

“Showing up for class and taking notes is o
Burkhart, provost of Mesa Community Coll

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ence,” says Patrick

For the full loaf, try doing these 15 things d

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1. DON'T MISS THAT ORIENTI

EVENT

Not everyone needs to go to orientation, b
want to miss your opportunity to get acqu

campus, you don't

“It takes a lot of time to get use to this new
Student Success Programs at Kent State Ur
holds a welcome weekend and offers a first-year experience course.

Build a website with WordPress.com

assistant director of
climate, Kent State

2. FINE TUNE YOUR STUDY HABITS WELL BEFORE FINALS AND THAT TOUGHER SPRING SEMESTER

Try one of these techniques, which might increase how much you can recall at test time.

- Space out your study sessions rather than cramming.
- Try studying in different locations each week.
- Include several subjects in the study session rather than focusing on only one.

3. HURRY TO GET AN ON-CAMPUS JOB... THEY'RE SNATCHED UP QUICKLY

On-campus jobs offer several benefits, including close proximity to your workplace and employers who understand student schedules. Plus, getting a job could help you stay on course to earn your degree.

“Students who work on campus have a much higher retention rate than those who don't,” says Les Baltimore, senior associate provost of the Office of Academic Services and Retention at Adelphi University.

4. TAKE 15 CREDITS IF YOU CAN HANDLE IT – IT CAN PAY OFF

Another way to increase your chances of success at college is to take a full load of courses. Kent State conducted a retention study and found students who took at least 15 credits a semester where more likely to graduate on time.

5. ATTEND A CAREER FAIR, EVEN IF YOU'RE A NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT

Fall 2015 may also be prime time for career fairs hosted by colleges and universities. Attending a career fair in the fall can give you a head start to think about what you'll do after school, whether you're trying to start a new career or [looking for a change](#).

6. THINK ABOUT DOING AN INTERNSHIP BEFORE YOUR CLASSMATES BEAT YOU TO IT

Too many students wait until later in the year to start explore internship opportunities. "Think about internships from day one," Baltimore advises.

By starting early during the fall semester 2015, you can avoid having all the best positions snatched up while you're still polishing your resume.

7. GIVE YOURSELF A LEG UP ON YOUR CLASSMATES AND STOP BY YOUR PROFESSOR'S OFFICE HOURS

It's never too early to create meaningful relationships with your instructors.

"Get to know your professors," Burkhart says. "Those relationships generally result in other opportunities such as lab work or internships."

