

TOP TEN SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS IN COLLEGE

(Excerpt from the 2009 commencement address for Model High School – Bloomfield Hills, Michigan)

1. **Try something new** - start conversations with people you don't know. Embrace the unfamiliar by dialoguing with those who are not of a similar religious, ethnic, or socio-economic circumstance.
 2. **Take advantage of culture** – go to theater, dance, music, poetry, film and art openings. Understand your popular and visual culture.
 3. **Take advantage of speakers** – all college and universities have guest lecturers who can be as diverse as Madeline Albright, T. Boone Pickens, or activist Dr. William Ayres. They will challenge your thinking in the context of 2009.
 4. **Travel** – there is nothing like a foreign experience to transform your understanding. You will need to be internationally minded to function as a global citizen of the 21st century.
 5. **Volunteer** - Here you will learn empathy.
 6. **Have a cause** - become passionate about an idea, and learn to advocate for that idea or cause.
 7. **Ask questions** – Inquiry produces learners and learning
 8. **Be persistent. Be resilient** - Don't be upset and derailed by your first D or E on a test. Figure out how to make it better. You are attending an institution of higher education because you have proven you are smart.
 9. **Take Statistics** - when you read a paper, book or article you should be able to critically assess and analyze what you have read.
 10. **Communicate** – *with your professors*. This is the *most* important suggestion! Professors have mandatory office hours and, oftentimes, no one takes advantage of the time set aside for one to one conversations. Professors learn a lot about their students and how effective they are as educators; and, students get twice the “bang for their buck” when they seek to clarify points from a lecture or reading.
Professors are a wonderful source for recommendations, a resource for internships and scholarships, and well-connected and aware of possible jobs in their fields. When they get to know you personally, they will be your advocate.
- Above all else** – Have fun and take some time to reflect and enjoy your experiences.
Best wishes as you take charge of your future.

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