

## Promoting a Culture of Student Success !

### “It’s Hard Out Here For a... (College Graduate)”

So what are you going to do when you graduate? While some of you are going directly to Grad School, the vast majority will be starting out in the job market. *While a degree is nice, it's not everything.* While having good grades are nice, it is not everything. While having experience is nice, it's not everything. So what are employers looking for?

Employers are looking for the total package. That's right, most employers want it all. Do you have a degree; check. Do you have good grades; check (sort of; crosses fingers). Do you have experience; um okay I did work at a summer camp one year. And there was that one time when I helped out my cousin at his shop. And didn't I..., and so on. Well, the last part may not cut it (unless you plan on working at your cousin's shop again). So what does a poor college student do to boost up the last part...

Internships.

That's right, you should start looking into Internships. What are internships? Internships are an opportunity to be exposed to the professional world and gain "real world" work experiences. It is designed to prepare you for life after college and allows you to connect what you learn in the classroom to actual everyday work experiences. As stated before, employers want it all; credentials (a college degree and good grades), and experience (previous employment, internships, leadership positions).

So what will you learn by doing an internship? Truthfully, you don't know until you actually have one. You may learn precise job skills that will prepare you for a career in that field. You may learn that the career field you thought you were interested in may not be right for you. You may get more work than you expected. You

may find that the work is not challenging. **The bottom line is that you learn something.**

You should begin making arrangements for an internship the semester prior to when it begins. So if you plan on doing an Internship in the summer you should start gathering information in the spring. You should know when deadlines are and make sure you have all paperwork completed and submitted on time. In the "real world" (and not that MTV show), excuses won't cut it. So start early.

So where do you get information about internships? Talk to **Mr. Elisha B. Morris** (Vaux-Logan building suite 105) and from your instructors. They should help you prepare for Internships by pointing you in the right direction (either their own contacts and/or specific websites). However it is up to you to take the initiative.

So don't wait, and speak to someone today.

Interested in an Internship then check your Wolf-mail. Emails are sent weekly and sometimes daily regarding companies and opportunities. Also stop by and speak to Elisha B. Morris in Vaux-Logan Suite 105. Phone: 610-399-2096 Email: Internship@wolf.cheyney.edu



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### “I’m Out of Here”

Is four years your plan? Do you want to get out of here with a degree? Then take your education and degree planning seriously. Far too many students rack up debt, but never complete their degree. The average cost to attend Cheyney University is \$22,700 a year or \$90,800 for 4 years. Yeah, that's a lot of money, but you also need to think about what a college degree will get you.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics the 2010 median earnings for young adults (ages 25-34) with a Bachelors degree is

\$45,000 while the median earnings for having a HS diploma is only \$29,000.

Now for some more numbers, according to collegeporraits.org, only 15% of our first time full time students starting in 2006 graduated from Cheyney or another school within 4 years. Only 30% graduate within 6 years.



So what do these numbers mean? Basically what this means is *there are a lot of students out there who accumulated debt but have nothing to show for it* (and that you should pay attention more

in math class). *It's about choices people. Decide to get a degree and commit to it.*

Deciding to attend college is one thing. Actually completing college is something else. While you are here you need to start focusing and focusing early. Do you know what majors Cheyney University offers? Do you know what classes you need to take to attain that specific degree? Even if you are unsure about what you want to major in, College Success Advisors, Guidance & Counseling, & Professors can all help you plan out your 4 years.

And let's do some more math, you will need to earn at least 120 credit hours (and developmental courses don't count) in order to graduate. That breaks down to earning at least 15 credits a semester. Or better yet, taking about 5 classes a semester. Since most classes don't meet every day a typical schedule would be something like 3 classes MWF and 2 classes T&TH.

