



TOP 5 TIPS to ...

# STARTING the SPRING SEMESTER OFF RIGHT!

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**Finalize Your Schedule:** It's a new year and a new semester; don't get left behind! Start the semester by creating your weekly schedule; be sure to include: classes, labs, work, volunteer, meetings and any other weekly commitments (think: LLC Common Hour Tuesdays 4-5pm) that you might have. Once you have all your class syllabi, you should also sit down and map out your semester in a monthly calendar; be sure to include: exams, test dates, assignments, presentations, homework, friends' birthdays, holidays, and any other due dates that you will have for the entire Spring semester!

**Get the Facts:** Have you checked your final Fall semester grades? How were they? Did you earn all the credits you needed for the classes that you're taking this Spring? There's no better time or place to ask these questions (and more) than with your Academic Advisor. You can schedule an appointment by visiting [www.fau.edu/freshmanadvising](http://www.fau.edu/freshmanadvising). This is also a great time in the semester to find out what the sophomore year has in store for you when it comes to classes, courseload, prerequisites and more!

**Assess Your Strategies:** The Fall semester is officially over! How'd you do? Did you spend enough time studying? Did you complete all the course readings? Hand in all your assignments on time? Did you get to know your floormates? Did you budget your money? Did you manage your time effectively? Did you get to know your professors? These questions are a GREAT place to start in order to assess the strategies that you used for success last semester in order to identify areas that you can improve on for the Spring semester! If you find that there's an area where you need a little (or a lot) of professional help, check out what workshops are being offered at FAU by visiting: [www.fau.edu/success](http://www.fau.edu/success).

**Make Commitments:** While we hope that every FAU freshman has a memorable 1<sup>st</sup> semester experience; it's important to remember that you can't do everything the 1<sup>st</sup> time around! Good news! This new semester is a great opportunity for you to start something new: a new job, a new study group, a new club, a new intramural, or even a new outlook on academics! Did you know? College students that set goals are more likely to make strides towards and achieve them! Remember that when you're writing down your goal(s), they should be: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time Oriented (ie. Have a deadline). So, what are you waiting for? Start setting goals now!

**Reconnect:** Okay, so we know that college is not JUST about academic success, so remember that as your LLC cohort members, suitemates, roommates, and other friends move back to FAU to take some time to find out about their winter break. We think that you'll find that sharing your winter break stories and hearing theirs will help you find some balance during what can be an overwhelming first few days of the semester! Our suggestion: catch up while book shopping, over coffee, or in the cafeteria.