

## WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW

**GO WITH THE FLOW** Be flexible and open-minded, said Michael O'Leary, vice president for enrollment management at Goucher College in Baltimore and a graduate of Oyster Bay High School. "Not everything will go as planned; not everyone will be as you imagined. Learn in the classroom, learn from your classmates, learn from your community. Approach your freshman year with brio."

**BE A RESPONSIBLE ROOMMATE** Recognize that getting along with your roommate can range from coexisting to forging a lifelong friendship, said educational consultant Julie Gross, founder of Collegiate Gateway in Port Washington, which advises students on admissions. "At the least, you want to live together without conflict. Communicate about the kind of environment you both prefer — music or silence while studying? Above all, be considerate — reach out if your roommate needs someone to listen."

**SEEK ACADEMIC ADVICE** It's important for first-year students to meet with academic advisers early in the first semester — well before finals, and even before midterms, said Branka Kristic,

director for parent and family programs at Hofstra. "Students having difficulty should meet as soon as they are having problems. Meet with the adviser at least once a semester."

**FIND HELP** Figure out where to get support for everything from study habits to scheduling problems. "Your first stop usually should be the residential adviser," said Craig Fogel, a senior at NYU. "As an RA, I don't know the answers, but I can help students figure out where to go." He says many students don't realize how many resources a campus offers, including mental health counselors, the career development office and computer centers.

**GET INVOLVED** Early in the year, consider volunteering or interning, and join a club. Internships exist for most positions; contact the career office. "The experience can help you choose a major and a prospective career," Kristic said.

**BECOME INDEPENDENT** "Tell your parents to avoid meddling with professors, classmates and roommates, unless the injustice seems too egregious, biased or dangerous for you to handle," said Elizabeth Wissner-Gross, an educational consultant in Great Neck.

— DAVE MARCUS

