveillance+website from the American College Health Association (www.ACHA.org). It keeps a weekly update of H1N1 cases, as reported by participating colleges and

universities. (Additional hint: This can be a great resource if you're writing a paper on the topic this semester.)

Check With Your Regular Doctor

If you want more information about getting a possible swine flu vaccine or having your symptoms checked out, you may want to give your regular doctor a call -- or a visit. He or she can be a great resource about what your options are for vaccines, treatment, and prevention. If your regular doctor is far away from where your school is, see if you can visit another doctor in your area or make an appointment with your campus health center.

Source: Adapted from an article by Kelsi Lynn on www.collegelife.about.com

Save Time. Save Money. Take CLEP.

The College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) gives you the opportunity to receive college credit for what you already know by earning qualifying scores on any of 34 examinations. Earn credit for knowledge you've acquired through independent study, prior course work, on-the-job training, professional development, cultural pursuits, or internships.

How CLEP Helps You

- Save time. Depending on your college's CLEP policy, a satisfactory score on CLEP exam can earn you from 3 to 12 college credits.
- Save money. The cost of a CLEP exam is \$72, a fraction of

- the tuition and fees for the corresponding course.
- Make college more interesting. Skip general introductory courses and move on to more advanced classes, or explore new and challenging academic areas.
- Graduate on time. CLEP can help you to the finish line if you're a few credits shy of graduation
- Satisfy a proficiency requirement. Demonstrate your ability in college math or a foreign language.

How to Get Started

- Find out if your college accepts CLEP. Use the CLEP college search and talk to your

admissions office, test center, or academic advisor.

- Read descriptions of all 34 exams and decide which to take.
- Register to take your exam(s) by contacting a CLEP test center and making an appointment.
- Start Studying. Get a college textbook and review sample questions.

Take your test!

Source: Adapted from an article on <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html>

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Search for CollegeBound Foundation and follow our status updates. Get information on relevant educational info, upcoming CollegeBound events, and check out pictures from past events!



Sign up for our eNewsletter full of CBF news!

Each month features a current scholar—sign up now!

The eNewsletter will be separate from Scholar Talk, so you will still receive Scholar Talk four times a year. If you are interested in keeping even more up-to-date with all CollegeBound news, sign up at www.CollegeBoundFoundation.org.

All you need is an email address!

Facebook & Twitter Fuel Learning

It's no surprise that high school and college students spend a bulk of their time texting and tweeting. But who would have thought that social media would make its way into the classroom -- as an invited guest, no less?

Developing community

Forget the "no cell phones rule" - these days, laptops and phones are a mainstay of the classroom. In the most cutting-edge courses, following classmates on Twitter or friending each other on Facebook is mandatory. Through these social media outlets, you can chat about classes and life in between, which enables you to connect with your classmates in a broader sense than you would in a traditional group project setting. And when you connect with your peers on a personal level, it leads to higher engagement in the class and the subject matter itself.

Increasing participation

When you have a class just two or three times a week, the subject matter may not have

sufficient opportunity to weed its way into your stream of consciousness. But when you receive your classmates' and professors' relevant tweets and status updates, the topics stay on your radar screen and prompt off-the-cuff thoughts and ideas. You communicate those snippets with others, who in turn contribute their own ideas, until you've created a collective brainstorm. This consistent, real-time interaction begets true intellectual community.

Facilitating information delivery

Rather than paging through an outdated book, you can follow or friend professionals with specific expertise to get questions answered or just learn more about their work. On Twitter, you can monitor keywords to find out how people use a particular word, or you can track an event, a proper name, a movie, and so on. You can even map user posts to find out where in the world certain topics are being discussed. Or you can use a Twitter poll to collect and graph opinions about a controversial

issue. And all these tweets and posts can be automatically sent to your phone, which means you get information when you're waiting in line, watching TV, or working out.

Fostering creativity

Technology also paves the way for creative, engaging academic assignments. Professors might ask you to produce a tweet dialogue between characters about a key issue in order to practice taking the role of another. Classes can create tweetstories, in which each student contributes a tweet to form a coherent story. On Facebook, you can create new profiles for fictional or historical characters and post items of interest on each other's walls. Social media technology provides the platform for creatively engaging in academic material and promoting active learning.

