



Getting to know your college...

Attend your classes. All of them. This seems like a no-brainer, but this is one important way you can get to know your campus, your faculty, and your fellow students.

Pay attention to all of the communication coming from your school. Colleges will reach out to students, but students must read e-mails, attend orientation and/or welcome meetings, and act on information that they are given. Check your MyJeffco email at least twice each week.

Find a niche in which you feel comfortable. This may be a group of students from class, a club, religious or social group, an athletic team or department. Find your “corner of the campus” in which you feel most comfortable and cultivate it. Say “hello” to someone you don’t know, make it your mission to meet new people. It’s great to continue to hang out with friends from high school, but try to meet other people, too. [clubs and organizations](#)

Learn as much as you can about your surroundings. Spend time wandering campus, exploring the Student Center, the library, or other campus buildings; check out the local shops or restaurants. Get to know what is around you.

Investigate all of the support available on campus. Check out tutoring, the Academic Success Center, Project SUCCESS, your advisor, the counselor. Know that you are not in this alone! [academic services](#) and [resources](#)

If you are living on campus, work at establishing a good relationship with your roommate. A good working/living relationship will not necessarily happen automatically. Communicate, share expectations, and show respect.

If you are living on campus, avoid going home. This may be difficult for some students, but you will not connect to campus and to other students if you leave at the first chance that you have. There will be time for visits home and with your high school friends later, but spend the first few weeks getting to know your school and making new friends. **This applies to those not living on campus, too. Don’t just go from classroom to your car and drive home. Try to get involved in campus activities and organizations.**

Take a piece of advice from Eleanor Roosevelt and “**do one thing each day that scares you.**” Of course, evaluate the risk and make wise choices, but move out of your comfort zone and stretch.

We realize that in this time of COVID-19, all activities may not be available; however, that does not mean that you can’t be involved in your campus. Keep watching jeffco.edu for ways to be involved and active. Go Vikings!

(Nelson, The Importance of the First Six Weeks of College, 2013)