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Hello admitted class of 2021! Congratulations on being accepted into this amazing program and I hope you give yourself enough kudos for chasing down your dreams and not just talking about it (as so many do). I applied for the EMBA program while I was being medically discharged out of the Army because I simply cannot sit still and wanted another lofty goal to pursue and this seemed like the perfect chance. Before I go any further into any advice let me just say that no matter what difficulty lies ahead in this course, do not waver for the end product will be so worth it and the experience is irreplaceable.

If I could give you a few tips that I wish someone would have told me, it would be these. First, don't expect you will crush everything and have ample time to do your normal routine because you won't. If you have an opportunity to do something early for the course do it, it will save you countless hours and headaches on the back end. Don't attempt to carry the weight of the course on your own, this is a team-based program and the sooner you learn to leverage your teammates for their amazing skill set and leverage your own for their benefit, the sooner you will be firing on all cylinders. A big one for me and I believe it's just as big for others is stay humble. Yes, you are amazing for getting into the course but so is everyone else in your cohort. Stop and listen and you will be amazed at the knowledge in the room and wait for your chance to showcase your skills and abilities when the time is right.

Remember to take that tactical pause and really absorb what's going on around you. If the work load seems immense don't panic, take a second to prioritize with your team and don't hesitate to action on what you believe is right. The last big piece of advice I have is don't talk just to talk. What I mean is, if you have something of value, then share it, if it's not and you just want to get a verbal "jab" into the discussion than hold onto that and just listen. What you absorb from listening is far more than when you just want to be heard or seem relevant.

Enjoy the ride as you go through and really take advantage of this amazing experience. As you start your journey remember, the class of 2020 is right next door and we will be here for you as often as we can for not only moral and educational support, but as a friend as well. I wish you all the best in your endeavors and remember to chase down your dreams, you are the only one that can bring them to fruition.

