

## Issues Facing College Freshmen

- 1. Independence.** How will you handle it? Make your own decisions—make your own mistakes. No one to remind you...no one to do it for you...no one to fix it for you...no one to pick up after you...no one to wake you up...no one to make you study.
- 2. Social issues.** Making friends...dating...“How come everyone else is so cool and I feel like such a nerd?”
- 3. Managing time.** 24 whole hours every day—and absolutely no one to tell you where to go, when to go, and what to do. It only seems like no one else ever studies and is always out having more fun than you are.
- 4. Dealing with stress.** What are the “stress busters” for you—running, working out, talking with friends?
- 5. Finances.** Making your monthly allowance last. No more refrigerator to raid—you have to pay for every Twinkie and Diet Coke. Do you realize how much it costs to do your laundry?
- 6. Academics.** No one takes attendance—do you have to go to class? There’s no daily homework—the tests are the grade. A whole semester’s grade may depend upon one exam. “Everyone here was the smartest kid in their high school, except me.” Finding a quiet place to study—it probably won’t be your dorm room. Tutors and getting help.
- 7. Living with a roommate.** Liking each other is not as important as being considerate of each other.
- 8. Drinking and drugs.** You had better have your answer ready because the peer pressure can be tremendous.
- 9. Tolerance.** You will meet lots of different types of people, lots of strange ideas, and lots of controversial subjects.
- 10. Campus activities.** How will you get involved, what activities will you pursue, how many activities can you realistically handle?
- 11. The home ties.** What and how often will you call home? Or email? Should you make an “official break” with the high school sweetheart?
- 12. Your values system.** It will be challenged.
- 13. Will you be getting a campus job?** How much time will you have to work? How much money do you need to earn?
- 14. Athletics.** Are you planning to go out for a team your freshman year? Do you have a scholarship that requires you to play? How much practice and play time will be required?
- 15. Homesickness.** Like the tides, it comes and goes.
- 16. Keeping in touch.** Collect names and phone numbers of your friends so you can keep in touch and share freshman experiences. Caution!! Everyone else’s college experiences will sound better than yours. Take them with a grain of salt.