

March Alumni Blog

Resources You Need to Get That Degree

College is a big place and at times there is so much to do and focus on. You have to focus on roommates and dorm rooms or choosing classes and getting textbooks. Sometimes you forget to just become familiar with the entire campus and its resources. Attending class at a physical location can open up a lot of opportunities for you. No matter what you might need, there's someone on campus ready and able to help. Campus resources makes it easier to get that degree. Independence doesn't mean that you have to do everything on your own. It means knowing what you need and finding someone who can help you accomplish your task. Take time to research which campus resources are available and how they can specifically benefit you and your education. Here are some common campus resources you should start using right away if you don't already.

Writing Center

No matter what you decide to major in, you will be required to write many, many essays. For those who aren't strong writers, the writing center is there to help you. They'll be able to assist with anything from writer's block, creating an outline and even proofreading your final draft. The writing center is the place to explore the differences between creative essays, critiques, and research papers and to make sure you're creating something great. If you struggle with motivation or just not knowing how to complete such a paper, the advisors can help you break it down.



Tutoring Center

During your time in college you may find that some classes are easy while others become more of a challenge. Whether it's the material or how the material is presented, some classes may be more difficult than others. Instead of struggling (or failing a class) consider seeking the help of a tutor. Go to your school's website and search for the tutoring center at your campus. Locate the building it is in and visit during your free time. Some tutoring will be offered as one-on-one while others might be done in a group session. Working with a tutor can help you gain confidence and study skills and can provide you with accountability with your assignments.



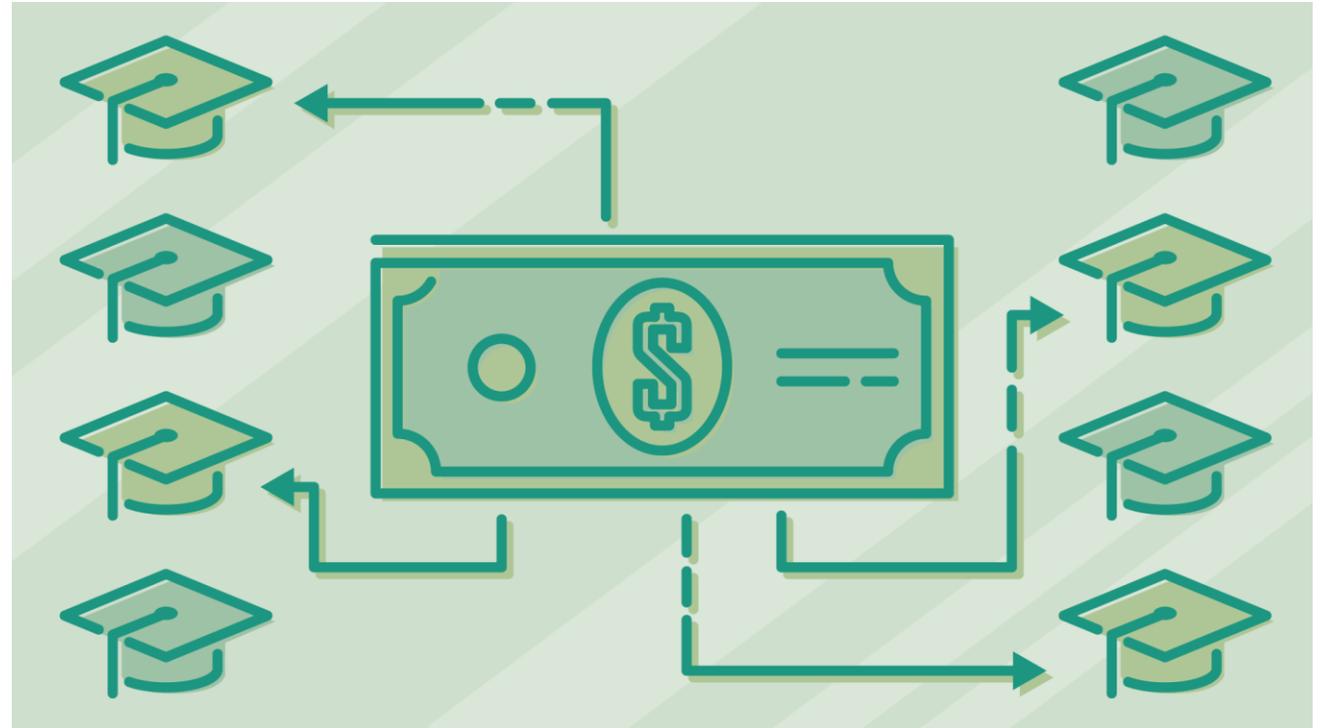
Career Services

The career services department is there to help you find a job after you graduate. Most campus career service departments even help students write resumes, learn interview skills, write cover letters, and discover potential jobs and job markets that fit your skills and knowledge. This department will also help you find and apply for internships before you graduate.



Financial Aid

The financial aid department can help you find financial aid that you're eligible for and manage the financial aid that you already have. This department has information about grants, scholarships, and loans.



Professors

Professors teach classes, but they also set aside office hours to get to know students and to provide help. Unfortunately, few students take advantage of this one-on-one time with their professors. Some students find the prospect of talking to their teacher intimidating, but it's work overcoming the hesitation. Using office hours gives students a chance to get to know the professor and receive individual attention and targeted help with course material. Students who choose to take advantage of office hours often gain this professor as a network potential who can help with gaining internships or even job opportunities.



Advisors

Your college advisors play a major role in the decisions you make in college. Advisors are trained to help you achieve your academic goals and graduate from college. They are assigned to help you make decisions such as choosing a major, selecting classes, staying on track for graduation, and navigating the college curriculum. Your advisor can also be a network potential in helping you find career opportunities.



