FINDING THE PATH

As you find yourself beginning a semester full of classes that you absolutely LOVE & ADORE...oh, wait. This is probably a dream and you’ve overslept! Let’s face it, you’re going to have some classes you like, and some that you don’t particularly care for, but I can promise that you will LEARN something from every single one of them.

As with life in general, you learn as you go. This lesson is particularly true in your courses. And we’re not just talking about “I learned that I don’t like to get up for 8 a.m. classes!” Your academic experience at Texas A&M will have a large impact on WHAT you will do in life, and in many ways WHO you will become, so take the learning experience seriously!

As you progress through the semester, pay attention to the ways that you study, and try to isolate the best approach towards preparing for different types of courses. Studying for calculus isn’t like studying for history! It’s important to get to know your strengths and weaknesses, but it’s even more important to admit that WE ALL HAVE WEAKNESSES. The plain truth of the matter is you will have a course (or several) that you have a hard time in, no matter how great you were in high school, but don’t let that get to you! The only way you can make a horrible mistake is by not seeking help from the many resources that are available to you. Be sure to talk to your professors and your Academic Advisor about how you are doing in class, and what steps you can take to improve. They want to help you!

However, as you make this journey into higher education, be sure to let your experiences teach you about what you want to do, and what you want to study. Your classes might teach you that your major might not be the right fit for you, or that your interests have shifted to another area. Do not be afraid of changing your mind! Trust me, I changed my undergraduate major twice, and even my graduate major once! You will learn as you go, and when I reflect back on my time at Texas A&M, I wouldn’t change a thing. “Why,” you ask? Because if I didn’t have the experiences that I did, I never would have ended up in the “right major;” or in a career that I love!

Remember: If you take the time to learn from your experiences, and you seek out the people who are here to help you, you will find yourself on the right path!

Sam Murdock
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Bioenvironmental Sciences
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HOWDY!

Welcome to Aggieland! It was such a wonderful experience to meet you all at the Regents’ Scholars Orientation, the Third Hour, and then the Fall Reception. Now that the semester has started up, I would like to invite you all to join the Regents’ Scholars Organization. We have some great events coming up that you all can participate in including Milk and Cookie Socials, Scavenger Hunts, Replant, The Big Event, and Laser Tag Night. We are looking forward to an exciting year!

If you are interested in joining RSO or have any questions, email me at Sa786@tamu.edu and I’ll get back to you.

Thanks and Gig ’Em!!

Salma Abdullah
Regents’ Scholars Organization, President
Texas A&M University ’10
Sa786@tamu.edu

AUGUST OPINION POLL WINNERS

Question: Now that you are in college, what are your plans for stepping up your study habits from high school-level to college-level?

I foresee a drastic change in my study habits as I transition to college life. In high school, it was easy to get by, just doing what was due the next day, or waiting until the last minute to do an assignment. Procrastination won’t work in college though. I hope to plan ahead, and begin working on assignments beforehand, so that I am not bogged down when the deadline nears. As the Advisor’s Corner says, if I can find that right balance for my classes, the studying will become easy. And hopefully the stress will decrease! -- Chris Hensley, ’12

I want better study habits because I know that it is going to be totally different from high school studying. Planners, partners and a quiet place seem like a good place to start. -- John Packebush ’12

Now that I am in college, I am going to make it a point to stay on top of my homework as much as I can. I have already found some tutors and found other helpful resources. I even created an online group with people that are in my major and taking my classes, so it will be easier to form study groups to help each other. I believe the other students have a lot of knowledge that they can share with others and making everyone learn together, Aggies helping Aggies! -- Hector Funes, ’12

Congratulations Chris, John & Hector!
Be polite — If you show respect for your professor, then your professor will have respect for you. Address your professor with the appropriate title: “Dr. Jones,” “Mr. Dickens,” or “Ms. Smith.”

Be professional — If you want your professor to treat you like a mature young adult, then you need to act like one! When you email a professor, write in complete sentences and avoid slang. You aren’t texting your friends, so use grammar check and spell check for EVERY email and assignment. Sign your emails with your first and last name, as well as your UIN.

Be prepared — When you visit a professor during office hours, be prepared with specific questions about the lecture or the chapter. Identify certain concepts or terms that you are having trouble understanding, and ask the professor to explain those terms.

Be peaceful — It is hard not to be angry and disappointed when the grade you get on a test or paper is much lower than you were expecting. However, you can’t always blame the professor for your bad grade. There are many factors that affect a grade. When you are discussing grades with your professor, be calm. Ask the professor what you did wrong and what you need to do to improve on the next test or paper. Ask the professor to suggest resources that might help you. If you remain calm and keep a positive attitude, your professor will be more inspired to help you.

Robert Michael Gates is the individual largely responsible for establishing the Regents’ Scholarship at Texas A&M.

A first generation student himself who received his bachelor’s degree from the College of William and Mary before earning his master’s degree from Indiana University and finally a PhD from Georgetown University.