Do me a favor, **start planning now to graduate.** That way I can borrow more money from you. (j/k; not really)



## “Professors Just Don’t Understand”

“Are you serious? You actually want me to come back during office hours? Can’t we talk now?” Professors hold office hours for a reason, use them. A lot of times they prefer to talk in private, especially if it concerns your grades. There’s this little thing called FERPA which precludes them from speaking about your grades in front of others. So what should a student do? Go to the professors office hours.

As a student you need to advocate for yourself, especially if it involves your grades. But you need to go about it in the correct manor. Don’t start cussing or acting a fool if you disagree with the grade you got. Take a minute to look over the comments or re-read the question and the answer you gave. If you still disagree then speak with the professor so you get their perspective of why you got what you got. Nobody’s perfect

and everyone makes mistakes.

Think about it, would you be more willing to help out someone who comes at you correct, or comes at you on some hostile ish? If you want to be treated like an adult, then act like one.



Instructors hold at least 5 office hours a week over 3 different days so that they can accommodate the needs of students. In addition, the schedule of office hours should be posted in such a manner so that they can be observed by the students. Basically check the syllabus and the office door if you want to know your professors office hours. You can also check with the department secretary if you can’t find your instructors office or the hours aren’t posted. You can also email the professor if the hours posted do not fit with your schedule.

Most are more than willing to work with you regarding meeting times and/or location.

While you don’t need an exact reason to go to a professors office hours it is always good to have a couple of questions for them. Maybe you have a few questions regarding the upcoming assignments. Perhaps you have a question regarding the quiz or test you got back. Maybe you need a letter or recommendation or that you will be missing class (obviously for very important reasons; like playing video games or hanging out in Marcus Foster). Utilize your instructors office hours.

I said it before and I’ll say it again, *be respectful when speaking with your instructor* (they do control your grade). Maybe write down notes so you don’t forget. Perhaps have a classmate go with you if you are

both having the same issue. You can also have someone else present with you, but you should let your instructor know before hand (remember that FERPA thing we talked about before).

Remember, its your education. You have to take responsibility for yourself and your actions (and reactions). **You are your own best advocate.** Plus, you never know when you might have this instructor again, so keep it positive. Hard to believe, but professors were once students to (but that was a long, long time ago...like a few years lol).

### “The Rundown”

- Look for internships
- Have an academic plan
- Utilize office hours
- Go to class
- Stay on top of your studies
- Be responsible for your education
- Plan ahead

Marva Collins

“Success doesn’t come to you...you go to it.”

## “Four More Years... Four More Years !”

Why it may seem like a long time you will be surprised just how quickly your four years will go by. Each year some of the same things will pop up like; going to class, taking tests, cramming for finals (which you shouldn’t do), hanging out with friends, and registering for next semester. However **each year should also bring new experiences and opportunities.**

Things like deciding on a major, doing internships, planning for grad school, even studying abroad are some of the opportunities you should take advantage of. Year by year you should be getting one step closer to graduating. So take advantage of the opportunities available to you between your Freshman and Senior Years.

Your Freshman year is about learning. You need to know what buildings

are what and where you can go if you need help. You should be getting to know the people and the places on this campus. You should also be discovering that there’s a difference between high school and college. And what once worked may not work the same anymore.

The Sophomore year is about exploring and improving. Things like deciding on a major, doing an internship, and putting together a Resume while keeping on top of your studies are some of the things you should be doing. Also think about getting involved in different activities. *Do your research and make choices that are right for you.*

That Junior year is a catch-all year. You should have declared your major and will be taking some of those core courses. You should also be thinking about what your plans are after graduation. You should really know

what is expected of you in your prospective career and take advantage of Job/ Career Fairs, Grad School Fairs, Internships, professional organizations, and anything else that can help you get ahead.

Senior year is where you should really solidify your plans. Will it be Grad school, will you start working, do you have a resume, will you be able to market yourself to employers? Oh yeah, don’t forget to actually graduate. Senior year is both an ending and a beginning. The next chapter of your life is about to begin so be prepared. Wherever you go Cheyney goes with you. You are our legacy.



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