

You have been on a flexible school schedule for the majority of your life. What's next?

The transition from college student to working professional affects almost all aspects of your life. You'll not only have a new job to adapt to, but you may also live in a new city and have drastically different routines.

Here are some tips to help you ease into the professional world.

Get on a working schedule: In college, you may have been able to get up at noon and take class only three days a week. So taking on a full-time job can be a shock to the system. If you have some time between graduation and starting your new career, use it to adapt to your new schedule. Go to bed at a reasonable time and get up early.

Make new friends: After graduation, you may not see your college friends as often, but personal relationships are important to keep a level head. Make it a goal to get to know your new co-workers and get involved with your community to meet new people.

Set goals: You've reached your goal of obtaining a degree, but this is only the beginning of your career. Think hard about your personal and career goals while striving everyday to reach them.

Purchase work attire: If you want to be seen as a professional, invest in a business appropriate wardrobe to wear through the week.

Learn to manage your finances: As soon as you land a job, enroll in Turner's 401(k) plan. It can take decades to save for retirement, so it's never too early to start creating a financial safety net. Make sure you pay your bills on time and try to pay off credit card balances in full each month.

Network wisely: As you transition from college life to the corporate world, don't overlook important relationships that can help with your advancement. Stay in contact with old professors, friends or family members who may have connections in high places. You can even join local professional organizations to start making your own connections.