Despite what you may have thought, technology doesn't hinder learning -- it fuels it.

Source: Adapted from an article by Robyn Tellefsen on www.collegebound.net

Ten Places to Study on Campus

Finding a place to study on a college campus can be a challenge. Even if you're lucky enough to use your room for periods of time without having your roommate barge in, you still might need a change of scenery from time to time. Any of these ten places to study on campus can do the trick!

1. Look for nooks and crannies in the undergraduate library. See if you can rent a small study room. Head to a floor you've never been to before.

2. Check out the graduate libraries. Head to the medical, business, or law library for a completely different scene. Nice furniture, quiet study rooms, and nicer digs are more common here.

3. Check out the smaller libraries on campus. Many big schools have tiny libraries

scattered around-- ask for a directory!

4. Head to the campus coffee shop. If you work best with some background noise and a distraction now and then (not to mention having access to food and drinks), a coffee shop may be a good bet.

5. Head outside. Reading out on a lawn can be a great way to get some fresh air and clear your mind.

6. Check out empty classrooms. You don't have to be in class to take advantage of a nice classroom: if a room is unoccupied, feel free to claim it as your own and get work done!

7. Utilize the campus computer labs. You don't have to be using a computer to take advantage of the quiet atmosphere that most labs provide.

8. Camp out in the dining hall during off hours. When everyone is free for lunch, the dining halls are totally chaotic. But between meals, they can be quiet and peaceful. Grab a snack and enjoy the large table space.

9. Peek into a writing/resource/tutoring/learning center. Many campuses offer resources for students working on projects. Even if you're not meeting with any of the center's volunteers or staff members, see if you can work there for a few hours.

10. Head to larger venues that aren't in use. Large theaters or music halls often aren't in use all the time. Head to one of these areas for some quiet time in a place that can help free your mind from distraction.

Source: Adapted from an article by Kelsi Lynn on www.collegelife.about.com

Choosing a College Major

If you're not sure what you really want to do with your life, work just yet, don't worry. You're not alone. Ask your mom or dad what they knew about their futures when they were 18 years old. Chances are they didn't have a solid idea either.

One of the great advantages of going to college is having the opportunity to discover who you really are. Obviously, you don't have to go to college to find that out. College, however, is a special place that allows you to experience a wonderfully diverse set of classmates, teachers, classes, and events. If you're going to a four-year college, you'll also have the advantage of being in that stimulating environment from age 18 to 22, a very formative period of your life.

There are several ways you can explore your attitudes and preferences, though. One way is to find someone who can lead you through an assessment

process called the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). The MBTI is a psychological instrument administered and interpreted by qualified professionals. The purpose of the MBTI is to measure your preferences about life and determine the way you like to live. It measures various aspects of your temperament and personality such as how you direct the energy of your life, how you take in information about the world around you, how you make decisions, and how you structure your life.

The end result of the MBTI is a set of numbers and letters that tells you which one of four main temperaments and 16 personality types you are. With this information, then, you can access information that will tell you what kinds of jobs would most likely bring you success and happiness in life. Your advisor or career counselor should know how you could take the MBTI.

Another assessment tool is Strong's Interest Inventory which measures various aspects of your interests in life. The result is various reports that tell you about which types of professions would be well suited for you. Both Strong's Inventory and the MBTI can be a big help in answering your questions about what kinds of careers you may wish to pursue. Check with your guidance counselor for more information.

One last thought. Even if you go to college without a clue as to what you want to do, relax. Take advantage of the services offered by your academic advisor. He or she will give you good advice. Ask hard questions. Persist. Remember, when you have a question, don't hesitate to get the answer.

Source: Adapted from an article on www.collegeconfidential.com



Why and When to Drop a Class

Are you thinking about dropping a college class? Or wondering what to do if you ever think you need to drop a class?

How do you know if dropping a class is a good decision? Most times, that decision involves both the *why* and the *when*.

WHY: If You Give it Your All and It's Still Too Hard

If you are studying, going to class, and even getting outside help (did you know many colleges offer free tutoring on campus?) and you are still having trouble, you might want to drop the class.

If You are Coping With Emotional Hardship

There are times in your life when emotional difficulty can make it hard to focus in school. It's okay to give

yourself that leeway to help you cope during a time of emotional distress. Coping with issues like depression, an eating disorder, parents' divorce, or a death can take a lot out of you, so don't sacrifice your emotional health just to take an extra course.

