

Hey there, Class of 2013! My name is Derek Leblanc and I am the Special Programs Coordinator for **Manresa: Xavier's New Student Orientation Program**. I hope your summer is rockin wherever you are and whatever you are up to. Soon enough you will be at Xavier and whether you like it or not, you do actually go to *school* when you're here. So today, I'm going to talk about academics. I am an Accounting/Finance major. I'll be a senior this year, so I have a lot of practice with the academics of XU. Take my advice.

Study Habits

Coming to college entails changes. One of those changes is the academics. During my first semester, I was worried about how hard my classes would be and knew that I had a tendency to over commit myself to extra curricular activities. The college load can sometimes come as a shocker, and you don't want to learn your study habits the hard way. College classes are different from high school. You spend a lot less time actually in class, but you spend way more time doing homework. This means that you personally hold a lot more responsibility for your school work. That being said, make clear cut priorities from the beginning and try to form a study schedule. At Xavier, there are plenty of good ways to keep up with your studies. Make sure to pay close attention to the syllabus from your professor. Keeping a planner or schedule might help you work on projects piece by piece and ensure that nothing sneaks up on you. You will also need to figure out the best approach to each individual class. In addition, many people have a favorite study spot like the library, Gallagher Student Center, residence hall study lounges, or out on the greenspace.

Professors

The most helpful but under-used resources are your professors. All of your professors are required to have office hours when they are available to meet with you. **GO TO SEE THEM** during your first 6 weeks. Many will give you their email address and phone number for questions. Use these resources. From a simple question about class to helping you with your paper or study prep for a test, your teachers are there for you. They want you to do well and succeed in their classes. They also like to see that you are interested and willing to learn. They actually like students and want to get to know you. I cannot stress enough the importance of making yourself present to your teachers.

Academic Support Services

There are tons of specialized services available to help you succeed academically. Your tuition is paying for them so you might as well take advantage of them. The **Learning Assistance Center (LAC)**, located between Kuhlman and Husman Halls, provides tutoring and study groups. If you know that you struggle with a specific class, sign up for a tutor within the first couple of weeks of school so that you don't get behind. The LAC also provides services for students with disabilities. They have a library which provides information about learning disabilities, study skills, and other related topics, and they have discussion groups about AD(H)D. Check out www.xavier.edu/lac for more.

Another fantastic academic resource is the **Writing Center**, located in the basement of Alter Hall. Tutors at the Writing Center will help you edit papers **from any subject** for grammar, format, clarity, and content. Call ahead for a Writing Center appointment, and visit www.xavier.edu/writing_center for more information.

The **Math Tutoring Lab**, located in Hinkle 126, provides free tutoring to Xavier students in math classes numbered MATH 105-171. No appointment is necessary. My first year, I always did my Calculus homework in there in case I had a question. You can visit <http://cerebro.xu.edu/dept/mathlab.html> for hours and additional information.

The **Library** is of course a resource. It has a lot more than just books. It has group study rooms, laptops, and televisions for presentations. The librarians are a huge resource. You can IM a librarian 24 hours a day! They are there to help you research and really want to ease your process. You can visit the website at www.xavier.edu/library to see all the library has to offer.

Your **Academic Advisor** can also be a valuable resource. Not only will your advisor be willing to assist you with general life advice, but he/she will provide direction about which classes to take.

School can be hard but it can be fun and not over take you. Starting off on the right foot will make all the difference. Hopefully, my bits of advice help. Enjoy the rest of your summer. I can't wait to see you during Manresa!

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