

First-Year Student Checklist for a Smooth Transition to Princeton

Before You Arrive

- _____ Explore the Path to Princeton site fully to get a sense of living and learning at Princeton
- _____ Read the Daily Prince and other sources to find out what Princeton academics are really like
- _____ Comb through Course Offerings and consider a balanced combination of classes, including seminars and lectures, and a range of topics and disciplines
- _____ Consider applying for a Freshman Seminar on a topic that interests you, but which you might not otherwise explore
- _____ Get a calendar you will really use; an electronic one like iCal or whatever works
- _____ Look at the Academic Calendar to get a sense of the (rapid!) flow of the semester
- _____ Don't stress; if you feel unprepared we'll help you figure things out when you get here

In the First Few Weeks

- _____ Attend the Academic Expo during Orientation
- _____ Attend at least one academically-oriented workshop or activity (e.g., McGraw's workshop on adjusting to Princeton and starting the semester strong)
- _____ Go to departmental and certificate program open houses to get more specific information about courses and requirements
- _____ Get input on your course schedule from your adviser and from an upper-division student-class selection is crucial
- _____ Go to the Student Activities Fair and select a small number (2-4) of extra-curricular activities.
- _____ Use the Interactive Campus Map to find routes to your classes and other destinations
- _____ Look ahead; once you get your syllabi, map out your due dates for all your classes
- _____ Budget time for sleep, exercise, and social life; you'll get more out of your transition

During your First Semester

- _____ Create a study group for one of your classes; they're really efficient
- _____ Schedule a Learning Strategies Consultation with a McGraw Consultant
- _____ Visit the Writing Center for help with your first big paper
- _____ Go to at least one of your professor's office hours to talk about something you find interesting in the course
- _____ Even when things are hectic take time for recreation; this will actually make you a more successful student
- _____ Find at least one mentor among faculty and staff, in addition to your adviser, to meet with regularly
- _____ Attend at least one of McGraw's workshops to prepare for your first midterms, finals, and everything in between
- _____ Take 20 minutes a week to reflect on your academic approach and ways you might adjust it to meet Princeton's demands
- _____ Look around campus for additional resources, workshops, and activities to help make a smooth transition