



Loyola Club Soccer at UNCW!

“LET HOME BE
YOUR MAST AND
NOT YOUR
ANCHOR”-
KAHLIL GIBRAN

How to Make Loyola Your Home Away From Home By Kamryn Williams

Change is hard. Take it from me: I used to HATE change. Especially being away from your house, maybe a house pet, friends, and most of all your family. All these people, places, and things that bring you comfort make you feel at home. Moving away from all these may seem scary whether you're like me, 20 minutes away, or hours away. For most people, college may be the first time that you are truly alone. You may not know how to find comfort away from familiarity. I am here to give you tips on making Loyola University your home away from home!

GET INVOLVED

Getting involved is so important. You will meet many new people and find new activities you like. I know that Loyola is not the biggest school, but I can almost guarantee there's at least one club you can join to find people with similar interests. Loyola has more than [200 student-led clubs](#); if you can't find one you like, you can always start a new one! Being involved helps you to find people to talk to, hang out with and learn from. You may even meet students who can help show you the ropes and teach you more about Loyola.

ADVENTURE AROUND BALTIMORE

In addition, familiarize yourself with the beautiful city surrounding Loyola. There are so many amazing places to get food or hang out such as [Chop Tank](#), [The National Aquarium](#), and attending [Ravens](#) or [Orioles](#) games. Finding a place or an activity that reminds you of home can help make the transition easier. A familiar food or activity can create a sense of comfort while your away from home.



Inner Harbor boat tour!

GET TO KNOW YOUR EVERGREEN

At Loyola, first-years are provided with a small Messina group primarily led by an Evergreen. An Evergreen is another Loyola student whose role is to help guide and support you throughout your first year of college. Let me repeat: They are here to help you. Feel free to ask for help picking classes or finding a classroom. Here is one of my embarrassing stories. In high school, my schedule was on an A/B rotation. You had classes on A days and different ones on B days. If you didn't already know, classes generally fall on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or Tuesday, Thursday. School started on a Tuesday this fall. My Tuesday/Thursday classes didn't begin until 1:40 pm. My Monday, Wednesday, and Friday classes began at 9 am. I woke up bright and early on Tuesday Morning at 7:30 to give myself time to find my class and not be late. I walk over to Knott Hall and see my class, but saw no one in it. I stood outside waiting until 9 am, and no



professor showed up either. I texted my Evergreen to confirm Loyola doesn't have two Knott Hall buildings; believe it or not, there's only one. Well, I went to my Monday class, on a Tuesday. My Evergreen did not make fun of me. I had made a rookie mistake.

Yes, I was a little embarrassed, but she helped me through it and reminded me that people always do that. I was confused and she helped me figure it out. My Evergreen, sophomore Bree Smith, told me that "I chose to become an Evergreen because I enjoy supporting and helping others. I find fulfillment in helping others and giving back to my community. I genuinely enjoy being there to listen to others and support them in any way they need. I feel that I am a natural leader and wanted to use my skills in a positive and impactful way. Additionally, I had an amazing Evergreen and was able to create a positive relationship with her. I wanted to give that opportunity to other first-years. I also met one of my best friends in my Messina and I strive to foster a place of inclusivity and community within our Messina. It is important to feel safe and heard and I hope to create that space for others."



Orioles game!!

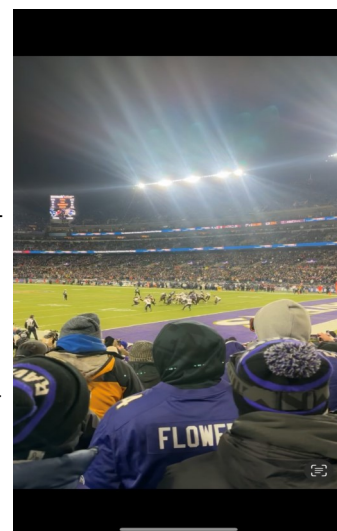
ATTEND YOUR FLOOR/CAMPUS EVENTS

If you are living on campus, your RA will host floor events. These are a great way to make friends with the people who live on your floor/ in your building. The events may seem corny, but if you can, make time to go. These events help you get to know the people around you, learn more about Loyola, and have some fun with your peers. Your RA and the people on your floor are all great resources if you ever need assistance with anything.

