

Student Support Services
Minnesota State University, Mankato
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Checklist for Freshmen

Here is a “To Do” list for all first year students who are interested in increasing their future job opportunities:

- ❑ **Meet regularly with your [SSS Advisor](#) to discuss your academic needs.** Set aside time early each semester to visit your advisor...don't wait until the day before registration. Make an appointment and bring a list of questions and courses you are interested in. You are responsible for your academic progress: Be prepared each time you meet! Be sure you're on track with general education classes!
- ❑ **Attend Student Support Services [workshops](#) and request [tutoring](#).** Learn study skills, note and test taking strategies, and obtain help and tutoring in a wide variety of subjects.
- ❑ **Start your college career off with a good GPA!** It is much easier to obtain a 3.0 in your freshman year then to try to “dig your way out of the hole.” It is very hard to climb up from a 2.25 to a 3.0 as your courses get more difficult. Start early with a strong GPA. Check out the [GPA Calculator](#) to determine your GPA each semester. Your SSS Advisor is happy to help!
- ❑ **Use your PLANNER regularly and develop good [time management habits](#).** Be on time. Meet deadlines! Don't procrastinate!
- ❑ **Participate in class!** Sit in the front where your professor can learn your name and get to know you. Dress appropriately for class. If you sit up front, you're more likely to come to class prepared too and students who dress up a bit feel more engaged in the classroom!
- ❑ **Improve your interpersonal skills** by meeting new people. Get involved in something different. Reach out to people-there's a great deal that can be learned outside of the classroom as well! Check out a few of the many [campus activities](#).
- ❑ **Sharpen communication skills** (oral and written) by taking communication and English courses, or classes that require you to give class presentations. Employers tell us that communication skills are of vital importance when seeking a job.
- ❑ **Join campus clubs and [student associations](#) for personal development.** Employers like “well-rounded” students who have demonstrated [leadership](#) and [involvement](#) on campus. Ask your advisor about the SSS about volunteer and leadership opportunities.
- ❑ **Get to know your professors.** Your instructors are your academic lifeline... make sure they know you by name and use them as your resource persons. Don't be shy...use the established office hours to visit your faculty and discuss problems and questions! Relationships with faculty and staff can go a long way to help you now and in the future!
- ❑ **Broaden your perspective** by attending: [cultural events](#), [music performances](#), diverse classes, [art exhibits](#), [theater performances](#), and campus organization meetings. **Tickets are free for SSS students for many events.**
- ❑ **Learn to manage finances.** Is it better to buy a pizza tonight or the bluebook for your test tomorrow? Decisions are tough...but you need to think about you long term goal...Graduation! Plan wisely and use your finances to your advantage.
- ❑ **Enroll in First Year Experience** class and/or Decision Making for Career and Life (CSP 110).
- ❑ **Request a tutor EARLY** if needed.
- ❑ **Request an Interest/Skill Assessment from your SSS advisor** to assess your interests and skills.
- ❑ **Attend campus major fair** to explore major options.
- ❑ **Stay connected with your SSS Advisor!** This is a really busy, fun, sometimes stressful, and exciting time-

REMEMBER SSS IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!