

SECRETS TO SOAR

Insider Tips for Auburn's Transfer Students

A Letter from First Year Experience

We would like to take this opportunity to again welcome you to Auburn University! We are glad you are continuing your education at our great university. We know transferring to another school can be hard and we hope that this newsletter will serve as a resource to help

smooth the transition and help you stay connected with the university throughout your first semester here! We enjoyed having you join us at SOS orientation, and please know that the First Year Experience office is here for so much more than just your orientation session. We are

here for questions, advice, or when you don't know where to go throughout your time here at Auburn. In this newsletter, you will receive reminders, tips and information by Auburn's transfer students in the Transfer Student Organization (TSO), Tau Sigma the Transfer Student Honor Society, SOS Orientation Leaders, and staff in the First Year Experience office. We look forward to having you join us here on campus, and please do not hesitate to contact the First Year Experience office at (334) 844-4501 or fyedesk@auburn.edu.

War Eagle!



Dates To Remember

Jan 12: Another eBill will post and will be due on February 2nd.

Jan 11: Spring Classes Begin

Jan 16: MLK Jr Day (No School)

Jan 19-Feb 1: Drop Course Penalty Days. Dropping a class during this time will result in a \$100 Drop Fee per course dropped.

Feb 1: 15th Class Day: Last day to drop from a course with no grade assignment. Last day for potential tuition refund for dropped classes.

Transfer Student Spotlight

I'm from the small town of Wetumpka, Alabama. My close-knit graduating class consisted of 35 people so when I chose my first college I was looking to stay small and inside my comfort zone. After one year at that university, I longed to challenge myself more and get out of my comfort zone. I had always liked Auburn but the idea of a large university intimidated me. Despite being nervous, my heart drew me to Auburn, and I'm so glad it did. It is larger than my last college but every day I'm amazed by the warm feeling of community Auburn gives. I initially worried about meeting people, but immediately found friends and study partners in each class and

through a few organizations I participated in. Though I found the classes more difficult than at my previous school, I was able to plan out a study schedule based off of the syllabus given at the beginning of the semester and worked on projects farther ahead of time. There will be new challenges as there are with any change of scene, but as long as you plan ahead, get involved, give yourself time to adjust, and embrace the change you will make the most of your Auburn experience. By transferring to Auburn, I have found a family away from home and a deeper sense of pride in my education that I hope every transfer student also comes to know.



Erin Norris
is a Senior
majoring in
Psychology.

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Campus Connections- Leadership & Service

The Leadership & Service Branch of the Office of Involvement has many great easy ways for incoming transfer students to get involved both in the local community and abroad. One organization within Leadership & Service is IMPACT, a student led volunteer organization. IMPACT has



16 weekly opportunities to volunteer that can work around your schedule. You just have to show up to

the intramural fields at the designated time. "There is truly a volunteer project for all interests. From opportunities to play with children and help them with their homework to outdoor projects such as the Louise Kreher Ecology Preserve," said Andrew Holman, a past IMPACT Executive Vice President.

Within Leadership & Service, there is also Beat Bama Food Drive, Alternative Student Breaks, and Auburn University Dance Marathon. Beat Bama Food Drive is a yearly canned food drive and fundraiser

in the fall that benefits the Food Bank of East Alabama. Alternative Student Breaks (ASB) offers Auburn students with the unique opportunity of spending their winter or spring breaks on a service-oriented trip focused on a particular issue. Dance Marathon (AUDM) is a large fundraiser held in the spring for Children's Miracle Network hospitals, and participants spend 12 hours on their feet playing games and dancing "For The Kids". For more information on each of these organizations and how to get involved, check out their AU Involve pages.

Academic Spotlight- How to be Successful at AU

- **Read your syllabus.** This is your guiding document for your class and will contain a lot of important information like your professor's office hours, textbook information, course objectives, test and assignment dates and details. If you have a question about a class, it is always a good practice to see if the professor mentioned it in the syllabus first. Make sure to put all of your assignments, readings and test dates on your calendar ASAP so you can plan in advance for busier weeks.
- **Visit professor's office hours.** You might not have needed to visit your professor in office hours before, but you want to make sure you do it here. Visiting your professor's office hours will not only allow you to get clarification on any information you are confused about, but begin to establish a relationship with your professor. The professors here really want to help you and are glad to provide you that extra one-on-one attention if you are willing to make the effort to come to their office hours.
- **Seek academic resources early.** Identify if there are any services offered to help you succeed in your courses, such as Supplemental Instruction, Study Partners, or free tutoring. If you do not have these tutoring groups for your class, talk with your professor or start a study group with people in your class. Since course materials often builds on itself each class session, you do not want to wait if you are even the tiniest bit confused. It can be hard to ask for help, but by asking early you can make sure you have a solid foundation and stay on top of everything.
- **Stay Organized.** Auburn academics are known for being challenging, so be sure to keep on top of all deadlines or assignments you have. Use a planner or smart phone, and watch yourself so you do not procrastinate or overburden yourself with too many activities. Staying on top of these things will help you be successful with the increased workload.
- **Make a good impression.** Attend class, do the readings, participate in the discussions, allow yourself enough time to study before your tests, and prepare for each class. Professors expect students to be independent and self-motivated so do your best to put your best foot forward in class.
- **Breathe!** Take things slow. As a transfer student, you may feel rushed because your time is limited, but make sure to take a breath and take things day-by-day. Focus on doing your best and acclimating to your new environment. Your first semester may be more difficult than your previous institution academically or socially, but like anything new, it takes time to adjust. You may not have to learn things like you did your freshman year, but you may still have to learn how to adapt to new study techniques and a new academic environment.



Transfer Tip:

Check your Tigermail frequently! You will be receiving emails to your Tigermail account (the official method of communication for the university) from your professors, advisors, university staff, and other students. Go to auburn.edu/oit/mobile/ for instructions on setting up Tigermail on your phone to help you stay up to date with your Tigermail account.



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