

# SECRETS TO SOAR

## Insider Tips for Auburn's Transfer Students

### Advisors are here to help! Top Tips from an Academic Advisor

#### Dates To Remember

**Aug 28 - Sept 11:** Drop Course Penalty Days. Dropping a class during this time will result in a \$100 fee per course dropped.

**Sept 8:** Second eBill due. Statements were posted to your eBill on August 17. Check AU Access/eBill for more information.

**Sept 11:** 15th Class Day: Last day to drop from a course with no grade assignment. (See the second August newsletter for more details about dropping classes)

**Sept 15-17:** Family Weekend

**Oct 6:** 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 12-13:** Fall Break (No Classes)

**Oct 19:** 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.

**Nov 3:** Last Day to Withdraw from a course with no grade penalty. "W" assigned.

**Nov 6:** Spring Registration Begins. Be sure to check AU Access in late October for your specific registration time.

**1. Learn your college's advising center or advisor's advising procedures and schedule.**

Each college is different, so you will need to learn what to do for your specific major/minor. One of the best ways to find this information is by visiting the homepage of your college.

**2. Schedule meetings to check in with your advisor throughout the semester and year.**

We want to get to know you better! If you have multiple advisors (i.e. college, minor, honors, athletic), it's important to check in with each of them once a semester/year to make sure you are getting all of the information you need to successfully complete all of your programs.

**3. Show up to your advising appointment on time and prepared.**

If you need to make a list of questions on paper or on your phone to make sure you ask everything you need to, please do it! Be an active participant during your advising session by contributing to the conversation and taking notes of what was discussed so you can reference them later.

**4. Familiarize yourself with the AU Bulletin.**

It can be a great tool when it comes to looking for pre-requisites for a course. This can be especially helpful as you start to get into your upper level major coursework.

**5. Don't be afraid to seek help if you need it.**

There are wonderful academic, emotional, professional, and support resources available to students. If you're ever unsure where to go to get the help you need, your advisor can help refer you to the appropriate resources.

**6. Be honest when we ask how things are going.**

When we ask, it's because we truly want to know how you're doing. We are here to help and we want to help but are unable to do so if we don't know there is a problem.

**7. Advisors will not tell you what to do.**

We can talk to you about your options and discuss the pros and cons but it will ultimately be up to you to make the decision.

**8. If your college has peer advisors, use them!**

They are one of the best resources available to learn about classes for your major and tricks of the trade when it comes to balancing academics with a social life in your specific college.

**9. Be aware of important academic dates and deadlines.**

One of the best places to go to find this information is the academic calendar, which can be found on the Auburn website.

**10. Don't feel like you have to follow the curriculum model for your major exactly as it is shown.**

As a transfer student, your academic path may look different, which is completely okay. Regular meetings with your advisor will help ensure you are on the right path to graduate.

**11. If something is not clear, ask for clarification.**

We sometimes assume that you may already understand something but if you don't, speak up!



**Special thanks to Anna Burchett an Academic Advisor in the College of Sciences and Mathematics for writing this piece.**

#### Transfer Student Spotlight

Transferring to Auburn was a time full of change, challenge, and excitement. I was adjusting to a new school, a new town, and new time management skills. I learned that with the high paced atmosphere of a 4-year university, I would need to conscientiously dedicate a substantial amount of time to each class I was taking and take an active role in my learning. One way I did this was through professors' office

hours. Although the class size was much larger than what I was accustomed to, the professors were still willing to give one-on-one attention during their office hours. I could ask any questions I had and by going to office hours, I was able to develop a relationship with my professors and learn how to be successful in their class. Don't miss out on this great resource because it was critical to my success here at Auburn.



**Hunter McCoy is a Junior majoring in Public Relations from Enterprise, AL**

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## Writing Tips from the Miller Writing Center

By: Jamie McClintock, Undergraduate Peer Writing Consultant

Since moving to The Loveliest Village on the Plains, you've probably noticed that Auburn has a lot of traditions. Drink Toomer's Lemonade, say War Eagle, don't step on the seal, visit the Miller Writing Center. It's true; Auburn students always come to the Miller Writing Center to get help with their papers, projects, and posters. Drinking lemonade might make you a better Auburn fan, but following these writing tips will definitely make you a better writer.

