

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR THRIVING AT LOYOLA

BY JOHN MACLEAY

HOW TO SUCCEED IN A NEW AREA

Often, when introduced to a new school or area, it can be hard to learn the rules of the road. Should you immediately set up your room first? Should you look for friends right away or check out the campus a little bit hoping to stumble upon someone you befriended during summer orientation? Adjusting to an area is hard and surviving easy, but *thriving* at a new school takes a little bit more strategy, and I'm ready to lay it out for you.

Although friends are important, the first and foremost reason to come to college is school work. You should really make sure that all of your books, upcoming assignments, and class schedule are in order. Once you've done that, then it's time to worry about friends. Friends can come from all types of different environments. Your dorm building and classes will most likely be your primary source of friends. With friends all around you it could be pret-

ty hard to get any work done. This is why group study sessions are so important. Getting all of your friends doing work at the same time will give you more motivation to do something.

QUIET PLACES FOR WORK:

- *Library*
- *The Study in Jenkins Hall*
- *Humanities porch*
- *Outside of Starbucks*
- *Dorm room*
- *Common room*
- *Classrooms*
- *The Student Center*



Photo Credit: John Macleay

MY EXPERIENCE

I have never been bored as a student at Loyola University Maryland. The school always has some type of festival or event or seminar happening to occupy my time. I have

been to so many events on the quad just this semester. My favorite event this semester so far has been the Club Fair. When I'm not at an event on campus there are always

things to do around Baltimore—whether it's an Oriole's game or just hanging at the Harbor, there is never a dull moment at Loyola University or in the surrounding city.

FIRST WEEK FRIENDS

Being a new student on your first day of school at any college can be very intimidating, but there is one thing that everyone in your graduating class has in common for the first couple days of school—they are all trying to find friends and find their niche in a new environment. The fact that everyone is new and no one knows anyone else means that everybody is totally desperate to meet other people. Whether you live on hillside or in Champion, the best thing to do is to go room to room and introduce yourself to the people you will be living

with. My best friends to this day are the people who live right next door to me.

Since everyone is new and looking for friends, for the first week or so you can very easily just walk up to people and introduce yourself. This often will spark up a conversation. However, don't expect all of these people to be friends with you for the rest of your life. Usually you will have a few "first week friends." These are the people who you get meals with



Photo Credit: Pablo Rivera

and hang out with a little bit, but then they usually fade out within a month or so. This happened to me because they all lived in Flannery and I lived in Butler so it was harder to maintain a solid relationship.

ON CAMPUS

After you find your friends, you might now be asking, *What is there to do with them?* There are so many activities at Loyola that will occupy your time and keep you entertained. Loyola puts on activities every weekend through a

program called Late Night. Usually these events will be anything such as an open mic night at Starbucks or even a movie night in McGuire Hall. One thing that can always be relied on is Midnight Breakfast. This takes place every weekend night from

midnight until 2 AM on the second floor of Boulder. This is free food for when you can't sleep, want somewhere to go with friends, or if you just have the midnight munchies. This is the best thing on the planet after a long night.



THE FAC

My favorite free activity is to go rock climbing at the Fitness and Aquatic Center. Or if you don't like rock climbing, they offer soccer, basketball, racquetball, foosball, and pretty much any sport you can think of. Many of my friends go to the FAC for fun. Often I

have gone and had foosball tournaments with my friends and then gone swimming in the pool right after. The FAC is open from 6am to 11:30pm so it is usually a good option if you find yourself having a busy day.



OFF CAMPUS

One great area to go includes Hampden. It has shops and restaurants to explore and is a very safe place in the area. It also has a very nice skate park. During the Christmas season, 34th Street is lit up with spectacular Christmas light displays and is such an astonishing place to walk

around. Other fun areas include Federal Hill and Towson. If you and your friends want to catch a movie, The Senator Theatre on York Road is two minutes from campus. One activity that is cheap and always an amazing time is catching a baseball

game in the fall. Camden Yards in the fall is a lot of fun and the tickets range anywhere from ten to twenty dollars, so it's pretty affordable. The Aquarium, Ravens games and Oriole games often offer student discounts, which is very convenient.

“AS SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN BALTIMORE, I HAVE BEEN TO THESE AREAS DOZENS OF TIMES AND THEY HAVE NEVER LOST ENJOYMENT.”
SPIRO VASILAKOPOULOS '21

INNER HARBOR

So many areas around Baltimore are safe and have many fun things to do. For example, go explore the Inner Harbor and go shopping at Urban Outfitters or just get lunch. Many restaurants in the area include Chipotle, Dick's Last Resort and The Hard Rock Café. The National

Aquarium is in the Inner Harbor and is huge and very fun to explore. It always makes for a nice day trip with friends. If you want to save a little money, Friday nights offer a discount to students. It even makes a good date spot if you happen to find that special someone who lives down the hall.



Photo Credit: Spiro Vasilakopoulos



A trip to the Inner Harbor with a Messina class