Regardless of living on campus or off campus, other campus events including panels, sports games, and socials all provide ways to make Loyola feel like home. They allow you to see more about what Loyola is all about and, again, introduce you to meet new people while you grow your education. Sports games such as Lacrosse and Basketball have given me the chance to see what the Loyola Community is all about, and seeing the staff and students come together to cheer on the Greyhounds is so much fun!

GET TO KNOW YOUR PROFESSORS

Your professors are such a wonderful resource to have at school. Classes are a lot different than they are in high school. Professors do their best to get to know you, but if you have larger classes, like lectures, it is tough for them to get to know each kid they teach. Please make the effort to get to know your professors and let them get to know you, too. You're an adult now—they are waiting on you to come to them—they will not come to you.



Ravens game!

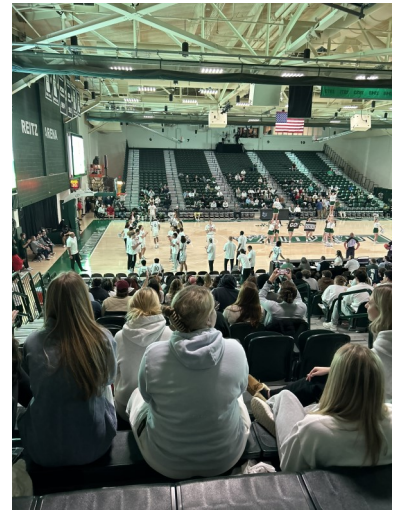


During my first semester, I shied away from my professors and stayed to myself more in class. However, this spring semester, I opened up a lot more. I go to office hours, talk before class to my professors, and even chat after class sometimes. Trust me, it makes a world of difference! Your professors are there to help you succeed.

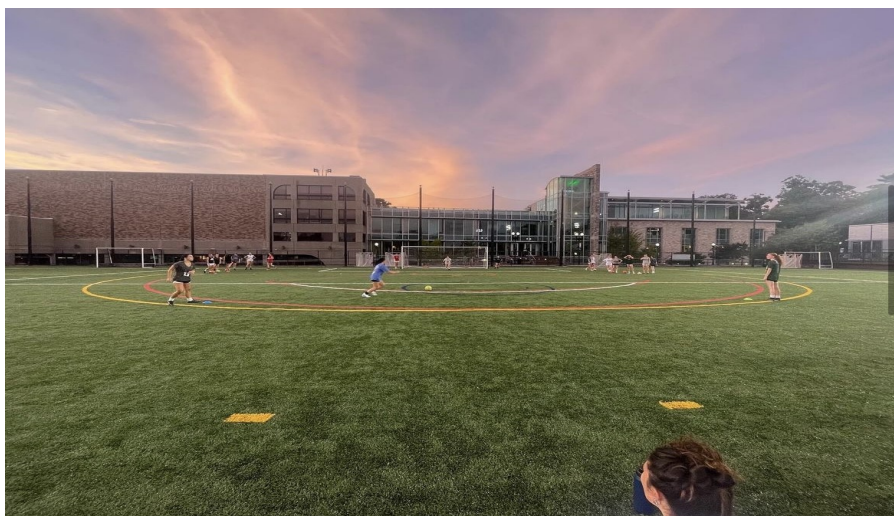
One of the biggest things I want to encourage you to do is ask for help! If you feel you are falling behind or struggling with anything, do not be afraid to ask for help. Your professors want you to do well; let them guide you through it! Philosophy Professor Guise-Gerrity expresses, "The best part of teaching is the close relationship we get to enjoy with our students! Year after year, the excitement of meeting new students and staying connected with them during their time at Loyola is always joyful. Of course, these natural bonds extend after students graduate, and I get coffee or lunch with a Loyola graduate easily once a month."

FINAL THOUGHTS

Navigating the transition to college life can seem daunting. The idea of leaving behind the familiarity of home, friends, and family can make you feel uncomfortable or nervous, but I promise college is not as scary as you think. I hope these tips can help ease your transition. Following these tips will provide you with a sense of belonging and comfort in a new environment. Getting involved, utilizing your Evergreen, getting to know your professors, and attending campus events are only a few of the ways to make Loyola feel home, and I have no doubt that you will be just fine!



Getting ready to cheer on Loyola's Men's Basketball team!



Sunset on DGA field!

