

FOMO got the best of you.

FOMO (n.): Fear Of Missing Out.

FOMO is the expression used to describe the fear that if you don't go to a party or event, you will miss something great. It is the little devil standing on your shoulder. Let's face it, at one point this past semester, fomo has beat out your conscience.

Especially in a college environment, there is always an alternative to studying. "No matter how much I don't want to go out or know I shouldn't, the feeling of knowing that other people are having fun is what keeps me from going against my own will," said sophomore Bia Jurema.

Her suggestion? "Remove yourself from an environment where people are getting ready to go out and get off of Facebook. Mobile uploads are the catalyst of all FOMO."

It's called "Club Belk" for a reason.

Sure, Mom and Dad will be overjoyed when you say you were in the library all night, but just because you're in a library doesn't mean you're necessarily getting anything done. If you know you aren't going to study while at Belk, don't go. There are other places that are underrated and free of distraction.

Some popular study spots around Elon include Koury Business Center, Acorn Coffee Shop, Fireside Lounge in Moseley, Irazu Coffee Shop and Lindner Reading Room.

Find your spot and get to work!

we live and we learn

Whether in class or not, as college students we are constantly learning. Sometimes there is only one way to learn: the hard way. With the semester winding down and New Years just around the corner, it is a critical time to reflect on the first half of the year and what went right, what went wrong and where we can go from here.

lessons from first semester

I'll do it tomorrow...

Even though you received a syllabus on the first day of class providing you with every assignment and deadline, every time you turn the page of your planner, a new deadline seems to appear out of nowhere. Procrastination is a college student's worst enemy and one of the biggest contributions to the undeniable sleep deprivation among students. Putting things off until the last minute adds stress, takes away from sleep and reduces quality of work.

Most professors try to set deadlines far in advance in order to provide students a fair amount of time to complete a quality assignment. College papers and projects aren't supposed to be started and finished in one sitting the night before the due-date. Maybe break up the project and set your own deadlines. Make a schedule that is doable and that works for you. Do everything you can to avoid the feeling you get as you stare at a blank Word document and realize you'll have to pull an all-nighter.

Angelique Kyriakos
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

You weren't as involved on campus as you'd like to be.

Now that you're in the swing of things, there's no excuse not to be involved. With more than 200 clubs and organizations, there's something for everyone at Elon. Whether your thing is cooking, cars or even ballroom dancing, there is a place for you.

According to the Office of Student Activities, involvement provides students the opportunity to make a difference, become connected, impress potential employers, hold leadership positions and more.

Especially for freshmen, first semester is all about getting acclimated to college life. "The first semester of freshman year I've been more focused on making a routine for myself and meeting new people than getting involved," said freshman Alex McLaughlin. "Now that it is almost second semester, I have a better idea of what I am interested in and I plan on becoming more involved by joining Greek life and applying for Live Oak."

Second semester is the perfect time to join the club or organization you never really thought about. Be on the lookout for the Spring Organization Fair happening at the beginning of Spring semester.

You spread yourself too thin.

It's an old saying: don't bite off more than you can chew. If you found yourself overwhelmed last semester and struggling to balance everything on your plate, make a list of priorities and decide where you should cut back. Maybe this semester you think twice about volunteering to chair a philanthropy event, or signing up for every student media.

Your resume will be just fine. In fact, many employers would rather see you focused on fewer relevant and important activities than scattered across the board. Just because you can't be president of everything doesn't mean you can't volunteer for little things along the way.