



You did it! You graduated from high school, and you have settled on your college home for the next 4 years. Now what do you do with your summer?! Some tips from our college intern, Kristina Zhang:

Work

Try to find a summer job! It's always nice to have a little extra spending money in college to go out with friends or order take out-every once in a while. Also, work experience is now becoming more and more necessary to apply for internships.

Create a Budget

Figure out your income and expenditures, and create a budget for the school year. This will save you lots of trouble and prevent you from running out of money early on in the school year. Talk to your parents to establish which expenditures they are willing to contribute to (food, books, travel, etc.), and find out what you will need to pay for yourself.

Join a Gym

There is no exaggeration when people talk about the Freshman 15. Develop good eating and exercise habits in the summer, and try to maintain those during the school year. Stress from schoolwork and the freedom that college offers is a combination that can easily lead to bad living habits. Try to curb these bad habits by establishing a routine during the summer.

Organize Your Schedule

If you did not already organize your schedule in high school, make sure you start now. In order to get the most out of college, you will need to keep track of your classes, extracurriculars and campus events. Try to find an organization system that works for you. For me, it's a small notebook I carry everywhere. For others, it's an app on their phone or post-its on their nightstand. Find out what you need to stay on track. Plan out your summer activities, and get used to the independence. College is a careful balance between freedom and obligation. Staying organized is the first step to success.

Read

Read that classic novel that you've always wanted to read or read that new bestseller that everyone's talking about. I guarantee that it will somehow become a conversation starter or topic at some point during the year.

Learn How to do Laundry

If you don't already know how, learn how to do your own laundry. Other useful skills include: cooking, washing dishes, and sewing.

Downsize

Try to reduce the number of material possessions you have. This will make packing for college and staying organized in college much easier.

Spend Time with Friends and Family

Last, but not least, make sure you spend some quality time with your parents. Going to college is a huge moment in life. The summer before college may be the last time you consider your home your permanent address. Spend time with those you love, and visit the people and places that you cherish.