

Ways to look ahead now that you're behind this semester

Whether this is your first year at Hope College or one of your last, I can assure you that you're probably behind in some way, shape or form. Most professors have planned out your entire semester of homework before you even received it, causing those who have not looked ahead in the syllabus to begin to miss assignments that they've had all along, but never realized. You, on the other hand, may have only glanced at your assignments for tonight just now. Luckily, it's never too late to form some good habits that will help you get ahead.

Stephanie Arndt
FEATURES EDITOR

Planning your whole day without regrets

In this age, most everyone has a smart phone. We are constantly checking our phones for new messages and alerts.

Why not make the most of technology?

Most professors will allow you to take pictures or jot down some quick notes on your phone during class. It takes just a minute to add homework assignments to your phone. I know that planning group meetings or even coffee with a friend can seem almost impossible until you try it. Just don't take advantage of having your phone out in class and you should be fine.

The power of setting multiple alarms

Personally, it takes me a good 5-10 alarms before I'm off my phone and out of bed. Before I developed my system of waking up, I was constantly over-sleeping and missing some of my earlier classes that I had my first year at Hope. You may not think about it too much, but the power that alarms have over a person is amazing. One minute, you're in deep sleep and the next, you are mostly aware that it's a new day and there are things to do.

I highly suggest having multiple alarms because you never know when you might slip up and hit 'snooze' before rolling over and going back to sleep.

Knowing your study habits—bad ones, too

One of the best way to make friends is to find something in common. This can be as easy as working on homework with people in the same class as you. One of the benefits of that is gaining new knowledge through someone who has a different perspective on the subject you are in. One of the downfalls is that you're probably not studying very much of the time if you're with friends.

Staying up late and going for that donut run after studying can be an unforgettable college memory. Still, be aware of how often you are doing this. Continuously staying up late without being productive can really hurt your semester. Be sure to organize time for friends and studying separately every now and then.

Keeping your home organized

Weekends become more valuable when you're a college student. Often, they can be the only time you have all week to unwind and be yourself. Still, it's common for everything you didn't do throughout the week to pile up on Sundays. This can include doing laundry, cleaning your room, shopping and homework. But you might have noticed that the laundry room is filled on a Sunday evening and that your roommate might be trying to do homework while you're trying to do a deep-cleaning of your room.

Spread it out—the more you dedicate time to keeping your life at home organized, the more free time you could have on the weekend.

Focusing too much on the past (assignments)

Lastly, you may realize that you're already too deep in the hole with some assignments. At the rate that some classes go, you may be physically and mentally unable to finish an assignment because the class has gone on while you're still catching up. One of the best pieces of advice I may give you is to know when to let go.

Sometimes you can get away with dropping a smaller assignment or two in order to focus on others that are worth more points. Although I do not advise getting that far behind, it is important to know that you're here to make the most out of your education. Do the reading even though you can't make the time for the write up. Just make sure you're ready for your next project!