Don’t Wait to Graduate

By: Warren Woo, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

It is not easy being me. As a student, I pay my tuition, my money is low, and my classes fill up far too quickly, making each semester an ongoing battle. Unsurprisingly, graduating on a timely basis is a challenge common among all students and, more often than not, students have difficulty accomplishing this task. Graduating on time requires proper prior planning as well as keen determination. Two methods that may help you keep on track to graduating on time are understanding your degree requirements and taking summer classes. In addition, it is very important to meet frequently with your academic adviser during this process.

Start by identifying and tracking your degree plan, which your academic advisor can help you with. Procure your degree sheet and set aside time to thoroughly understand the required credits for your major. From this process, not only will you be able to find out useful, time saving information such as which courses satisfy dual credits, but you will also have a clear understanding of what classes to take and when to take them. Eventually, you should set up a college course plan for all four years. You can use this as a guideline for your progress, altering it as needed. This way, you consciously walk the right path with the end goal in mind. While taking classes during the fall and spring semesters may be the norm, regularly taking advantage of summer classes can keep you ahead of the game.

By enrolling in summer classes, you can quickly complete many courses for your degree plan. Although the lessons covered in

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Ms. Christina M. Hixson graduated from high school in Clarinda, Iowa and moved to Omaha, Nebraska to attend business school. She later went to work for Mr. Ernst F. Lied, a car dealership owner in Omaha and in 1960 she joined Mr. Lied in Las Vegas, Nevada as his assistant. After Mr. Lied’s death in 1980, Ms. Hixson became the sole trustee of the Lied Foundation Trust and turned the Lied Foundation Trust into one of the largest foundations in the state of Nevada at that time. Ms. Hixson has a special understanding of young people who, like her, came from a challenging family background and are willing to work hard.

Mr. Ernst F. Lied was born in Columbus, Ohio and attended the University of Kansas for two years, where he played on the golf team. He ultimately graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1927. Mr. Lied became a Buick dealer in Omaha, Nebraska and later his dealership was ranked third in the country for the number of cars sold. Mr. Lied established his charitable foundation in 1972, and upon his death in 1980 at age 74 nearly his entire estate funded the Lied Foundation Trust. Lied Foundation Trust has enhanced the capabilities of many schools and enriched the quality of many lives!
Don’t Wait to Graduate Continued

these classes are accelerated and compressed into a five week period, studying hard and staying focused can keep you on track. Additionally, if you find yourself struggling or feeling overwhelmed by such classes during the summer months, you may find it useful to join a study group or utilize tutoring services. It is important to seek help if you are having difficulty grasping material. The time dedicated to your hard work and getting help from outside sources will save you from having to re-take courses. Essentially, be sure to study hard, plan ahead, and remain in close contact with your advisor. College is one of life’s greatest challenges; but if you are dedicated, time will pass and so will you.

Lied Library: Are You Utilizing All of Your Resources?

By: Unique Payton-Madsen, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

Welcome back to the spring semester, Rebels! By now I am sure everyone is settling in quite well with their new course load. If you are not, I have the perfect resource for you: our beautiful Lied Library. The library provides excellent study space if you need a place to concentrate or complete homework. There are quiet rooms for those of you who prefer to study alone in silence as well as tables and group study rooms for those who appreciate more of a collaborative setting with a little bit of noise. I am sure all of us are aware that at times it may be hard to find a computer due to the library being full to capacity in the mornings or in the mid-afternoons. If you do not have your own laptop to bring with you to school, this would typically pose a problem. Luckily, the library allows students to check out laptops for a few hours. These laptops are perfect if you are going to tutoring and need to utilize an online program, such as Pearson or Hawkes. You can also check out projectors and bulletin boards for collective studying or teaching efforts. Another useful, and often very important, resource provided in the library is tutoring! The ASC Tutoring Center is located on the second floor and offers help for popular lower-level subjects including foreign languages, math, sciences, and business classes. The tutors are excellently skilled in helping students and are eager to assist new ones. They are always ready for your questions so get down to the library and ask them!

You may be expected to do some research projects in your college career. This means you will need to find credible information and reliable sources. If you have taken your first year seminar or are currently taking it, you know exactly what I am talking about. A huge part of college is research. In nearly every class, each student must complete some form of research whether it is for a project on research methods for Psychology or a typical research paper for an English class. The library allows for UNLV students to search through the database to find resources, such as scholarly journals and academic articles. The Lied Library is especially important for these types of assignments because they pay special fees so that students can access these scholarly journals and articles for FREE. The library database also provides links to help students with citing sources and using MLA or APA formatting. So get to the library and use up all of these valuable resources provided for you!
Graduate School: The Final Frontier

By: Warren Woo, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

While many students are interested in graduate school there are some who are also intimidated by it. If you are both, have no fear. Your application to graduate school is usually analyzed in three main parts: your academic performance, the extra-curricular activities you are involved in, and your overall character.

