

In the weeks before coming to college, I was excited, but I definitely felt a strong sense of nervousness and anxiety for the big change that was about to come. Changes in life are always scary, especially when you know you can't be fully prepared and know exactly what to expect until the change comes. Everyone told me that college was such a big change and big transition, so of course I anticipated it to be. When I got to college, I was very pleasantly surprised by how easy and natural the change felt! My biggest fear in coming to college was that I would feel homesick, I would miss my friends and family, and I would have trouble adjusting to being in a different environment. I have been pleasantly surprised because in only 2 weeks, living on campus and going to classes at Ohio State feels normal and meant to be.

Another expectation that I had coming to college was that Ohio State was so big that I would never see my friends and peers from my high school. I went to high school and grew up in a suburb of Columbus about half an hour away. I wasn't sure if I wanted to go to college and see familiar faces, or if I wanted college to be a chance for me to have a fresh start and a clean slate. After being told that Ohio State was so big that I would never run into anyone from my high school of 1800 students where about 40% come to Ohio State, I was proved very wrong after seeing a couple people I know from my hometown on my walk to every class. Being able to see my friends has definitely been a source of comfort and a way to allow me to transition to the change much easier, but it has also unfortunately been a source of drama and conflict for me. Having these friends here and going to a school close to home has taught me that no matter what, every quality about a college has its benefits and its downfalls. I do have a strong belief that I shouldn't go to college and only hang out with my friends from high school. I think college is an amazing opportunity to meet new friends and grow new relationships! I'm proud of myself because while I have also grown and maintained my relationships with my old friends and people who are important to me, I have also formed new relationships and made new friends that I already feel really close with after just two weeks! I have made an effort to say hi and introduce myself any time I meet someone new. Ohio State being so big was very intimidating to me, and I worried I would feel lost around so many people, but Ohio State has also been the perfect environment and opportunity to get to know so many different people, and I think that's amazing!

During welcome week, I definitely felt overwhelmed as I adjusted to the new environment, while also trying to process the fact that college, something I feel I've been preparing for forever, had actually begun. I also felt so excited for my journey ahead, and I had so much fun staying busy and meeting so many new friends. I am very pleasantly surprised with how normal the transitioned felt and how natural it was to form new relationships. I am so excited about this opportunity, my classes, my major, and the great path to my future Ohio State is taking me on!