

SECRETS TO SOAR

Insider Tips for Auburn's Transfer Students How to Avoid First Semester Pitfalls

Dates To Remember

Aug 16-24: Welcome Week

Aug 19 @ 4:15pm: New Student Convocation in the Auburn Arena. **All first-year students (including transfer students) are required to attend.**

Aug 20: Fall Classes Begin

Aug 27 - Sept 10: Drop Course Penalty Days. Dropping a class during this time will result in a \$100 fee per course dropped.

Sept 3: Labor Day (no school)

Sept 7: Second eBill due. Statements should be posted to your eBill on August 16.

Sept 8 @ 6:30pm: First home football game of the season against Alabama State.

Sept 10: 15th Class Day: Last day to drop from a course with no grade assignment.

Sept 28-30: Family Weekend

Oct 8: Deadline for Professors to submit Early Alert/Mid-Term Grades for all students in Core and First Year Seminar Classes. This is a great time to evaluate how you are doing in each of your classes and seek help if needed.

Oct 18: Deadline to request to move finals if you have more than two scheduled on the same day. You should request this through your Associate Dean.

Pitfall # 1: Not making an organization or getting involved

Often times, college graduates biggest regret from their college years was not getting involved early on. Being involved in organizations opens doors to new friendships and connections, teaches you lifelong skills, and shows you where your interests truly lie. I will admit, the idea of joining an organization with people you don't know is a little terrifying. However, taking the leap of faith can be so worth it! In fact, I was not even chosen to be an Orientation Leader after the initial selection process. However, I didn't let it affect my attitude, and it gave me all the more reason to put everything in me into being a great OL once I got the opportunity! Finding that organization (or organizations) that satisfies your passions pushes you out of your comfort zone, but truly makes the Auburn experience more and more rewarding. And if at first you don't get a position, keep looking!! There's a spot for everyone in one place or another.

-Mallory Henderson,
SOS Orientation Leader
Coordinator



Pitfall # 2: Not initiating conversation

Auburn is a big campus and the best way that I've found to make it feel a bit smaller is by making connections wherever possible. Initiating a conversation can be intimidating at first, but you would be surprised how many things you might have in common with your fellow classmates! Whether you are on the transit, in class, or at the library, there are people just like you waiting for someone to reach out and become a friendly face. So I would highly encourage you

to be that person, step out of your comfort zone, and initiate conversations. Before you know it you'll have friends and study partners abounding!

-Alexis Burgos, SOS
Orientation Leader
Coordinator



Pitfall # 3: Not taking advantage of Auburn's resources

Transitioning to Auburn is an exciting time for all new students, however there are certainly tough moments. For example, it took me some time to realize that I shouldn't have to take on these new academic challenges alone. Auburn has a tremendous amount of resources available for every student, and utilizing them can make a huge impact on your academic success. From the Miller Writing Center to Study Partners, Supplemental Instruction, and Academic Coaching, there are so many opportunities for any student to seek academic assistance. Even something as simple as meeting a professor for office hours or scheduling an appointment with your advisor can really have a positive impact on your academic performance. Once I finally started to take advantage of the resources Auburn has to offer, my grades improved tremendously. I really encourage you to use these resources around you because they have certainly had a positive impact on me.

-Jarett Bache, SOS
Orientation Leader
Coordinator



Pitfall # 4: Assuming your college workload will be like your last college workload

As a transfer student, it is very easy to assume that the study habits

you practiced at your previous institution will perfectly translate to your academic career here at Auburn, but I encourage you to be aware of this misconception. Regardless of your major, Auburn's status as a research institution puts a higher workload on its students to participate in learning outside of the classroom than you may be familiar with. In my own experience, I discovered that there would be much more expected of me as a student than I had dealt with before and I had to adjust my overall academic approach to succeed in my classes. Two great ways that I found to compensate for increased course difficulty were to spend a little time studying each day in the RBD Library and to take advantage of many of the invaluable resources made available to me as an Auburn student. Additionally, if you are coming from a smaller college like I did, you will have to adjust to larger class sizes and perhaps less one-on-one time with your professors. Though it may sound daunting, succeeding here at Auburn is very achievable. My biggest advice to a new transfer student would be to come into your academics here with an open mind and willingness to work hard in each and every course.

-Zach Loyed,
SOS Orientation
Leader Coordinator



Remember there are so many people here who want to help you succeed. If you run into a pitfall, be sure to talk with your advisor, your professors, or any of the numerous campus resources.