The key to planning your graduate school application is preparation. You want to make certain your application not only meets the necessary requirements but also exceeds expectations. Every graduate school has a minimum GPA requirement for acceptance. Strive for the best grades now and you will have a stable foundation for the future. A good GPA is a great start. Another academic essential is an excellent test score on a standardized graduate school entrance exam whether it is the GRE, MCAT, or the LSAT. You can prepare for such tests by taking a practice exam. I have taken the practice MCAT several times in order to attain a stronger grasp of the concepts being tested. There are many opportunities available to practice for such exams. For example, UNLV offers the practice MCAT at least once every semester. With plenty of practice and preparation, the material of the exam should be of no surprise. Being academically competitive is essential, as it will serve as the “meat and potatoes” of your application. In addition to your academic performance, many graduate school acceptance committees are also looking for how involved you are in both your community and university.

Participating in extra-curricular activities will undoubtedly make your resume stand out. As such, be sure to fortify it with the hours of volunteer work you have accumulated over the years, the days you have served at humanitarian events, and the months dedicated to internships and work in the field. These are the types of things you want to consider doing in order to strengthen your application for graduate school. If you have not yet done so, it is not too late to start right now. Starting early will surely make for a competitive applicant. A well-established resume decorated with your exceptional academic history and extra-curricular experiences is sure to impress those across the board of admissions. The application, however, is only half the battle.

The application process will most likely include an interview with a current graduate student and possibly even the Dean of Admissions. In previous applications, face-to-face interviews have been known to act as the deciding factor for some applicants. So you not only want to look good on paper but also in person. During an interview, it is important to be confident yet humble and quick but calm. Creating a good first impression can be quite daunting and you do not want to appear arrogant or impatient. Interviewing is a skill that takes long to master, which is why practice is essential. Fortunately, several organizations across campus offer the means to practice and hone in these skills such as: mock interviews, volunteer work, research, tutoring, personalized academic coaching, and shadowing opportunities.

Organizations, including American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED), are great examples of campus organizations that not only prepare you for graduate school but also offer help to perfect your communication skills. You may see them occupying the campus quad representing the United Blood Services and helping to facilitate donations. Another excellent program for preparation to graduate school is the McNair’s Scholarship program. This scholarship provides help in preparing for graduate school, offers special research opportunities, and tuition assistance. If you are interested, they are located on the third floor of the SCC-A building. UNLV is chock-full of resources. If you are having trouble finding any of the organizations you are interested in, speak with your academic advisor to find out more. These are some things you will want to consider if you are interested in graduate school. Get started early. Time is on your side.
Honors College: An Honorable Opportunity

By: Ashley Garrido, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

The Honors College at UNLV is an undergraduate college that offers a rigorous learning program for high achieving students. They offer smaller class sizes to enhance individualized attention for each student and ensure a successful learning method that is personal and efficient. Students who graduate from the Honors College leave with the assurance that they are well prepared for success in their desired professions or admission into professional schools that will lead them into prosperous careers.

The students in the Honors College have access to a personalized advising experience and a private study lounge. They also enjoy internship and scholarship opportunities only available to students in the Honors College. They benefit from priority registration which means they can register for classes for the next semester much sooner than the rest of the university. These students graduate with an Honors Diploma designation, receive recognition on their transcripts, and are able to attend the Honors College Medallion Ceremony. General education does not offer the many opportunities that the Honors College at UNLV does, with one of the most important being a plethora of possibilities for a prosperous life after graduation.

In order to become a part of the Honors College at UNLV, a student would first need to apply to UNLV before applying for the Honors College. Students who apply need to be dedicated, hard-working, and have a strong academic history. Eligibility is determined by a 3.7 or higher unweighted high school GPA, a minimum score of 1260 on the SAT, or a minimum of 28 on the ACT. National Merit Scholars and Valedictorians receive immediate admission into the Honors College when they apply. The necessary documentation for the application process includes the online application form, two letters of recommendation, transcripts, ACT and/or SAT test scores, a resume, and an essay no longer than 500 words. Although the application does not have a deadline, it is highly recommended to submit the application before February 1 for priority consideration. The Honors College contains both the University Honors and Departmental Honors Programs. The University Honors Program includes all students who have been accepted into the Honors College and focuses on an advanced General Education Core curriculum. Meanwhile, the Department Honors Program consists of students in the Honors College who are interested in independent or mentored research for a senior thesis. To apply, go online to the Honors College website at www.unlv.edu/honors/admissions.

Fine Arts = Fun Times!

By: Sabina Catak, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

The School of Fine Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas contains several different units that offer various events and educational opportunities for UNLV students. Such units include, Art, Dance, Film, Music, and Theatre. Within these areas, the events offered assist students in broadening their perspectives on culture while also enhancing their physical and intellectual breadth for professional career development.

The Art department, located in the Donna Beam Fine Arts Gallery and the Richard Tam Alumni Center on the second floor, offers a variety of interesting exhibitions that are open to both UNLV students and Alumni. Several fun events include “The Frozen Cathedral” on February 27, performed by the UNLV Wind Orchestra, the Jazz Ensemble I and Latin Dance Ensemble on March 11, a production of Peter Pan on March 12, and much more! The Dance, Film, Music, and Theatre areas offer these events throughout the academic school year to encourage students to think critically and creatively through the use of art. These events also help students appreciate different art forms and the effort that is put in by theatre and dance students and artists to produce such intriguing shows. Another aspect to keep in mind is the time and effort it takes to produce these shows from behind-the-scenes. Please visit www.unlv.edu/finearts and click on “Performing Arts Center” for event times and additional dates. We hope to see you there!

*All photos used are original or can be found at unlv.edu unless otherwise noted.

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