

10 Questions to Help You Make the Most of College

(adapted from *Liberal Education & America's Promise: An Introduction for Students*,
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1. Am I working as hard as I can and choosing a wide array of courses--not just those in which I know I will do well?
2. Am I working with my advisor and others to chart a pathway through Hope College that challenges me and will ensure that I learn what I need to learn?
3. Am I pursuing opportunities, both in and out of the classroom, to apply what I am learning to the real world--through internships, leadership in student groups, service projects, study abroad, or research?
4. Can I speak and read a foreign language? Am I taking courses about global issues and countries and perspectives outside the USA? Have I lived, worked, or studied in a cultural community other than my own?
5. Am I seeking out my professors to discuss my work and how I can do better?
6. Am I taking advantage of study groups, tutoring, the writing center, and other supplementary help?
7. Each year, am I getting to know well at least one professor whom I could ask for a letter of recommendation?
8. Am I connecting my courses and other out-of-class and work experiences? Have I thought about how all my experiences are preparing me for life after Hope College? If I'm planning on graduate or professional school, am I working with my department and Hope's pre-professional advisors to ensure that I am a viable candidate?
9. Have I meet with the counselors at Hope's Office of Career Services and used their resources to assess my career options and learn the steps involved in applying for a job?
10. Can I explain how my education has helped me develop the skills that employers see as essential--skills of writing, critical thinking, and global knowledge, for example?