



# Advice for First Year Students

## Words of Wisdom

### General Advice

- Use your time wisely; understand the difference between your schedule in high school versus college
- Don't be afraid to take risks
- Learn important phone numbers such as 624-WALK and the number to the front desk of your residence hall
- Make a budget; keep track of your finances
- Go to the library
- College is about finding yourself, it is OK to be undeclared your 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Balance your social life with your academic life
- Stay organized, deadlines are important
- If you do decide to work while in school, check out the student job center –  
<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/employment/openings/student.html>
- College is a learning experience in and outside the classroom

### Academic

- Plan ahead, create a 4 year plan that includes courses, volunteer and internship experiences, and study abroad
- Establish a rapport with your instructors, you never know when you'll need a letter of recommendation
- Do not take a class because a friend said it was easy, a class that is easy for some, may not be easy for everyone
- Read, don't get behind
- Find a study place that is right for you, Coffman, the library, a coffee shop or study lounge
- Attempt to find courses that fulfill multiple requirements
- Start your 2<sup>nd</sup> language as soon as possible
- Know who your adviser is, the location of your advising office and its phone number
- Meet with your academic adviser regularly – once per semester – to ensure you stay on track

## Social

- Get involved! You haven't been a U of M student until you've painted the bridge
- Meet people from different cultures and backgrounds, be open to new ideas/view and opinions
- Join intramurals
- Go to events, go to games, wear Maroon and Gold
- Take advantage of the meal plan, the dining room is the center of social interaction
- Spend a year living in the dorm – it is a living and learning experience incomparable to anything else and is a great way to meet people and get involved on campus
- If you commute, try out the Commuters lounge in Coffman and stay on campus between classes (think about your schedule while registering for classes)
- Get involved with a variety of student groups

