
THE HOYA

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FEATURES

Veteran Senior Shares Experiences On Life as A Georgetown Hoya

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Aaah, the ups and downs of New Student Orientation. Say goodbye to your parents and hello to hundreds of new friends. You gain a new independence and responsibility, but suddenly have to share your room with a stranger. You don't have to eat your vegetables, but you do have to do your own laundry. No classes versus the name game.

Wouldn't it be nice if you had some guidelines to get you through the experience? Something to read while you're in line for your I.D. card? Some knowledgeable senior to figuratively take you by the hand (not literally, ew) and impart some wisdom? Well, without further ado, here's a little "if I knew then what I know now" action coming your way (with a little help from my fellow seniors).

Personal Information

Watch what you say. One of the coolest aspects of New Student Orientation is how you can literally extend your hand to any other freshman and start a friendship. However, believe it or not, the 200 best friends you make during NSO may not remain close to you throughout the rest of your Georgetown career, so maybe you shouldn't tell your life story to everyone. It would be pretty embarrassing to encounter somebody three weeks after you first met them and have them remember you as the kid who still wets the bed.

The Area

Get to know the Georgetown University Transportation Shuttle, Metro and a D.C. walking map. Don't be one of those seniors who still doesn't know where the White House is. That's just dumb.

Roommates

Don't think that you have to hang out with your roommate 24 - 7. You'll get to know each other soon enough. Even if you don't seem to have a lot in common now, you might become best friends. Really. However, if, like a friend of mine, you discover that your roommate has been giving articles of your clothing away to his friends, you might have an issue there.

Commonality

According to another friend: "My biggest problem freshman year was that I was intimidated by everyone. Remembering that everyone is nervous is good. Say hello to people even if you don't remember them because people are more likely to think you're nice than crazy." That's good advice, coming from a crazy person.

Drinking

This is from another friend of mine who, freshman year, got herself a chipped tooth the hard way: "Racing up the Village B steps after falling over the fire hydrant outside of Chadwicks, is a very, very bad idea." Some more thoughts on this topic: although you technically shouldn't be drinking anyway, be smart about it. Girls: reputations develop FAST. Boys: don't be drunken jerks. Everyone: be safe. Additionally, your R.A. may seem like a tool, but when he knocks on a dorm door and finds 40 of you looking guilty and hiding things behind your backs, he's gonna suspect something. Also, when you go out at night, if you must travel in packs, at least try not to all wear the same outfit. Oh, and drinking does not make you cool. Having a senior column makes you cool.

Academics

Let me tell you a little story. I was a high school student who worked very hard (since you all got into Georgetown, I imagine you were the same). However, I have always been completely inept in anything math- or science-related, so I enrolled in a certain "easy" science class designed for people like myself. The class in fact seemed SO easy that I felt that I didn't really need to attend the lectures, just do the reading. Then, the reading seemed SO easy that I didn't need to do it until test time. The sad end to this story is that I had to withdraw directly before the final exam, because I realized that I was on the road to failing this incredibly easy class. Not great for the ego, or the GPA. So, even though there is nobody to make you do your homework, and nobody is going to call your parents if you don't attend class, I recommend that if you were a hard worker, you remain one. Or, as a friend of mine who has had her fair share of "mental health days" says, "Don't skip a class, ever. Once you skip one, well, it's a real slippery slope."

Laundry

For God's sake, keep an eye on it. If you leave your clothes in the dryer for a week, you really have no right to complain when people take it out and don't fold it for you.

Activities

This is not senior year of high school, where you frantically join the forensics team, mathletes and the National "Honor" Society just so you seem well-rounded. One busy senior says, "Don't join everything, because you end up seeming wishy-washy and half-committed to a lot of things instead of getting a lot done and really accomplishing a few important things." She also advises, objectively, "Apply for the Corp right away so that you, too, can be on the upper management by the time you're a senior." My advice is to play it cool and scope out things that really interest you. You have a lot to deal with at the beginning, so you shouldn't feel guilty if you're not in five clubs by Thanksgiving. I will, however, put in a plug for Georgetown Program Board, because for a small amount of participation, you can do cool stuff like meet celebrities and earn access to concerts.

Facebook

Unfortunately, people DO remember the facebook (we seniors still reference it). We are not all lucky enough to be models. Getting over your dorky graduation picture now will be a good practice in healthy self-esteem and self-effacement.

There is so much more to say, but, fortunately for you, I have a word limit. Have a great week, don't be afraid to ask questions, don't be afraid to be afraid, and have fun. I'll see you soon.



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