

Freshman year tips

How to get the most out of your first year at Brevard College

By Matt Lynch
Staff Writer

College will most likely be the first time in most students' life that they are independent and can make their own decisions. Incoming freshmen start college with a clean slate and the decisions and actions you take play a huge role in your college social and academic experience.

As much as a college student may enjoy that freedom, here are some tips from some fellow classmates and alumni here at Brevard College to help incoming freshmen find success in their college experience.

Go to Class

Although skipping class and sleeping in sounds so much better than going to an 8 a.m. on a Wednesday, attendance plays a huge role in a student's grade here at Brevard College. "Freshman year is fun, but don't forget about class and doing assignments; getting an education is the whole reason you're in college in the first place," Brevard College alumnus Drake Black said.

Get involved around campus

One of the biggest problems new students face is becoming "homesick." Consider joining

a group or a club around campus. If you are on a sports team, get to know the upperclassmen. You'll feel more connected to the school and even make new friends along the way.

"Don't stress about the whole college thing—yes, there is a lot more work and studying compared to high school, but you also have more free time in college to get your work done," says Brandon Whitfield, a sophomore at Brevard College. "Be safe, do your homework and live a little. Time flies faster than you think."

Know course requirements and important dates

Meet with your advisor and get familiar with the requirements freshman need at Brevard College. You don't want to be taking classes that don't meet a freshman's requirements; then you are just wasting your time. Knowing due dates will help you out a lot—it helps you stay on track of assignments and you'll see a huge difference in your academic performance.

Have Fun

Most importantly, have fun! Jake Christian, a Brevard college alumnus said, "You only have four years and they go by pretty fast, so go to class and have fun."



Freshmen pose in front of the J.A. Jones Library during this year's CREEK Week festivities.

Trail Review

Bracken Mountain Preserve Trail

By Jeni Welch
Editor in Chief

Bracken Mountain Preserve Trail is located near the Brevard Music Center and is open to both mountain bikers and hikers. The moderately difficult trail head leads hikers through the Bracken Preserve and into Pisgah National Forest, specifically only seven miles shy of the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education, also known as the fish hatchery.

The Bracken Mountain Trail is 4.20 miles one way but using the other two trails, Brushy Creek and Mackey Ridge, allows an option to loop around and explore the Brushy Creek waterfalls and learn more about the Preserve property from the educational signs posted along the trail.

The connecting of the trails makes the round trip hike close to five miles. The beginning of the

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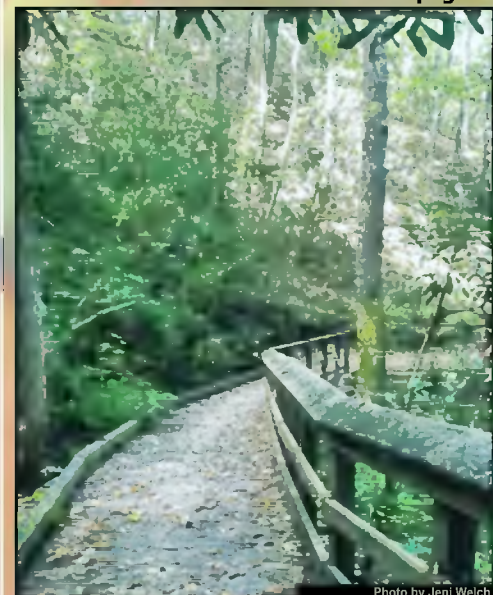


Photo by Jeni Welch

The loop combining the Bracken Mountain trail and the Brushy Creek trail offers running water of the Renzulli Falls and the Brushy Creek Watershed.