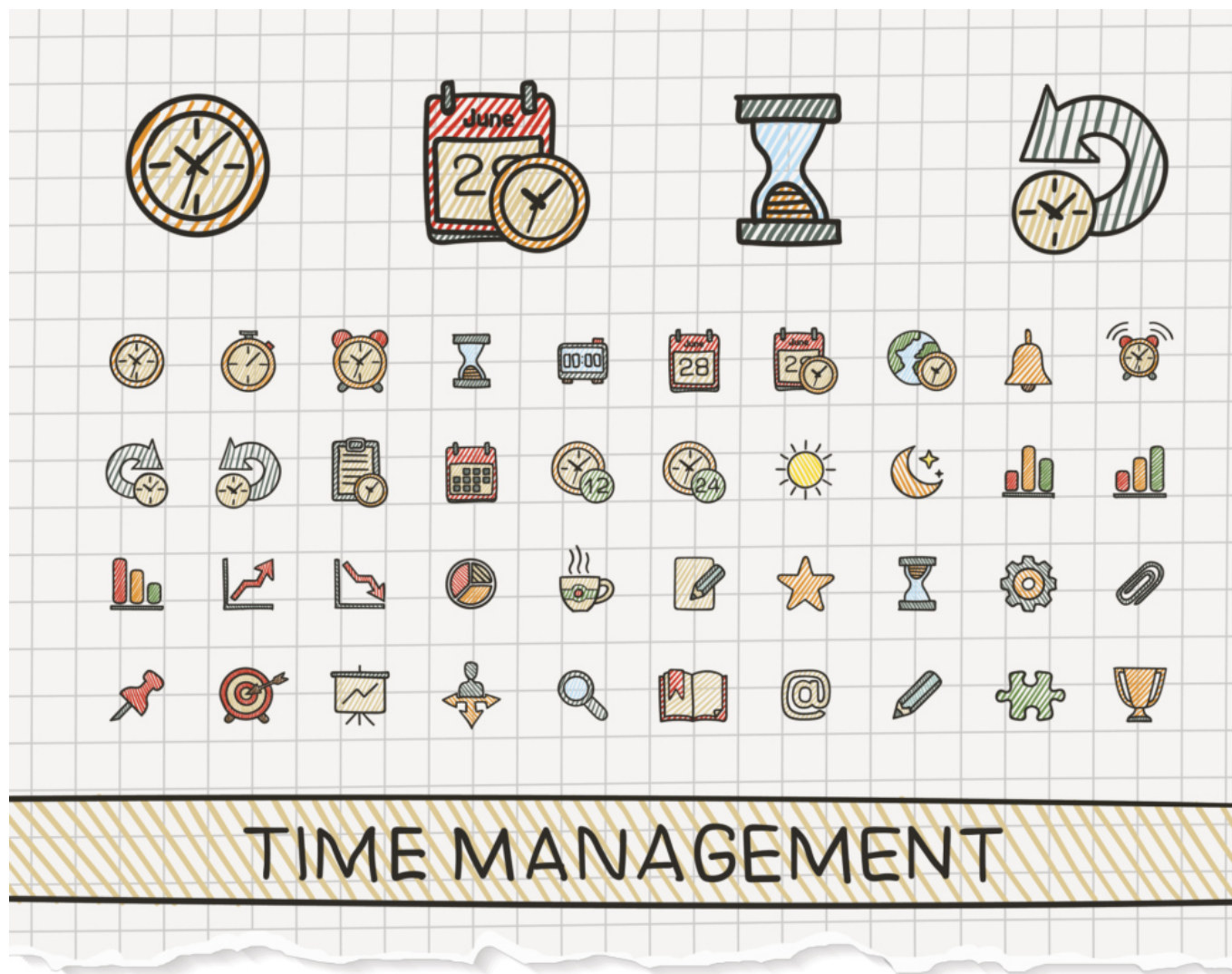
8. IMPROVE YOUR MARKETABILITY BY JOINING A CLUB OR OTHER ACTIVITY

If you're trying to increase your odds of staying in school and graduating on time, get involved in a club or, even better, look for a student leadership position.

"We have outstanding student leaders here on campus," Cisar says. "By sheer engagement at the university, you have higher success — even commuters benefit."

9. FIND A GOOD ALARM CLOCK AND PLANNER

Freshman heading to campus this fall may experience something of a culture shock, with no parent nearby to nudge them awake or nag them to do their homework. Returning students might not remember how tough it can be to get enough sleep when balancing a job and full courseload. To stay on top of their schedules, students both new and returning need to have a good alarm clock (or app) and a planner system that will help them track assignments, tests and other activities.



Without some time management tools, things can quickly get overwhelming.

10. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CAMPUS RESOURCES EARLY AND OFTEN

Experts say one of the biggest mistakes students make is waiting too long to seek out assistance. Colleges and universities often have a variety of resources from tutoring to writing workshops to an academic support office.

“Use what’s available, and it doesn’t have to be when you’re in trouble,” Baltimore says. “Take a good paper and make it better.”

11. HANG OUT WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE

If your friends are more interested in hitting the bars than hitting the books, fall 2015 could be a disaster for you.

“Look for people who have similar goals,” Cisar says. “Surround yourself with students who are

committed.” We don’t mean to say isolate — as older students often do. Make a friend or two, just be sure they’re good ones.

12. DETAIL A BUDGET FOR EACH SEMESTER

College is expensive. If you want to walk away with a degree and [as little debt as possible](#), you need to learn how to budget your money wisely. What’s more, say no to any credit card offers that come your way. Burkhart explains he’s seen students rack up significant credit card bills and then drop out of school to work and pay them off.

13. SKIP NEW TEXTBOOKS WHEN YOU CAN

Your money will stretch a little farther if you forget about buying outrageously expensive new books. Instead, explore savings strategies such as buying used, sharing a book with a friend or opting for an older edition, if you’ve checked in with your professor about what you’re missing by not getting the latest. You may even be able to borrow some books from the library. Plus, there are plenty of online options for finding deals.

14. PLAN YOUR SPRING SEMESTER BEFORE REGISTRATION EVEN STARTS

When finalizing your fall schedule, don’t forget to think about what you plan to take in the spring, as well.

“You don’t want to be out of sequence,” Burkhart says. “It may be a course that’s only offered [one semester] is a prerequisite for a future class.”

Double check and make sure you don’t need to be taking a specific class now to enroll in a certain class during the spring semester.

15. TAKE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR OWN SUCCESS OR FAILURE

The final, and perhaps most important, thing to do during fall semester 2015 is to realize you alone are responsible for the outcome of your college years.

“Start strong and you will finish strong,” advises Burkhart.

This article originally appeared on [Schools.com](#) and was written by Maryalene LaPonsie

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