Marshall Hallam

University 150 Essay One.

Did your secondary (high) school experience prepare you adequately for college?

College is, in many ways, the entrance into to the real world. It is a person’s chance to be on his or her own and discover who they are. This is a bold change from the lives we are from. The student is now independent of other’s rules and must make his own rules and regulations. Some will flourish, using their time and resources to the fullest. Others will struggle with this newfound freedom and will realize how un-prepared they are to function on their own. My high school experience has given me the basic building blocks for a successful career. In order for me to fully succeed, I must be able to manage my time effectively and adjust to a rapidly changing curriculum and environment.

A good college student is not attached to a certain type of learning or study habit. I must be smart and realizes that certain adjustments must be made while dealing with certain subjects. A technique used for math may not work for one within English, for example. I am not relegated to just the techniques from high school. I must develop individualized plans for each subject. Within high school, I have had experience learning within all prime subjects, each equipped with its own styles of learning best suited for them. These are techniques I can use for college. Small adjustments will have to be made, but these adjustments are small and will be made over time.

College isn’t a place that tells students what to do or how to deal with difficult situations. I realize courses have certain expectations and it is dependent upon me to do whatever is necessary to complete the assigned tasks. It is no longer about regurgitating facts and theories, but is instead about taking previously established information, refining it, and creating my own thoughts and ideas from others. And while it may be the job of the faculty to provide information, it is my job as a student to learn it and understand it. I am being given the tools to be successful within my desired career and all I need to do is to realize it and seize the opportunity to become enlightened within my field. High school was full of regulations and time slots. Whenever a student did something, it was by the school’s time and rules. If a student didn’t abide by the school’s schedule, they would suffer the consequences of a lowered grade. This no longer applies, and rapid adjustments must be made. Within my high school career, I have been part of three music programs, two honor courses, and an extracurricular experience that met within Allentown Pennsylvania every weekend. I have had endless experience within time management. With a schedule decided solely by me, there is no doubt I will succeed.

College is a wonderful fit for me. There’s so many opportunities for me to succeed. I am ready to function on my own, and I am prepared to face any challenge. My experiences within my community and high school have given me so many great tools to deal with every day life within ODU and beyond. I know that I have the capability and the will to do well. I may need to make adjustments, but I’m ready to make them and I am ready to experiment. I’m glad to be here at Old Dominion.