STUDENT LEGAL RESOURCES AT TEXAS A&M

Did you know that Texas A&M has a full-time licensed attorney available to provide free legal information to currently enrolled students? Nearly 1,200 Aggies used Student Legal Services last year to seek advice on a variety of legal matters, including auto accidents, consumer fraud, and alcohol related legal issues, as well as other aspects of family, criminal, and business law.

Student Legal Services is limited in matters of litigation and the Student Attorney cannot represent or advise students against Texas A&M University or another Texas A&M student. As part of a public institution, Student Legal Services also cannot make specific referrals to private attorneys.

To schedule an appointment or learn more about what Student Legal Services can do for you, call 847-7272 or visit SLS on the web at: http://studentlife.tamu.edu/scrs/sls.

DON’T FORGET:

THERE IS PLENTY OF FREE HELP ON-CAMPUS AS WELL AS SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE HERE TO HELP YOU SUCCEED.

Supplemental Instruction (S.I.) schedule:
http://www.tamu.edu/cae/silist.shtml

Department of Multicultural Services FREE tutoring:
http://tutor.tamu.edu

University Writing Center:
http://uwc.tamu.edu/

Mathematics Department Help:
http://www.math.tamu.edu/teaching/helpsession/

Study skills and time management workshops:
http://www.scs.tamu.edu/academic/

Student Learning Center Drop-In Tutoring:
http://slc.tamu.edu/TutorSchedule.pdf

OCTOBER OPINION POLL WINNERS

Question: 90% of freshman say Texas A&M was their first choice. Why was Texas A&M your first choice?

A&M has been my first choice since the ninth grade. I remember coming to A&M for the first time with a field trip; as soon as I stepped off the bus I felt something very special that I couldn’t explain. It was just an awesome feeling. Ever since that day I felt very connected to A&M. Now, being the first out of my family of 11, counting my parents, to go to college, I know that I made a great choice when I chose to come here. There is no other place I would rather be than A&M.

Thanks and Gig ‘Em!
--Jesus Garcia ’12

Congratulations Jesus!
Did you remember...to turn your clock back?
November 2, 2008
Daylight Saving Time Ends
"Spring forward; Fall back"
In the U.S., clocks change at 2:00 a.m. local time; in fall, clocks fall back from 1:59 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

“THE ART OF THE SCHEDULE”

In previous editions of this column, we have addressed the issues of finding your “path” here in Aggieland, maintaining a balance in your college lives, and even determining when it may be time to get rid of one (or two, or three…) of your courses to ensure that you are successful. And lucky you, all of those lessons culminate in the upcoming creation of your spring schedule! Although you may think that registering for courses is just as easy as randomly picking things that aren’t at 8 a.m., there is, in fact, an “art” of the schedule that you may want to keep in mind!

Now I’d love to tell you some secret trick that is going to give you all of your “first-choices” for courses and professors, but unfortunately, that isn’t the case. As Freshmen, you will have the honor of registering DEAD LAST. But have no fear! You won’t be a freshman forever (I hope)! Seriously though, it’s important to reflect back on everything that you’ve experienced thus far, and put those lessons to good use as you plan for the future. For many of you, this will be your first chance to actually create your schedule yourself, so put some thought into it!

Take a look at your degree plan (available to you in your course catalog, your advisor’s office, or possibly on a paper copy that you may have been given). Many of you can always go to http://myrecord.tamu.edu and click on “Degree Audit” to see your remaining courses and what requirements you have already completed. Then, check out http://courses.tamu.edu to see what will be offered next semester. Think about the courses you are in right now. What do you like/dislike? Were the morning classes better or worse for you? Was your Tuesday/Thursday course load too heavy for you? All of these issues, in addition to tips and recommendations that your Academic Advisor can give you, are very important in deciding how to plan out your next semester!

So you may not get your first, second, or even third choice of professor or course… That’s ok! You probably won’t get your “dream” schedule, but it doesn’t hurt to start looking at your options and getting valuable information from your Academic Advisors! Who knows? Maybe you decided that your current major isn’t what you thought it would be, in which case now would be a good time to start talking to another major that you’re considering, or possibly General Studies if you’re undecided (and that’s OK!). The most important thing is that you think about the pros & cons of the courses you’re taking now, learn more about what your degree requires (or what major you may be considering), and use that to create a schedule that will give you the best chance at success! As always, we are all here to help you, so do not hesitate to talk to your advisors and counselors!

Happy Scheduling!

Sam Murdock
Senior Academic Advisor I
Bioenvironmental Sciences
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DID YOU KNOW?

While twins born at 11:55 p.m. and 12:05 a.m. may have different birthdays, Daylight Saving Time can change birth order -- on paper, anyway. During the time change in the fall, one baby could be born at 1:55 a.m. and the sibling born ten minutes later, at 1:05 a.m. In the spring, there is a gap when no babies are born at all: from 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.
What is something positive that you have discovered about yourself since coming to Texas A&M?
Send your answer to Drew Smith at drew.smith@tamu.edu with “Regents’ Review Opinion Poll” in the subject line for a chance to win Aggie gear.

PURCHASING A CAR

Driving your own car can be convenient. It provides the freedom to travel wherever you want to go on your own time schedule. But owning a car can be expensive:

- If the vehicle is purchased on credit, there will be monthly car loan payments to the lender
- Student drivers usually pay high insurance premiums
- Skyrocketing gas prices have made filling the tank more expensive
- Scheduled maintenance costs need to be taken into account
- TAMU parking fees are not going away any time soon
- Yearly registration and inspection fees are a fact of life
- Unexpected repairs can become a panic attack unless an emergency fund has been established

Some students don’t take into account all of the car ownership costs and become overwhelmed. A shiny car can become a 3000 pound millstone around a student’s neck. It is not uncommon to find a student who wants to sell a recently purchased car to get rid of it, but he/she owes more on the car than the car is worth. The student has to continue trying to pay the car expenses or sell the car for a loss.

To avoid the stress of buying a car you can’t afford, do your homework. Early in the process of purchasing a car, establish a budget to determine the funds you have to not only purchase a vehicle but also to pay the other costs required in car ownership. To find out more about purchasing a vehicle, come to our Money Wise Aggie Buying Big Ticket Items workshop that will be presented on November 11 from 1:00-2:15 and again at 3:00-4:15 in room 229 of the Pavilion.

REGENTS’ SCHOLARS PEER MENTORS: WORDS OF WISDOM

How do you prepare for tests/finals?

Jon Brown: I study a little every day, about 1-2 weeks in advance of the test.
Jacob Bailon: Notecards, notecards, & more notecards! That and a whole lot of time in the Annex.
Susana Reyna: Do all the “suggested homework!"
Andy Nguyen: I take advantage of Supplemental Instruction (SI).
Cristal Yun: Study groups & practice exams.
Clay Arthur: I study in small increments, in advance of the test.
Jonathan Herrera: I type up the notes I took in class.
Darnisia Wallace: I review my textbook and notes, but also the “blank paper system.” I write down everything that I know about the topic and see what I miss. Then I go back and fill in those blanks.
Kaytlin Huseman: Review sessions!
Jesus Reyes: Check out a study room at the Annex; it works great because it offers no distractions at all.
Rebecca Ordaz: If a concept is really difficult for me, I go to my prof’s office hours to get it cleared up.
David Marquez: I start by rereading the chapters in the book. Then I write down any and all information that I think could potentially be on the exam.
Yvette Aguinaga: The 5 Day Study Plan: divide up the work load and go through each chapter one day at a time.