

# SURVIVING THRIVING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER



## When Should I See a Counselor?

Students are welcome and encouraged to meet with an OCC counselor whenever they feel they need guidance or support. At a minimum, **it is recommended students make at least one counseling appointment per semester** to review their academic plan and update counselors on their goals. **Preferably, all of our New Pirates will make counseling appointments in the month of September.** This provides students and counselors an opportunity to discuss how the first semester schedule is working out, as well as build a more comprehensive educational plan that addresses future semesters at OCC. It is better to do this early in the semester, as counseling appointments are difficult to obtain once students begin scheduling their Spring semester courses.

The following circumstances indicate a need for a counseling appointment:

- You are considering a new major
- You are struggling in one or more courses
- You are considering withdrawing from a course
- You are changing/adding schools in your transfer plan
- You have credits from another college or AP exam scores of 3 or higher that you have never reviewed with a counselor

Counseling appointments are scheduled every Thursday for the following week:



Book over the phone: (714) 432-5078



Book online: [http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/student\\_services/counseling](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/student_services/counseling)



Book in person!

## FIRST SEMESTER TERMINOLOGY

### ADD CODE

These are the digits you need to add yourself to an OCC class that is closed for enrollment. Only a professor can give you the add code for his/her class, and add codes can expire! Use yours immediately.

### CRN

This is the five-digit number in the OCC class schedule that identifies in which unique section of a course you are enrolled.

### WITHDRAWAL

When a student drops a course, it is referred to as a withdrawal. Withdrawals that occur beyond the second week of a traditional semester incur a "W" on the student's transcript. Refer to the back of this page for deadlines.

### PASS/NO PASS

Prior to a specified deadline, a student may opt to take a class for P/NP credit instead of a grade. P/NP does not affect one's GPA. Speak with a counselor before exercising this option, as certain courses should never be taken P/NP.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR FALL 2019



August 26<sup>th</sup>: First Day of  
Classes



September 7<sup>th</sup>: Last Day to  
Drop with a Refund



September 8<sup>th</sup>: Last Day to  
Drop without Incurring a “W”  
on your Transcript



September 14<sup>th</sup>: Last Day to  
Select Pass/No Pass Grading  
Option



November 16<sup>th</sup>: Last Day to  
Drop with a “W”

# Creating the Conditions for Success

## 1 Read Each Syllabus Carefully

Every professor will establish his or her own classroom policies related to topics such as tardies, absences, and late work. Do not assume that since one professor accepts assignments when you arrive late to class that another one will. Know the rules!

## 2 Show Up to Class

One major change from high school to college is that you can be dropped from your class if you have too many tardies or absences. Your professors' syllabi should outline their individual policies regarding attendance. Additionally, much of your success hinges on showing up! Missing class may mean missing critical information that is not in your textbook or posted online. Your presence also signals to your instructors your personal investment in the course and your own education.

## 3 Buddy Up

You know that seat you always choose in class? Ever notice how everyone gravitates to the same seat after the first week? Start forming lifelines in your classes by learning the names of the people who sit near you. Offer to swap cell numbers and trade notes or share updates if someone has to miss class or needs clarification on something. Not only is this planting seeds for study groups later in the semester, but it is the first step to starting your new college life that is unique from the one you led in high school.

## 4 Get Engaged Inside and Outside of the Classroom

Research demonstrates that one of the most consistent factors contributing to student success in college is engagement. Inside of the classroom, this looks like listening and contributing actively to lessons by showing up prepared, taking notes, asking questions, and staying off of your phone. Outside of the classroom, engagement involves utilizing faculty office hours, staying to check out campus events, and joining a campus club or activity. Make an effort to develop your college life. Not only are you learning more and increasing your awareness through these actions, you are creating relationships and adding experiences to your resume!

## 5 Seek Help Early

The longer you wait to get help, the fewer options that are available to you. OCC is brimming with programs, services, staff, and faculty willing to assist you with academic and personal issues. **Get acquainted with these resources early on** so that you know where to go when the moment strikes! Advocating for yourself is an important life skill, and college is a wonderful opportunity to begin practicing it. If you have no idea where to start, begin by visiting a counselor. Counselors can quickly connect you with the best resources.