**Freshman Survival Tips**

**1. Surround yourself with the right people.** Find the people who make you feel better when you’re around them. Consciously decide to only surround yourself with positive people who motivate you, and who you want to support as well. Misery loves company, and being around those who are miserable and negative will only make you feel the same way.

**2. Find a hobby or a passion that is not music.** You have to have something that is not music in your life, so that you continue to appreciate music as the magic it is.

**3. Know your own worth.** You will fail and succeed in equal measure this first year and the years to come. Learn to be your own biggest fan, but at the same time…

**4. Learn to take criticism.** Understand that criticism from your professors is meant to help you improve, and if you cannot accept that then you will stunt your own professional and musical growth. Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard—don’t make excuses for yourself and always try to be better than you were yesterday.

**5. Work smarter, not harder.** Use your resources on campus and online to find ways to keep you organized that work for you. Use your first semester to find what works for you so that you can reap the benefits of being organized during the rest of your time at college.

**6. Know your limits.** Say yes to new adventures, but say no to opportunities that you are doing to just check off another box on your resume. And of course, know your limits when it comes to other things as well. Do not be afraid to be the responsible one in the room.

**7. Get off campus.** Go to local businesses, find a community performing group to support, and *please* go to events and concerts that are not on campus. Your community does not only exist on campus, but in the town and surrounding area, and it is your duty as a college student to support this community and understand why people reminisce about college so much.

**8. Strive for progress, not perfection.** Learn how to fail in front of others with a smile on your face, and how to appreciate small victories. Set small attainable goals and celebrate them, then make more. You are always a student regardless of how many degrees you have. A

**9. Be more than book smart.** Learn how to cook and clean for yourself, settle into sustainable routines, and always educate yourself about what you could improve on. Take advantage of reduced student discounts to attend networking and professional development opportunities like professional organization conferences. Not only do these events make your college experience unique, but you learn so much about what you don’t know and it will only make you a better musician and person as a result.

**10. Do not try to be someone you are not.** It is very easy to try to assimilate in order to feel like you belong. Do not sacrifice your personal values and traits to gain the favor of others. Treat everyone with professionalism and respect, and learn how to shine in your own way. Even if you are forging your own path, when you take your final bow on your university’s stage you should be proud of the person you have become.