

This is the app *DoubleMap*, it keeps track of where all the shuttles are and is vital so you know when the shuttles are close to you.

“DO YOU LOVE DISCUSSING THE LATEST TRENDS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE? DO YOU LOVE TO BAKE? HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO LEARN IMPROV? FIND YOUR PEOPLE IN ONE OF OUR 140+ STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS! HERE AT LOYOLA, THERE’S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE (AND IF YOU DON’T SEE A CLUB THAT FITS YOUR INTERESTS, WE WILL HELP YOU START ONE).”
- A QUOTE FROM [LOYOLA’S WEBSITE](#) THEMSELVES ENCOURAGING CLUBS

Commuting By Eduardo Rosa

Commuting. Being a commuter student may not seem like the most glamorous thing in the world, but trust me it’s not that bad (kinda). I’m just messing around. In all seriousness, it’s not bad at all—we just face different challenges and situations that other students who live on campus wouldn’t. Experiencing these challenges, and having no one to help me prepare on what to expect, was stressful; but I have four tips to help you survive and manage being a commuter.

#1 GET ACTIVE

My first piece of advice: *get active in the Loyola Community!* As a commuter student, I understand that it might not be as easy to make friends or feel a part of the community as someone who lives on campus, and has roommates, and is living out the “college experience.” But, trust me, you can make the college experience *your own*. Take initiative. Join clubs. Go to Messina events, and socialize *within* your Messina; it’s a great resource for you to get more comfortable and settle into the Loyola community.

I, myself, am extremely reserved, not because I don’t like Loyola, that is just who I am. And because of this I am still trying to create the experience I want outside of the classroom. But if that’s not who you are, and if you are looking for friends or want to feel a part of a community, go and join a club, go to the events held around campus, find people with common interests, and explore Baltimore. It sounds easier said than done, but I really

suggest you do that. We have over 200 clubs for you here at Loyola, and all of them are there to help you find a community or even a person with same interests.

#2 MAKE A PLAN

Another thing I must say that seems super obvious and easy, but is hard to stay in routine with is: *create a plan*. You may be saying what kind of plan? Well, for starters, as a commuter you have to set a plan on a multitude of things: a plan on when you will wake up, a plan on when you will head out the door to get to school on time accounting for traffic, a plan that if the buses are late (which they always are) will you have enough time to get to class on time. There are a ton of other things you might want to plan for such as managing the amount of time you spend on campus or with friends, and when you have to leave to get home on time. All of these things I had to deal with. And trust me, they were very hard to get used to; shoot, I still struggle with these things and I’m a sophomore. But these things are definitely something you should try to make a routine. I perfected when to set my alarm, and how long I’m allowed to lie in bed after I wake up to scroll on TikTok; I perfected how early to get to campus parking lots in case buses are late, and I perfected a plan on how late to stay on campus if I want to get home in time on Mondays and Thursdays for Primetime football. And I’m not saying it’s easy creating these plans, as it takes a bit of time to get into the groove of things and trying to figure out what times and decisions are best for you and your scenario. But don’t let that deter you because this is something a commuter *must* do if they want to stay on track of everything.

#3 CHECK YOUR EMAILS

My third piece of advice: *ALWAYS ALWAYS check your email*. Due to recent times, it is normal to take precautionary actions and cancel class if someone or a professor was to get Covid. And when this happens, professors 9 times out of 10 will send an email, saying class is cancelled and that they are sick...now let me ask you this. You'd want to read this before driving all the way to campus right? Yeah. I figured so. Trust me, I've learned the hard way; I live 40 minutes away and the traffic sometimes makes it an hour drive, so when I drive to campus after an hour ride and see class is not being held, it's infuriating. You're going to wish you read that email before you headed out of the house, and you're going to wish you had alerts for your email turned on. So do that—download Outlook, turn on notifications to go to your phone and read your emails! Email is where all information is given in college, and it's going to be vital for you to be successful in college.

#4 BE WISE AND USE YOUR TIME

My last piece of advice I have regarding academics and being a commuter is this: *use your free time wisely*. What I mean by this is that when you have any kind of big break or decent break, it will be tempting to just be on your phone and watch YouTube, or scroll on TikTok, but I strongly suggest you use your time to do something productive; whether it's homework, an essay, studying, etc...etc - DO IT. I say this because if you drive a good amount of distance, a lot of your time in the day is used up by driving, meaning: that's a lot of time in your day not allowing you to do something productive. I truly believe this is vital to factor in because students on campus have the luxury of walking 5-10 minutes to their dorm to settle down and study; while we commuters sometimes spend 25 minutes to

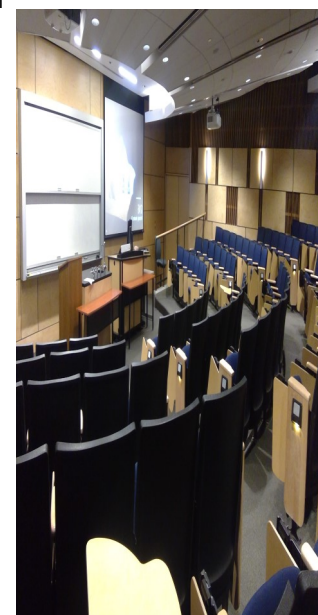
get to our car and add that amount of time to however long it takes to get home. If you add that all together, the time can truly rack up, and my suggestion to make up for that time is to be productive during your breaks when you are on campus. Hear me out... knowing you did work earlier in the day will ease your mind when you are sitting in traffic with no WiFi and can't do any work. Now imagine if you didn't do work during your breaks and are sitting in traffic with no option but to keep sitting there. That would feel awful wouldn't it? That would add stress to you wouldn't it? **SO BE PRODUCTIVE**. Another suggestion you might like that could maximize productivity is to listen to any readings you need done through an audio book while driving. There are a ton of things you can do to stay productive and be productive, and I do understand that it's not the most exhilarating and appealing thing there is, but in the long run it will help. Because like I said before, that time in the car that's not being used for school. even though you have a ton of work, is going to seem wasteful.

FINAL THOUGHTS FOR YOU

Now I know that all of this might've seemed like a lot of stuff or unsettling, but, trust me, it's not as bad as it sounds. I always say—if someone else can do it, so can I. So what I want to tell you is—if I can do it...so can you. Be productive, check your email! Organize your time accordingly to work for you and your schedule. Be social, and finally just *have fun*. College is totally different compared to high school...you make the experience your own. Commuting isn't the end of the world, it's just a different world compared to others. Make the experience your own—you control how it will look, and you will.



GET A PLANNER, this helps me stay on top of all my work, and have my week planned.



Since you won't have a dorm, find places on campus where you can have time to yourself and study. Here is a picture of an empty lecture hall I go to when I need somewhere