

SECRETS TO SOAR

Insider Tips for Auburn's Transfer Students

First Semester Pitfalls

Pitfall # 1: Not making an organization or getting involved

When I tried out for different organizations my freshman year, I did not make a single one. All of my friends were involved in something and I was ready to give up. I thought to myself, "I could either stay hopeless, or I could keep trying to find organizations that I am passionate about." Come sophomore year, I tried out for multiple organizations again, but only made one organization. I knew that it was a start, but I still wanted to find things that I was passionate about. Junior and senior year I learned the art of interviewing, talked to staff members for advice, and most importantly, I got to know myself. As a senior, I now hold two executive positions.

-Maggie Ferguson, 2015-2016 SOS Orientation Leader Coordinator

Pitfall # 2: Not initiating conversation

At my previous university my largest class was 27 people, with the majority of them being teammates or friends. I never wondered who I would sit with or who I would get notes from if I missed class; there were always people around that I knew. On the contrary, my first class here had 250 people in it and I knew no one. As you could imagine, walking into a



packed auditorium was extremely overwhelming. I had a choice to make. I could sit in silent fear and isolate myself or make new friends and potential study partners. Rather than isolating myself, I started a conversation with a person that was sitting alone. Turns out, they were thinking the same thing. I would highly recommend that you take the initiative whether on the transit or just moving about campus. Don't be afraid to strike up a conversation; you may be surprised at how easy it is to find connections with those around you! Before you know it Auburn will begin to feel a lot smaller.

-Joy Dees, 2015-2016 SOS Orientation Leader Coordinator

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

I know how overwhelming coming in as a first year student can be with all of the different activities and resources around campus. Personally I wasn't sure how helpful any resource like Supplemental Instruction, Miller Writing Center, or Study Partners would be. My first semester I struggled in an English class because I thought I didn't need any help. After receiving a grade on my first paper, I quickly realized I needed to take advantage of the Miller Writing Center. With the help of an amazing writing tutor I was able to do well in the class. This



experience opened me up to the many resources Auburn offers to help out every student who needs it. I encourage you to seek out help before you go through a struggle like I did.

-Will Davis, 2015-2016 SOS Orientation Leader Coordinator

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

As humans we like to draw on our past experiences to guide us when we encounter new and challenging terrain. Unfortunately, this approach may not always work in college. It is easy to assume that your experience here will be similar to your experience at a previous college, and this is not always the case. The types of activities available to get involved in, your professor's expectations, and the ways that you interact with and meet new people can also drastically change in this new environment. But don't be discouraged or frightened about making this transition! My best piece of advice is to take a step back, understand that this is going to be a completely different experience in so many ways, and remain open minded to all of the amazing new opportunities in store. They don't call it the best four years of your life for nothing!

-Zach Blomeley, 2016 CWE Head Camp Counselor



Dates To Remember

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

Jan 25 @ 10-1pm: The Auburn University Career Center is hosting an Internship & Part-Time Job Fair. See their website for more info: auburn.edu/career

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.

Feb 2: eBill is due. Bill was sent on Jan 12. Check AU Access for more information.

Feb 23: 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.

Mar 1 @ 4:45pm: AUSOM Scholarship Deadline. See the back page for more information.

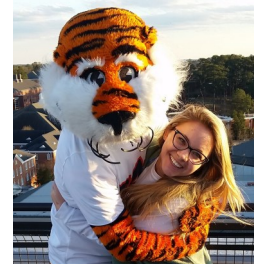
Mar 9: Deadline to request to move finals if you have more than 2 scheduled on the same day. You will need to make the request to your Associate Dean.

Transfer Student Spotlight

My biggest piece of advice to incoming transfer students is to get involved. Reach out to different organizations, and groups that you might be interested in to meet new people and make connections. For me, a lot of my friends have come from the different organizations that I am in. Without those organizations, I would not have the friends that I do now, and I wouldn't have people to study with or connect with in different classes. It's very stressful going into such a big place like Auburn when you don't know many

people, but if you're willing to reach out and make the extra effort it goes a long way in your college experience!

