# Transcript: IT Podcast - Ep 20 - New Sudent Series - 5 Tips

*The following transcript is a verbatim account of the video or audio file accompanying this transcript.*

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

WGU's IT Audio Series. Flexible, portable, profound.

Speaker #2 (Julianne Cook):

Hello, and welcome to the IT Audio Series. Today we wanted to chat with you about some topics specifically for new students. Although this information can certainly be helpful for anybody. Before we get started, we wanted to introduce ourselves. I'm Julianne Cook, and I have been a program mentor in the IT college since 2012.

Speaker #3 (Jessica Galterio):

I'm Jessica Galterio, and I've been a program mentor in the IT College since 2015. In our experience we've seen a lot of different strategies for success as a student at WGU, and we wanted to share with you some of the best tips and tricks that we've seen for your first term.

Speaker #2 (Julianne Cook):

Your first term at WGU is arguably the most important. Here are five tips for new student.

Number 1, check out the Student Success Center. The Student Success Center has a treasure trove of information on how to jump-start your academic skills at WGU. Whether your last experience with education was last year or 20 years ago you can find some excellent tools on how to be successful. With articles on time management, test anxiety, taking notes, developing good sleep habits, academic confidence, test-taking skills, and so much more, you're likely to find something that will help you as you begin your journey as a student at WGU.

Number 2, discuss a plan of attack with your program mentor. Your relationship with your program mentor, it can make or break your experience at WGU. The best way to develop that relationship with your mentor is communication. In your first 30 days, you should discuss a plan for your term that includes timelines, any potential pitfalls like upcoming trains on your timeline like work obligations or personal events, and any courses that you anticipate are going to be difficult for you. Work together, to come up with a strategy that is personalized to you, so that you know what to expect this term.

Speaker #3 (Jessica Galterio):

Number 3, start your first course right away. Students who finish their first course in the first 30 days, are more likely to finish all of their courses within that term, and eventually graduate, either on time or even early. Another great advantage to starting your first course right away is that it puts you on a fantastic pace for the rest of the term.

Number 4, meet with the course instructor. As soon as you start that first course, your next step should be to contact the course instructor within that group. The first meeting can be a little intimidating, but don't panic, don't worry. Your course instructor's number 1 goal is to help you pass your course. We recommend setting up a one-on-one with them to discuss the class, any resources, what to expect from the exam, and find out what they can do to help you be successful. After all it is part of your tuition.

Speaker #2 (Julianne Cook):

Number 5, pay attention to how you're managing your time. Your first term will set the tone for the rest of your degree. Habits you develop early in your program are likely to stick, and it will pay off when you start more difficult courses that require more of your time and mental effort. In your first 30 days, 45 days, you should really pay attention to how you're managing your time. Think about what's working and what isn't working. Oftentimes students need to adjust their original plan to accommodate things they didn't think about during orientation. I highly recommend tracking your study time during your first couple of months, so that you can see if any patterns emerge.

I have a student who once insisted, that he got a ton of work done on the weekends. But when we actually tracked his time, it turned out that he actually spent more time on the weekdays, because things kept coming up on the weekend. We wouldn't have figure that out if we hadn't actually tracked his time. Once he figured it out, it helped him to plan his week out and he was a lot less stressed when those weekend things came up, because he knew that he'd already planned for that interruption. Tracking your time and paying attention to how you're managing your time, can really pay off, and it can help you be less stressed in the long run.

Speaker #3 (Jessica Galterio):

Thank you so much for listening to this episode. We hope you will find some great tips. Be sure to check out the rest of the episodes in the IT Audio Series. Good luck with your education.

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

Schedule time with your program mentor to explore more deeply. WGU, a new kind of you.