Add Courtesy to Your Curriculum

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Add Courtesy To Your Curriculum

Miss Jane Fay, social director, offers freshmen suggestions on campus etiquette at Iowa State

The sudden precipitation from the secure position of a high school senior to the uncertain standing of a college freshman often results in a disconcerting loss of confidence, especially in the field of social conduct. If our personalities are not developed and improved during college training, we have failed ourselves in an important phase of education. And so, for confused new arrivals, we present some suggestions on what to do and how to do it at Iowa State.

On this campus emphasis is placed upon a sincere desire for graceful and considerate behavior toward others.

As a start on classroom and campus etiquette, remember to be prompt at all times. The late-comer to class interrupts the professor and distracts the class. If it's an appointment, there is no quicker way to get off on the wrong foot than to be late.

Leave laboratories and classrooms in a state of neatness—a few minutes on the part of each student may save an instructor an hour or two.

Courtesy in relation to dates is an important part of campus etiquette. If the time of a date is set for eight o'clock, make it by then. Sometimes a beautiful evening is ruined before it even gets started, for no fellow cares to sit and wait for his date.

Careful grooming is an important factor in this business of dating. If college women on the campus always look too casual and unkempt who's going to know how lovely they can look if they never get invited to a formal dance?

Students in college tend to be sheep-like and forget that individuality, combined with good taste, is an achievement with great dividends. The college woman who is smartly dressed ignores unbecoming fads and devises schemes of dress and make-up which are the most flattering to her individual features and personality. Fads can add variety to life but they become monotonous when overdone. That goes for personalities as well as clothes—pity the members of any one group that develop identical "lines."

To say that breaking dates is discourteous is an understatement. It is simply a must-not-do. Except in case of illness or some other extreme emergency, it is never permissible to break a date. You are under no obligation to make a date, but once made, it must be kept.

Be appreciative. If you receive flowers from your date, let him know you appreciate them. Compliments and words of appreciation are usually brief, but they are as important as the bright accents in a painting—with them, the picture is complete; without them, it is unfinished and dissatisfying.

Become acquainted with the rules of your own organization in regard to your housemother and guests. They enter the dining room first and leave ahead of others. Always help them to be seated. Follow the lead of your hostess in beginning to eat and in the use of silver.

In the parlors, college women always rise respectfully when a housemother or guests enter. Cordial friendliness shown to all guests in your college home is an indication of your social poise.

Don't forget that all-important courtesy to your college, your loyalty. This is the campus of your choice, so don't insult your intelligence by thoughtless gripping.

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