Dollar Sense

The fall semester is fast approaching. Many of you are wondering how, when and if you will receive a refund from your financial aid. Financial aid will begin posting toward your Tuition and Fee statement on 8/18/06. Once all funds are applied to your fee statement and if there is an excess of funds, a refund will be issued for the amount. If you would like your refund sent directly to your bank account and not mailed to you, visit the AggiE-Refund website at http://myrecord.tamu.edu and sign up for direct deposit.

In an effort to help you understand the process, a worksheet has been created for you. Simply follow the steps below to determine either the amount of your refund or the amount your will owe the university.

First of all, each undergraduate Texas resident has a Cost of Attendance of $18,516 (this includes tuition, fees, room, board, travel, books, and miscellaneous living expenses.) We subtract your Estimated Family Contribution (from the FAFSA) from the Cost of Attendance to determine your need. We then determine what financial aid you are eligible for during the academic year.

To use the worksheet:

Step 1: Enter your Estimated Family Contribution. This is the amount of money that the federal government has determined that your family should be able to provide for educational expenses for the given award period. You may retrieve your EFC from your award letter online at http://myfinancialaid.tamu.edu under My Awards (view a printer-friendly version of your award letter.)

Step 2: Enter your financial aid package. You may view the amounts at http://myfinancialaid.tamu.edu under My Awards.

- Scholarships: Examples include Corps of Cadets, Freshmen Opportunity Award, and the Regents’ Scholarship.
- Grants: Examples include TEXAS Grant, Texas Public Education Grant (TPEG), Federal Pell Grant, and Federal Student Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).
- Work Study: It is important to note that Work Study is not applied to the tuition and fee statement as financial aid, but is provided as a paycheck through out the semester; therefore, we subtract it from the Total Financial Aid Package that is applied to your tuition and fee statement.

Step 3: Enter the amount of your fall Tuition and Fee Statement. You can view this at AggiE-Pay at http://myrecord.tamu.edu.

Step 4: Do you have a positive amount or a negative amount in the box titled “Fall Amount Owed (positive) or Refund Check (negative)” ? If the amount is positive, you will owe the university money for tuition and fees. If the amount is negative, you will receive a refund check for approximately this amount. You should use the refund check to purchase your books. After you purchase your books, you should take the remaining amount and divide it by four (for the months in the fall semester). This will give you the amount of money you have to spend on living expenses each month.

Step 5: Repeat these steps for the spring semester after your spring Tuition and Fee Statement comes out.

Link to Worksheet
https://financialaid.tamu.edu/regents/review/forms/COAworksheet.pdf.
Hit the Ground Running….
Kathleen Speed, Lecturer
Student Learning Center

…Is the mantra that the students enrolled in my section of CAEN 101 hear at the beginning of every semester. While it's still summer and thoughts of classes and exams are probably the last thing on your mind, it's never too early to begin thinking about strategies for academic success at A&M!

Hit the ground running the first day of class! On Day 1, your first round of tests will be about four weeks away, waiting until the week of the exam to begin reading the text, reviewing notes from class, practicing problems, memorizing formulas, and just plain learning the material may be too late for the majority of students. Why? You've heard it before, but I'll say it again, college is much more difficult than high school!

What follows is a list that was generated from veteran second semester freshmen and sophomore students. Here is their advice:

- Attend class
- Get a calendar and plan out your study time
- Review your notes before and after class
- Read every night; When you read: outline the chapter, write in the margins, and turn headings into questions
- Attend SI, tutoring, help desks, and instructor/TA led review sessions
- Organize a study group
- When you need clarification on a topic: talk to your professor
- Don’t be embarrassed to ask for help with personal matters
- The night before the exam is for reviewing and not for learning new material
- Get a good night’s sleep before an exam
- There is no such thing as over-learning or over-studying
- Exercise and watch what you eat
- Find the balance between academics and the “other education”

The above is just a sampling of what these successful students advise, but hopefully helpful in getting you to think about what you need to do in order to succeed.

Learning and studying for all of your classes does not fall into the one-size-fits-all category. What this really means is that the way you studied in high school may not work in college. Different classes may require you to use different methods when learning the material. Experiment and try different approaches to reading, note-taking, and studying.

Today’s the day! So don’t wait another minute, hit the ground running.

Regents’ Scholars Peer Mentors: Words of Wisdom

Andrew Brown - “Shed your previous personal image, not completely, but enough to allow yourself to experience things you’d never dream of. Keeping a personal image is important, however, if you don’t allow yourself to grow, you will never experience everything this university has to offer.”

Jennifer Burnett - “Decide how you want to spend your time here at Texas A&M because it is going to be gone fast. Make goals for each year and then evaluate them at the end of the semester to see if you are where you wanted to be when you started.”

Karina Castillo - “Do not let home-sickness run you over. . . . Time heals everything!”

Carlos Cordova - “Remember that you are here at Texas A&M to get an education and that is your major priority and nothing comes before that. Having said that, get involved in campus organizations that will give you the experience for the future career you are seeking and remember to give back to your community.”

Savannah Horne - “High school is over in a good way. It is time for you to shape yourself into the person that you want to be in the future. Make the friends that you want to carry into that future and put the work into school that you want to use in that future.”

Jessica Olivares - “Do not be afraid to explore your options with organizations, but understand just because there are several great things to be a part of, that does not mean you should join them all. Join organizations that you are passionate about and will help you fulfill your future goals.”

Savannah Salinas - “Don’t slack off your first couple of weeks. It is hard to get accustomed to all the studying, but believe me, you’ll be way better off studying a little every day than cramming the day before an exam.”