He joined the CIA in 1966 and became the only career officer person in their history to rise from an entry-level position to serving as the Director of Central Intelligence. Dr. Gates became the president of Texas A&M University in 2002 and served until 2006, when he was sworn in as the 22nd Secretary of Defense where he currently serves.

Gig’Em Gates!

Aggie Tradition:
Yell Practice began as a post dinner activity in 1913, when different corps companies would gather together to “learn heartily the old time pep.” However, it was not until 1931 that Yell Practice became as it is known today. It began, when a group of cadets were gathered in Peanut Owen’s dorm room in Puryear Hall. Someone suggested that all of the freshmen should fall out and meet on the steps of the YMCA building at midnight. The cadets notified senior yell leaders Horsefly Berryhill and Two Gun Herman from Sherman, who could not authorize it, but said that they may just show up. Well, needless to say, the word spread quickly, and when the freshmen began to arrive, there were railroad flares and torpedoes stuck in flower pots around the YMCA building to light the area. The first Midnight Yell had begun!!!

Today, Midnight Yell is held the night before a home game in Kyle Field and at the Grove on Thursday nights before away games. Also for away games, a site is designated for a Midnight Yell in the city of our opponent on the night before the game.

For a yell at Kyle Field, yell leaders lead the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band and the Twelfth Man into the stadium. The yell leaders lead the crowd in old army yells, the singing of the fight song, and tell fables of how the Aggies are going to beat the everlivin’ hell out of our opponent for the next day. Lastly, the lights go out, and Aggies kiss their dates. If they don’t have a date, all they have to do is flick their Bicks. As the story goes, the flames make it easier for two dateless people to find each other, and maybe they won’t be dateless anymore!

The purpose of Midnight Yell is to pump up the Twelfth Man for the next day’s big game!
Creating a Budget

For many students, the financial aid refund is often the first time they face the responsibility of managing a large amount of money. Some students manage their funds wisely, but others make poor decisions which can lead to running short of money during the semester. Money worries add unneeded stress at the end of the semester when there is often already stress from final exams and deadlines for papers. Here are 2 things to keep in mind about your financial aid refund.

- Students will begin receiving their fall financial aid refunds during the latter part of August, but the spring refund will not be distributed until January. If your only income is the refund, it will need to last you nearly 5 months. Every year we see students who spend too much of their money early in the semester on items that are not required for their college expenses and are left without funds by the middle of the term.

- The financial aid refund is given to you for the purpose of assisting you with your educational and living expenses, not for your family’s living expenses. If you are concerned that your parents may use some of your money for their own expenses, we recommend you establish your own checking account that is only accessible by you. You can then control how your money is spent.

We urge you to attend our workshop entitled “Creating a Budget That Will Work for You” to learn how to prepare a budget (spending plan) so that you can make smart decisions in spending your money. The workshop also explains software and online options that enable you to easily track your money. If you have questions you can email a Money Wise Aggie counselor at moneywise@tamu.edu or call us at 979.845.3956.

Don’t wait until it’s too late. Free tutoring is available.

Supplemental Instruction (S.I.) schedule
Department of Multicultural Services FREE tutoring
University Writing Center
Mathematics Department Help
Study Skills and Time Management workshops
Center for Academic Enhancement Tutoring
To schedule an appointment call 979.845.2724 or come by 118 Hotard.

What if?

What if I think I’m in the wrong major?

It’s not uncommon for students to get to college and question their choice of major. If you think you may be in the wrong major or don’t think you will enjoy or excel in your choice of majors, make an appointment to meet with your Academic Advisor. Your Advisor will be able to help you explore your current major, with career options and future classes in mind. Your Advisor can also direct you to resources on campus where you can learn about other majors, along with your own career interests, aptitudes, and strengths.

Besides the Regents’ Scholars Organization, what other organizations are you in?

Agustin Diaz: Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) & El Salvador Student Association (ESSA)
Andy Nguyen: Pre-Dental
Cyndi Davis: Campus Crusade for Christ
Danny Adame: Singing Cadets
Darnisia Wallace: Excellence Uniting Culture, Education and Leadership (EXCEL), Maximizing Educational Development through Academic and Leadership Skills (MEDALS), 12th Man Student Foundation
Denise Alexis: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Student Government Association Diversity Team, Woodson Black Awareness Committee, NAACP

Ghazal Asrar: Indian Student Association, Muslim Student Association, Pre-Law Society, Pakistani Student Association
Jacob Bailon: Fish Council 2011
Jon Brown: PhilSA
Jonathan Herrera: Aggies United
Lameisha Pullings: HOSTS
Mildred Anaie: Pre-Med Society
Rebecca Ordaz: Aggie Habitat
Roderick Green: Fade to Black Dance Ensemble, African American Business Society (AABS), TAMU Handball, Exceptional Men of the Talented Tenth
Taharka McCleave: Corps of Cadets Company C-1, Pre-Med Society, Aggie Orientation Leader Program
Virginia Baker: Photoclub, Scuba Club

Besides the Regents’ Scholars Organization (RSO), there are over 800 organizations on campus: Something for everyone!