

DO IT ALL:

4 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE JOURNEY



Your college experience should be exciting, challenging, and tailored to your unique interests. In other words, it should be everything but ordinary. But how do you find a school that will give you the flexibility and the opportunities you're after—and how do you make the most of your four years on campus once you get there?

Here are four steps you can take to ensure you have a rewarding college journey ...



1. PRIORITIZE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

Academics will be the cornerstone of your college experience, and academics should also be your first priority in researching potential schools. Start by exploring the majors and minors of all the institutions you're considering. From there, look into the academic facilities, the faculty, and the special programs available on campus. After all, success doesn't just come from what you learn in college—it also comes from where you learn, how you learn, and who you learn from!

Ripon College offers **80 majors, minors, and programs** as well as the option to personalize your education by developing a self-designed major with the aid of a faculty mentor. And speaking of professors, our 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio means you'll learn directly from our **prestigious faculty**—not teaching assistants—and get one-on-one guidance. We also have top-notch learning facilities such as our brand-new **Franzen Science Center**, which features state-of-the-art labs and classrooms, a makerspace, and even a stargazing platform!



2. FOLLOW YOUR CURIOSITY.

Few students arrive at college with a fully formed plan of what they want to study and where they want their career to take them—and that's perfectly fine! Seek out the schools that give you the freedom to try new things and unlock your hidden talents. Also look for chances to conduct research, take part in internships, or travel abroad. These opportunities will allow you to discover your path and get practical, meaningful experience in the things that most interest you.

At Ripon, we want to help you explore anything and everything that inspires you. For example, our signature *Catalyst curriculum* gives you the flexibility to complete multiple majors, *study abroad*, or hold an internship—all while developing valuable career skills. Red Hawks can also take flight with our *Summer Opportunities for Advanced Research (SOAR) program*, which allows you to work with a faculty mentor to pursue research or a creative project in your field.



3. CONNECT WITH CAMPUS LIFE.

Immersing yourself in campus life is crucial to any well-rounded college experience. Taking part in student clubs and organizations, athletics, and other campus programs isn't just a great way to have fun and make new friends—it's also a chance to try new things and unleash your creativity. Who knows? You might even discover a passion or a skill you never knew you had!

We'll never tell you what it means to be a Ripon Red Hawk—we let you define that for yourself. Whether you see yourself joining a *campus club* (we have more than sixty to choose from!), cheering on or competing as a member of one of our *athletics teams* (we just opened a *brand-new stadium!*), or giving back through *service opportunities*, you'll have countless ways to learn more about the world and yourself.



4. SEEK OUT SUPPORT SERVICES.

It's important to forge your own path in college, but that doesn't mean you can't get some help along the way! Make sure the colleges on your list offer plenty of support programs, from academic tutoring to career development—and make sure you take advantage of them once you're on campus. These resources can be key to ensuring you unlock your best and achieve your goals.

As a Red Hawk, you could have access to numerous campus programs to help you chart your journey and propel yourself to success. Our *Franzen Center for Academic Success* has highly trained student mentors who will help you hone your writing and presentation skills or offer tutoring in a specific course. We also have a *Center for Career and Professional Development* to lend a hand with career planning, resume writing, job interviews, and more, and our *Student Support Services* provides resources for students who are first-generation, lower-income, or physically or learning disabled.



YOU'RE INVITED!

Here's a bonus tip for setting yourself up for success in college: visit as many schools as you can! There's just something about being on a campus in person that will help you know for sure whether it's the place for you.

We'd love to host you and your family at Ripon, so be sure to *schedule your visit* as soon as possible! We offer on-campus visits as well as virtual visit opportunities via Zoom.

Visit our website to learn more. You can also reach out to our Office of Admission via email at admininfo@ripon.edu or by calling **920-748-8709**.

