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5 Reasons to Get Involved With a Student Organization

August 13, 2020

by Kristen C., PR Intern



Since beginning my college career at Georgia Southern, I have learned so much. Most importantly, I learned how important it is to get involved on campus. As a public relations major, I joined Public Relations Society of America (PRSSA) in the Fall of 2019. PRSSA is a pre-professional organization for students interested in public relations or communications. I was a transfer student and didn't know anyone within my discipline, so I thought joining a student organization would be the best way to meet others. Joining PRSSA or any discipline-specific student organization can be very beneficial. PRSSA, along with other student organizations, allows students to...

1. Strengthen leadership skills

In December of 2019, I decided to step out of my comfort zone and run for an executive board position, director of internal communications for PRSSA. My duties consisted of informing members of meetings, deadlines and events, and sending out the minutes of the organization's meeting via email to members who were unable to attend a meeting. In my role, it was my responsibility to make sure we had high attendance at our meetings and events by ensuring our members knew all of the necessary details. Since serving as a board member, I can say that in class, I feel much more confident "taking charge" of a group assignment to ensure it's done thoroughly and correctly. I am much more likely to pay attention to detail now than before. In March of 2020, I decided to run for an even larger role, vice president. As vice president, my duties consist of assisting the president of the organization in planning skill enhancement activities as well as member-only events.

2. Enhance time management skills

It can be difficult to maintain active membership in a student organization while also trying to maintain high grades in each of your classes. You can solve this issue with time management skills. Being a college student can be very overwhelming, so you should definitely prioritize your time in order to fit it all in. For example, if you have a test on Thursday and a meeting on Wednesday, you may have to spend more time studying for your test on Monday and Tuesday so you don't have to cram on Wednesday night or Thursday morning. It may be hard, but it is definitely doable.

3. Be a team player

When you're a member of an organization, there are often times when you will need to work with another member on an activity that requires advice and opinions. You should be accepting of others' opinions and perspectives. This is an important skill to learn in order to be successful in any career.

4. **Build a professional network**

Most student organizations offer networking opportunities where members can attend and meet employers from that specific area of work. Take advantage of those opportunities because once you enter the workforce and are looking for a job, you will definitely want those connections. If they are unable to assist you, chances are they know someone who can. Build relationships with professionals and be sure to maintain them.

5. **Expand your friend group**

You and the members within the organization all have something in common... you probably have the same major so chances are you probably have or will have classes together. Personally, this far, the best thing PRSSA has offered me is the friendships I've made. These are the best people to turn to when you have a difficult time with an assignment in class or don't completely understand a topic. This is a time when being teachable comes in handy because sometimes we learn better from our peers.

The Parker College of Business offers 25 student-led organizations that are only available to students who have a business major. You can find a list of these organizations at <https://parker.georgiasouthern.edu/student-organizations/>. The number of opportunities they're able to provide you with now and after college are endless, so get involved!

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