Involvement Opportunity: University Programing Council

[Apps can be found here](#) and are due on Aug 31.

UPC is a student led programing organization that coordinates free movies, comedians, concerts, workshops, speakers and more. This is a great way to develop professional experiences and skills while meeting new people.

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SECRETS TO SOAR

Dropping a Class

As the semester gets into full swing, the amount of course work and the difficulty of the content sometimes may exceed your expectations. There are many options if you feel that a class may be too much. The Academic Support Office, located 0176B in the RBD Library, has several resources available. There is Academic Coaching that will work with you on skills such as workload management, notetaking, test prep, and more. This is a great option if you are seeing issues across many classes. Study Partners (free tutoring service) and Supplemental Instruction (peer-assisted study sessions) are also available if you are having trouble with a specific subject or class. Check out more tips from Academic Support below. Meeting with your professors during their office hours

can also provide you with extra help. If you still feel overwhelmed, then dropping the class is another option.

To drop a course, log-in to AU Access and go to Add/Drop courses page. The last day to drop a course with no grade assignment is **September 10th**. This means that any course dropped before then will not show up on your transcript. Please be aware that if you drop a class from **August 27th-September 10th**, you will be required to pay a \$100 fee per course dropped. The last day to withdraw from a course is **November 2nd** and a "W" will be assigned for the course. You want to get as few Ws as possible. After November 2nd you can only withdraw from a course due to extreme circumstances and with special permission from your Associate Dean. Withdrawing

from a class during this period may result in either a "W" or "WF" on your transcript. A "WF" is given if you were failing the course at the time of withdrawing and this will factor into your GPA as an F.

Before dropping a course, we suggest that you talk with your Academic Advisor. Your Advisor is the best person to discuss this decision with. They can have helpful tips to help you get back on track towards passing the course or help you see if there are any unforeseen consequences for withdrawing from the class, for example if that course is an important prerequisite for your next semester or if it would affect your financial aid.



Tips from the Office of Academic Support

The staff in the Office of Academic Support work to build a positive, approachable, and cooperative learning environment at the University. Below are a handful of tips from our staff to support your adjustment to Auburn.

SWITCH IT UP: As a transfer student, you may think you have already solidified your academic habits that will support your success. Remember that Auburn University is a different place than your previous institution, and the unique challenges of the coursework at AU may require new approaches with studying and managing time.

START NOW: It's never too early to start incorporating new academic habits into your daily routine. Related, it is never too early to schedule a tutoring appointment, visit a Supplemental Instruction (SI) session, or meet one-on-one with an Academic Coach.

UNDERSTAND THE COMMITMENT: Did you know that the recommendation for studying each week is two hours for every one credit hour you are enrolled at Auburn? Take the time to prioritize your schedule with classes,

studying, tutoring, coaching, working, and anything else that you need to accomplish each week.

FIND WHAT WORKS: Keeping up with your class readings and note taking can be a challenge, so find a method that makes sense for you and your learning style. Maybe you prefer to audio-record lectures and listen to them on repeat. Or perhaps you learn more by writing out your notes while reading a textbook, and then typing them up on your computer later. You are the expert on you, so employ the techniques that best suit your needs. If you're unsure of where to start, you can meet with an Academic Coach to create a personalized plan.

GET TO KNOW YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: Review the online AU Bulletin to understand the course requirements of your majors and/or minors and the course sequencing expectations. Don't hesitate to meet with your academic advisor to learn more!

CHECK YOUR EMAIL AND CANVAS, DAILY: Your AU email is the official medium for communication. Canvas is the online platform for your classes.

Connect your phone to your email and check Canvas regularly. You don't want to miss out on important information simply because you forgot to check your email.

ASK FOR HELP: Often faculty, staff, and your peers will see you as an upperclassman student and will expect you to know "what's going on" at the University. It's nice to have others think you are prepared, but that comes with the expectation of actually being prepared. Ask for help from your academic advisor, Office of Academic Support staff, faculty, and peers. You're part of the Auburn Family – we're here for you!

To learn more about the Office of Academic Support and its services, check out academicssupport.auburn.edu. Good luck in your transition to Auburn University, and War Eagle!



Transfer Tip:

Make sure to be using the time between classes to your benefit. You often have some breaks between classes, so go to the library or find a quiet area of the building you are in and put that time to work for you. With so much technology at your fingertips it can be easy to lose that time to social media, but if you get into the routine of reviewing your notes, reading chapters, or working on homework during this time, you can really free up other parts of your schedule.



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