Iowa College Aid **INSIDER**

4 tips to graduate on time

CHOOSE YOUR COLLEGE carefully. If you decide to transfer later, you might find that not all your credits transfer with you.

CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR carefully. Changing even once can add a year or more to the time you spend earning a degree.

TAKE ENOUGH COURSES to get the credits you need. Consider summer courses, too. By taking one summer course each year in addition to a regular full-time schedule, you could graduate a semester early.

TALK WITH YOUR ADVISOR. He or she can make sure you're on track for graduation.

November 10, 2016

Succeeding in College and Career

How to stre-e-e-etch that budget

College students and new graduates aren't generally known for their flush bank accounts. You'll probably have to stretch your budget during these years as you pay tuition, search for a job and begin paying off loans. Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Education offers useful tools for budgeting. You can also look up "free budget templates" online.

Rethink your online presence

About a third of hiring managers say they look at job candidates' social media profiles. How do you make sure you look like a good hire? First, delete or "untag" any content that contains profanity, drinking and excessive partying or contradicts your resume. Use a current profile picture that comes across as friendly, personable and professional (no red party cups). Don't badmouth former or current employers. The fundamental rule: If you don't want it public, don't post it! Find more tips here.

Try a job shadow day

To experience a career firsthand, look for an opportunity to spend the day with a professional in the field. Reach out to relatives, parents of friends, neighbors, etc. You can also research contacts through a company's website or LinkedIn. Be courteous, friendly and enthusiastic about the company and field of work. Don't get discouraged if you have to contact several professionals to find one who responds positively. Dress professionally for your shadow day, and prepare questions and conversation-starters ahead of time. Take notes and get business cards. Afterward, send thank-you notes to everyone who spent time with you.

(continued on next page)

(continued)

Have you met your advisor?

Advisors can provide a wealth of knowledge regarding classes, graduation requirements, internship opportunities, job hunting and industry contacts. Schedule an appointment—don't just drop in—and have a list of questions prepared. Topics might include insight into different professors, class scheduling suggestions and goal planning. Your advisor can also be a great contact for finding internships or jobs and writing letters of recommendation. Stay in touch with your adviser after your initial appointment.