Survival 101: Getting to Know Your Campus

By Stephanie S. Marshall

Welcome to Survival 101, a guide that provides tips that will help prepare you for college. The first topic: Getting to Know Your Campus. It’s always a good idea to know some of the history of the college you are attending. For example, how old is BCC? This year BCC turned sixty years old (making 2017 the College’s Diamond Jubilee). BCC was founded on April 11, 1957 and two years later opened its doors to students at its original location on Creston Avenue and 184th Street. In 1973, BCC moved to University Avenue, the former site of New York University’s uptown campus. The first class consisted of 123 students. Today the student body is some 11,000 strong, from over 100 countries. That’s quite a transformation!

As you learn about your college, you’ll begin to cultivate an understanding of the place that will be an important part of your own history and become aware of the resources that are available at your new academic home. Be sure to carry a campus map with you wherever you go. As you get to know your campus, here are a few things to keep in mind:

• **Safety.** Walk in places with proper lighting at night and be conscious of your surroundings. See the Public Safety website for more information on staying safe. [http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/Public-Safety](http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/Public-Safety)

• **Pay attention.** Be aware of the places you go and the people you meet. Make a note of the names of those who help you in such places as the Admissions Office and Financial Aid and Registrar – you will probably visit them again.

• **Ask questions.** If you want to know how to get to Colston Hall or Sage Hall or Ohio Field, just ask. If you need help in math, writing or English, just ask. We want you to have the best possible experience in college and to do so you should ask as many questions as you need. There is always someone available to answer them.

• **Go to class and make new friends.** A friend (or two) will not only provide personal support, but they can be useful when you want to create study groups or attend college events.

• **Stay connected.** Be sure your BCC email, CUNYfirst, Blackboard, CUNY portal and OSSES are working, because you will use all of them throughout your college experience. If you have technical difficulties, visit the Technology Service Center in the Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 308. If you have a smartphone, you can download the new BCC app. The BCC app encapsulates a lot of what was recommended above, with features such as a live campus map, transit updates and a lot more. So check it out!

If you are taking evening and weekend classes, you should find out all the services that are available to you. Look for events such as workshops and fairs that are offered during the times you are on campus. Remember to visit the Evening and Weekend Services webpage on the BCC website for additional information. Now you have some basic tools to start your college experience. See you on campus!

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

- Malcolm X, activist and author (1925-1965)