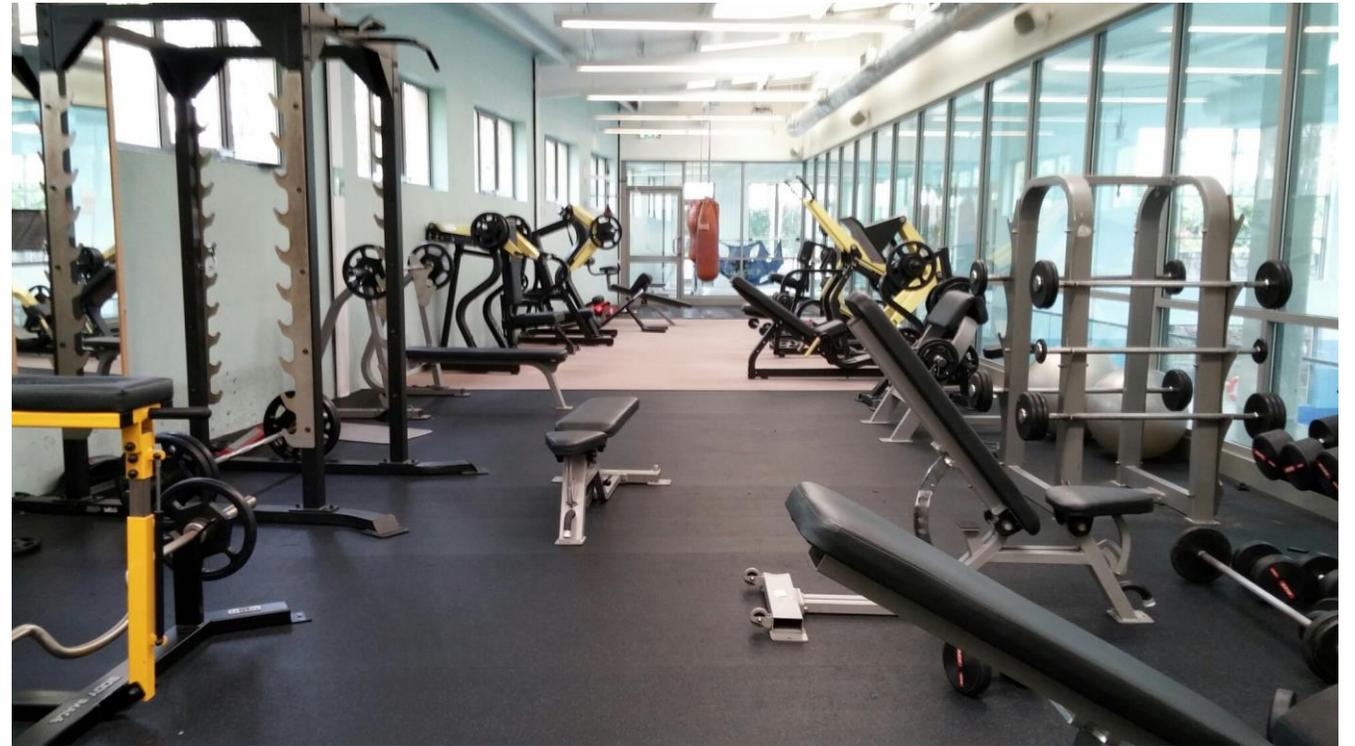
Library

The library isn't just for checking out books on a college campus. Libraries have begun to offer a lot of online resources for research. Libraries also offer physical spaces for students to study individually or in groups.



Recreational

Going to the gym isn't always a high priority for college students, but many campuses offer students free or affordable access to high-quality facilities. Some college gyms have training centers that are reserved for student athletes at certain times of the year. Physical activity is a great way to relieve stress, so don't hesitate to take advantage of this resource on your campus.



Child Care

Not every campus offers this resource, but for parents who are going to school, it's definitely invaluable. If you need child care, be sure to ask if your college offers any on campus child care, or if they have connections with a place where you can enroll your child at a nearby child care center while you attend your classes.



Health Services

Everyone gets sick! Colleges sometimes offers free or discounted health services for students who get sick or need annual visits during their time on campus. Whether you are struggling mentally, emotionally, or physically make sure that you find out what services are offered at your college.



Counseling Center

College has its ups and downs. As a student you have quite a bit to manage all at once. Sometimes it helps to have someone to talk to. This is why most campuses have counseling centers. They are typically free to students and anything you discuss with them is confidential. This is a great resource for any students who need a safe environment to open up. These centers usually offer individual, group, and couple counseling services. No matter what you are going through, they are available to help.



IT Department

Most colleges offer information technology assistance for students who are having computer or network issues. If your computer stops working, crashes, or you need training, don't hesitate to reach out to the IT department of your school and ask if they provide help to students.



Computer & Printers

If you don't have a computer, your campus probably will have a computer lab in the library, dorms or class buildings. They may also have printers, but you may have to provide your own paper or pay a small ink fee.



University Police

Many universities have a police force that patrols the campus and dorms to ensure that the students are safe and following campus rules. Put the department contact information in your phone in case you have an emergency.



Campus resources are designed to make college easier, but that's only IF you take advantage of them.

Remember that every student needs help at some point. Taking advantage of these resources doesn't mean that you're failing at college or life, it means that you know how to take advantage of opportunities placed in front of you. These services can help you grow as a student and a person. Plus, they can teach you skills and give you valuable information for the future. Use all the resources you need to go get that degree!!