

opinion

Campus Involvement: How involved is too involved?

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Freshman year was one of the hardest and most exciting transitions I have experienced. But, I still felt uncomfortable coming out of my shell.

The Orientation team did a great job introducing all freshmen to the AU buildings and clubs, but starting a new year on a new campus was enough for me.

Knowing that getting involved was important, I decided to throw myself into my major. Working for AUTV-20 and The Collegian was all I wanted to do.

Being a freshman, students and staff pushed me to get involved on day one. Looking back on it, I'm glad I didn't get super involved on campus.

The involvement fair, while helpful, was very, very overwhelming. Basically, it's 50-60 clubs trying to get your information so they can email you their schedule so you can synchronize everything going on in your life.

Because your life isn't already hectic.

Getting involved means time management, a skill most freshman will not master until college. High school only thinks they prepare you for college.

One very important thing to remember is that relaxing does not mean lazy. College is work, eat and maybe sleep. Taking time to chill out and watch Netflix or take a nap is not a crime.

That said, make sure everything that absolutely needs to get done is done. That is another reason why getting involved is so difficult: time.

There is never enough time. Pressure to get work done, be social, get enough sleep and get involved with the campus and my major can drive students crazy.

Getting involved is important, yes, but getting too involved can cut into the most important thing about college: academics.

Some students are here on scholarship, whether it is for academics or sports. For students here on a sports scholarship, their role is a student athlete. Student comes first. I'm sure athletes hear this all the time.

For some, they are the first in their family to go to college.

Being too involved means there is little time to focus on classes. Something to keep in mind is that students can be placed in Academic Probation or even get kicked out for low GPAs.

Moral of the story: do not let your involvement be the reason you're out thousands of dollars.

Pressure and stress can break students down and, as a result, reflects in their grades. College dropouts are not a myth. As crazy as it sounds, your future at Ashland University could be dependent on... joining too many clubs.

The last thing I needed was to be pressed for time my first year at college. Taking it easy and really getting to know my major was, honestly, the best decision I made my first year.

My advice to freshmen: get to know your major and get to know yourself. Take time to really focus on starting your college career off to a great start. Remember: you have four years here at Ashland University.

ZACH READ
@zach_read20

Freshmen will arrive on campus at Ashland University and will be pressured by everyone around them their parents, friends and even orientation team leaders to get involved right from the start of their college careers.

At the activities fair on orientation weekend these new high school graduates may be overwhelmed when they are swarmed by fraternity and sorority life, religious clubs, academic clubs and many more representatives from different clubs and organizations around campus.

Here's my advice: Take a deep breath, prepare yourself and dive right into the frenzy. If you do this, by the time you graduate from AU you will want to look back and tell yourself that you accomplished what you wanted to as a student.

Coming to AU in the fall of 2016, I already knew that I was going to be the team manager/student assistant for the University's men's basketball team, as well as a member of the Honors Program. What I did not know is that come Aug. of 2018, I would be involved in much more than I thought I could be.

I was fortunate enough to know what my major would be entering college, Digital Media Production. What I did not know is the doors it would open for me.

Here at Ashland I am now a double major with journalism, which has opened me up to becoming the sports editor for the Collegian for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Also in the Journalism and Digital Media Department, I have worked with AU's radio station, 88.9 WRDL and the television station, AUTV-20.

Television through the department has also opened me up to my passion, which is sports production. I work on the television crew for more than 60 Ashland sporting events throughout the year doing camera work, audio mixing and running the replay system. All of these activities correlate with my major and I still feel like there is more that I can do to be active.

Outside of my major, I am heavily involved

on campus with religious life. In high school I led my Fellowship of Christian Athletes group and was involved with my youth group and church. My high school involvement in Christian ministry has led me to want to transfer that into my collegiate years as well.

In the Fall of 2016, my first week of freshman year, I decided to go to this thing called The Well on Thursday night with a few of the guys from my floor. The Well is a time for students to come together in fellowship with each other every Thursday night in the Upper Chapel. They host gathering events after each service, small group bible studies and hold a fall retreat at the end of September, which becomes a great time to build relationships away from campus.

The Well welcomes anyone and everyone to a night of worship and listening to God's word.

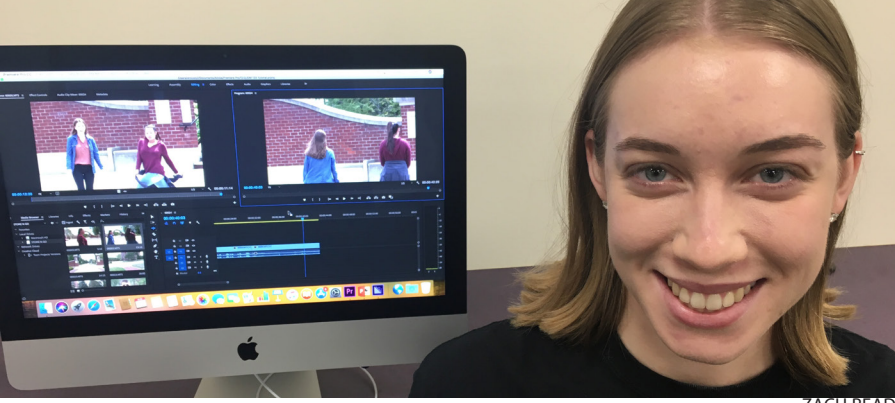
Then there is FCA. I attended a meeting the first week my freshman year and do not regret it. FCA has led to me becoming the co-leader of the men's basketball team bible study. It has also opened a door for me to become a huddle leader with other athletic team bible study leaders. FCA has led to such a growth within me and also gave me the opportunity to go on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic this past summer.

I understand religion or news media might not be your thing, but it was for me. Just like music, politics, greek life or intramural sports may be your thing, but it's not mine. Whatever your niche is, find it and get involved as soon as you can and make your presence known.

My point is in all of this is to get involved early on. You will meet lifelong friends, build relationships and have career connections if you get your name and face around campus.

When I walked into the activities fair on orientation weekend my freshman year, I signed up for Habitat for Humanity, Young Life, intramural basketball, club tennis and there were probably more, but I came to find early on that it was way too much.

Stretch your limits in the fall semester of your freshman year, if you come to find that you're involved in too much, you can always back out.



ZACH READ

Jenkinson is heavily involved with AUTV-20 and The Collegian. Above she is shown editing a package for TV.



ZACH READ

Above: Read working camera at one of the football games last fall.
Left: Read and the rest of the 2017-2018 huddle leaders.

the Collegian

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The views expressed in the columns do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Collegian* or Ashland University.

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