Another lesson I have learned is that when I realized I was struggling in a couple of my classes it really helped to take the time to email my professors, schedule meetings with them, and go to their office hours. They were able to explain what I didn't get and helped me find ways to excel in their class! This might make you nervous, but the benefit greatly outweighs any anxiety you may feel.



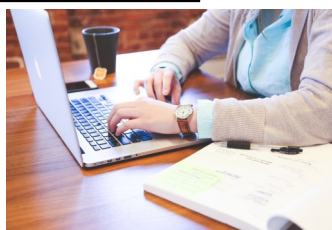
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SECRETS TO SOAR

Dropping a Class

As the semester gets into full swing, the amount of course work and the difficulty of the content 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, goal-setting, test prep, and more. Study Partners (free tutoring service) and Supplemental Instruction (peer-assisted study sessions) are also available. More information about Academic Support is 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 **February 1st**. 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 **January 19-Feb 1st**, you will be required to pay a \$100 fee per course dropped. Recently, the last day to withdraw has changed. Now for this semester, you can withdraw from a course from **February 2nd through March 31st**. A "W" will be assigned for the course. After March 31st, 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. They are 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.

Academic Spotlight- Academic Support



The Academic Support office has several resources available to students, including Academic Coaching, Study Partners, and Supplemental Instruction (SI). These services are not only for students who are struggling, but

we encourage you to use these as extra review even if you are doing well in the class. Maggie Ferguson, a senior, said this about SI. "One of the hardest classes I have taken here was a history class and it had an SI available. Our student SI instructor had previously taken the class and earned an A. He broke down the information and had creative ways to help us learn the material. After going to SI several times, I saw that my grade improved by a whole letter grade."

Take advantage of these resources early and often, especially before your first test to make sure you have a solid understanding of the material. When utilizing these resources, you can stay on top of your work, clear up any topics you may be confused about and be successful in your coursework.

Check out auburn.edu/academicsupport at the beginning of the semester to see what classes will have Study Partners and SI details are normally announced on the first day of class if your section has one assigned.

A note from the Involvement Ambassadors

By: Lauren Leahy

As Involvement Ambassadors, we represent the Office of Student Involvement and the nearly 500 organizations on campus. We are located in Suite 3130 in the Student Center Monday through Friday.

Involvement is important for any Auburn student, whether you're here for four years or one semester because involvement helps students meet people who are interested in the same things.

Below are some tips specifically for transfer students on how to get involved once at Auburn:

- Check involvement opportunities on AUinvolve
- Contact your SOS orientation leader for tips and advice on getting involved

- Attend interest meetings for organizations. Those dates, times and locations can be found under the Events tab on AUinvolve
 - Fill out your interests profile on AUinvolve to find organizations that are specific to your interests
 - Come to a one-on-one consultation with an Involvement Ambassador in the Office of Student Involvement (3130 AUSC)
 - Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone!
- "Involvement was important to me no matter what school I chose to attend, so getting involved was definitely one of the best choices



I've made as a student here at Auburn," said Meredith Browning, a transfer student who now serves as the Assistant Director of Public Relations for the Involvement Ambassadors. "Meeting other students who were involved helped and encouraged me to get involved. I can honestly say that I have found my home here in student involvement and I hope you do too!"

For more information, please visit wp.auburn.edu/involve/involvement-ambassadors/who-are-we/ or our page on AUinvolve.

Welcome to Auburn, and War Eagle!



Transfer Tip:

Wanting some help to pay for school next year? With the Auburn University Scholarship Opportunity Manager (AUSOM), you can search and apply for scholarships, accept awards, and more.

To be considered for 2017-18 General and Departmental Scholarships, you must submit the application through AUSOM by 4:45pm CST on **March 1**. To receive consideration for need-based scholarships, the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) must be received by **March 1**.

You can find AUSOM on your My Finances tab within AU Access. Additional information about AUSOM, including application completion and submission instructions, can be found on the Office of University Scholarships [website](#).



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