**Tip #1:** Start your assignment early. Fall semester at Auburn is busy, busy, busy. Your Saturdays will disappear quicker than Chick-fil-A chicken biscuits on Monday mornings.

**Tip #2:** Understand your prompt. It's so much easier to navigate Haley Center if you understand that it's laid out in quadrants. In the same way, you will arrive at the end of your paper faster, and

less frustrated, if you know where you're supposed to be going. Read carefully and don't be afraid to ask questions!

**Tip #3:** Remember your audience. You wouldn't yell *Roll Tide* or wear crimson and white at an Auburn football game because you'd be appealing to the wrong audience. You yell *War Eagle* and wear orange and blue because that's appropriate for the audience. Similarly, you should use more formal language in an academic essay



than you do in a text to a friend or a Facebook post. Do what's appropriate for your audience.

**Tip #4:** Let your voice be heard. It's your writing—not anyone else's! If your paper requires an argument or central thesis, you want it to be assertive. Rather than writing: *I think Aubie is a pretty good mascot because he's a tiger*, write: *Aubie deserves the title of best mascot because of his child-like playfulness and adorable stripes*. Using action verbs and strong diction can help you make your thesis strong and clear.

**Tip #5:** Come to the Miller Writing Center! We can help you with any writing at any part of the process at any of our seven wonderful locations. So if you need help with anything from biology labs to ePortfolios, make an appointment with one of our writing consultants at [auburn.mywconline.com](http://auburn.mywconline.com)!

## A Word from the Office of the Registrar about Transfer Credit

By: Cary Curtiss, University Transcript Evaluator

Now that you are here at Auburn and classes have begun, it would be a good time to check your unofficial transcript on AU Access and see how your incoming transfer coursework is listed. Hopefully, all your transfer courses are there, and you can see the corresponding Auburn equivalents. However, it is possible you still have a couple of temporary indicators on your transfer work showing that it is still in process. If so, here is a reminder of what those indicators mean, and what is needed to clear them up.

**PEND 1111 "Pending Trnsfr Equiv"** – This should only remain on your transcript for 2-3 weeks for any one class. After that

point, check with your Academic Advisor to see if they can help you check on the progress of those courses.

**EVAL HOL1 "Syllabus Needed for Evaluation"** – This is somewhat self-explanatory! We just need more information than what we have available in order to evaluate this class. Turn in your syllabus to your academic advisor who will get it evaluated and updated on your transcript.

**EVAL HOL2 "Co-Req/ Conditional Evaluation"** – This means we need to manually check something about this class in order to award you credit. For instance, often two classes from another school need to be taken in conjunction for us to award credit (like a

science lecture and lab). Regardless, again just check with your Academic Advisor about getting the correct credits applied to your record.

If you see a notation that simply says "EVAL HOLD" without specifying one of the two types listed above, that just means that it is one of these two, and your Advisor can help figure out what is needed. Ultimately, your Academic Advisor is there to help you make sure your academic records are correct. Additionally, we here in the Registrar's Office are happy to help you if you have questions. We are in the lower level of Langdon Hall, off the courtyard to the side of the building. Come see us anytime, or feel free to email us if you have any questions at [transfer@auburn.edu](mailto:transfer@auburn.edu)!

### Transfer Tip:

Did you know the Career Center has drop in hours? You can get immediate assistance Monday through Friday from 9-4pm in Mary Martin Hall (room 303). If additional help is needed, they'll help you make an appointment with a Career Counselor. The Auburn Career Center can help you explore majors and career paths, find opportunities to gain experience (through jobs and internships), market yourself through a strong resume and cover letter, practice for a job interview, and help land a job through Handshake (Auburn's job posting platform).



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