WHEN: Before the "Drop Date" Has Passed

The optimal time to drop a class is before the *drop date*. Before that date, a drop won't go on your record. If you drop after the drop date, you often get an I (*Incomplete*) or a W (*Withdrawal*) on your transcript.

If It Won't Affect Your (or Your Parents') Financial Situation

A lot of times things like non-school insurance coverage, grant money, or scholarship fund dispersal is

dependent on the number of credits you are taking in school. Some insurance companies, for example, require you to be a *full-time* student (this usually means you have to be taking at least a certain number of credits; my insurance company required *2* or more to consider me *full time*).

When You NEED To

Some things in life you can't control. If for some reason—be it emotional, physical, or mental—you decide that you need to drop a class at any time, then do it. You can always retake the class later. If you have extenuating circumstances, don't be afraid to talk to an academic advisor about it, too, and see how they recommend you proceed with dropping or retaking the class.

Source: Adapted from an article on www.survivingcollegelife.com

Scholar Spotlight

The following students earned a **4.0 GPA** for the **Spring 2009** semester:

Romelle Bacon
London Faust
Jeffrey Oguamanam
Denishia Ware

The following students earned a **3.5 GPA** or higher for the **Spring 2009** semester:

Juanica Armstrong
Joshua Austin
Treaka Baylor
Dashaira Bennett
Rebecca Crawford
Amon Dow, III
Latoyia Evans
Shekinatu Fasancy
Casie Fowler
Lena Harris
Chris Lawson
LaWanda Lewis
Domonique Matthews
Mischa Minor
Kellan Newby-Phipps
Melissa Oguamanam
Aaron Parker
Mehwish Qureshi
Suzanna Sample
Maya Shipley
Shepard Solomon
Theresa Tibbels
Ashley Waith

The following students earned a **4.0** for the **Summer 2009** semester:

Christina Boykin
Kiara Collins
Chemia Hughes
Marquis Palmer

The following students earned a **3.5 GPA** or higher for the **Summer 2009** semester:

Aaron Parker
Carla Wheaden
Jasmine Baines
Derek Coleman Travers
David Lai
Korede Oladapo
Ashlei Pope

CONGRATULATIONS!



CollegeBound Foundation

Building the Pipeline from High School to College to Work

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Welcome Back!!

Notes to our Scholars!

Dear Scholars,

As you progress through this semester, it is imperative that you understand the state of our nation. The bar has been raised and hopes are high, but in order to persevere, diligent ground work and preparation are essential. With the value of a high school diploma becoming closer to that of a bachelor's degree, the economy in dire straits, and job security running scared, you must eliminate "mediocrity" from your work ethic, mind set, and overall vision. Often times people rely on their natural talents and abilities to get them by, but in the global society in which we live those attributes require additional enhancement and concrete strategies to strengthen one's portfolio enabling them to compete for the limited opportunities that are available.

Carpe Diem! Seize the day, but when tomorrow comes be prepared. Have fun! Enjoy your college days for they are essential to developing the versatility required to remain on the cutting edge and flourish in a constantly changing and diverse global market.

Patrick Young
Retention Specialist

Jamie Tang
Retention Specialist

Dear Scholars,

Back-to-school and the fall time are probably two of the most exciting times of the year. You get to pick out new clothes, crack open some brand new (and probably expensive!) textbooks and get to work.

This fall and winter, protect yourself with tips on how to prevent the Swine Flu. You may also want to consider CLEPping out of some of your courses. Beware of what you write or tweet. Read the article about FaceBook and Twitter for some good social and life advice. Do you need a quiet place to study? Your campus has a wealth of quite nooks. Still not sure what you want to be when you grow up? Rest assured, there are resources out there to help you figure out what you like to do. Thinking about dropping a course? Think before you do so. There are situations when dropping/withdrawing might be the best option, but consider the pros and cons first.

This issue of Scholar Talk is packed full of useful tips and information. Read carefully...and do not forget to check out the list of our amazing students who are performing fantastically in the classroom. Want to see your name on the list? Study hard, go to class and ask for help and you can't go wrong.

Happy Fall!

Jamie Martino
Scholarship Program Administrator