

## Tips for Networking in College

*Don't wait until you're out of college to start networking – there is incredible potential in the years ahead of you as you begin your professional career. The following are tips from “5 things every college student should know about networking” published in Florida International University, December 16, 2014. These networking pointers will help guide you as you begin seeking out and intentionally putting yourself in networking situations in your college years.*

**1. Networking isn't just about making connections, but maintaining them, too.**

Networking is more than meeting people. Be sure to follow up after connecting with someone who could serve as an important player in your growing network. Make an effort to check in with people in your network at least once every six months or during the semester. Check-ins can be via email, a coffee date or a phone call. Regardless of how you are keeping up, make sure to nurture those relationships.

**2. Don't wait until you graduate to build your network; start while you're still taking classes.**

The best time to start building your network is now while you're still in school. The internships you apply for, the clubs and organizations you are involved with on campus and special events you attend give you great opportunities to network as you work towards earning your degree. These relationships will be important both now and in the future.

**3. Don't limit your network to professionals within your field.**

Go beyond meeting people on the same career path as you. You never know what doors might open as you add different people to your network. Think about other interests that can connect you with a variety of students and adults you may come into contact with throughout your college years.

**4. Networking happens in unlikely places and in unlikely ways. Always be prepared.**

You never know when you might meet a potential mentor, professional reference or colleague. The reason they call it an elevator speech is because you never know who you might meet in as common a place as on an elevator. Know your story and why the person you're meeting might want to be a part of your network.

**5. Be mindful of your online/social media presence and in-person behavior.**

Keep your social network profiles professional and be sure to keep your information up-to-date on sites like LinkedIn. Networking now takes place as much online as off, so always be sure to be on the lookout for opportunities and be mindful of what you are sharing.