Freshman 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 Freshman Orientation
- Attend at least one academically-oriented workshop or activity (e.g., McGraw’s workshop on adjusting to Princeton)
- 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 if you do

During your First Semester

- Create a study group for one of your classes—they're really efficient
- Schedule a Learning Strategy 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