

# What It Is Like Being a Senior in College

## A Reflection

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**T**he time has finally come. I am a senior at Lake Forest College. I still remember freshman orientation, where I met my new friends and participated in exciting activities. Now, I walk around seeing freshmen experiencing their first semester as college students, exactly where I was three years ago. The past four years have flown by and it has officially hit me: I only have two semesters left of undergrad. Soon, I have to start applying for jobs and live like an adult. So, what is it like to be in my position right now? It is not easy; I have had sleepless nights, several cups of coffee just to keep my eyes open, and moments of trial and error. I may have, unfortunately, fallen under the spell of “senioritis”—a lack of motivation and the urge to graduate—but despite these inevitable obstacles, I want to share my college experience and what it is like to be a senior in college.

When I started my freshman year, I had no idea what I wanted to study, and I think that’s a good thing. I came into college undecided, ready to explore the different classes and areas of study that were offered. I was already enrolled in my first-year studies class, so I needed to determine my other classes. I had an idea of what I was interested in, yet I was intimidated by the other freshman students who already declared their majors. Even now, as I study Communication and Sociology and Anthropology, I still haven’t figured out what I want to do. While I have found my interests in advertising and marketing, I am still exploring my options in the Communication and Sociology and Anthropology career paths. Ultimately, I learned that I don’t have to rush into figuring out what I want to do for the rest of my life. From talking to friends and professors and connecting with upperclassmen, I have been able to expand my knowledge on the opportunities that are available to me.

Currently, my support system consists of the great friends I have met from my four years of college. I struggled freshman and sophomore year getting to know people due to my quiet personality. Additionally, being a commuter did not help much. I commuted by train, so I had to arrive and leave at a scheduled time every day. However, I drive to school now and

this has greatly impacted my social life. I have become more independent and I have much more flexibility in my schedule. Of course, I may be missing out on the full “college experience” by not living on campus, but I have learned how to better manage my time while commuting and being involved off-campus. It is relieving to have the support of my friends and making connections through them. In addition to friends, I also have support from my professors. In fact, if there is one valuable lesson I would share with others in my position, it would be to take advantage of professors’ office hours. In getting to know my professors, they have helped to guide me through class assignments while also sharing their valuable wisdom and advice. I’ve learned that it’s important to grow a relationship with your professor and let them get to know you as both a student and a person.

Ultimately, being a senior in college is stressful, yet extremely rewarding. I have experienced the ups-and-downs of being a senior and I have amazing memories to reflect on. I am grateful for the friendships I have made and the classes I have taken that continue to remind me to be open-minded and become a better version of myself. Despite the stress, I can’t wait to attend more school events, hang out with friends, and learn as much as I can before graduation. When I walk across the stage and receive my degree, I know I will be ready to see where the next chapter of my life takes me. Whether you are a freshman, sophomore, or junior, get involved, communicate with your professors, and spend time with your friends. The remaining semesters of your college career are crucial, so value the moments you have left because everything will be worth it in the end.