

# SECRETS TO SOAR

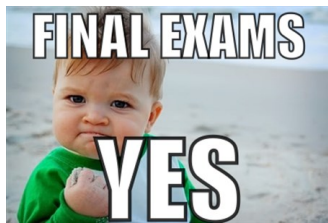
## Insider Tips for Auburn's Transfer Students

### Finals Tips

It may seem like you started classes, but in a blink of an eye, the semester is almost over. With that, comes Finals Week. These are some tips to help you be successful during finals:

- Double check your final exam schedule:** Finals often do not meet during your normal class time so be sure to know when your exams are scheduled.
- Start studying early:** While it may be tempting to wait until the night before your exam to start studying this is not the best way to be successful. Remember these exams are often longer and cover more material so you need more time to prepare. Begin refreshing your memory on some of the early and/or harder chapters now so you have more
- time to understand it and commit it to memory.**
- Be realistic:** Real talk- finals at times can feel like an impossible task without holding yourself to even higher unrealistic standards. You may not be able to do everything up to your normal standards- and that is ok. Take into account your grades, the hours you actually have and what is possible to accomplish, and then act accordingly.
- Spend more time on your highest need classes:** While it may sound obvious, without the proper planning it can be harder to put into practice. Know what you need to make on each exam to get the overall grades you desire and then make sure to give yourself enough time on your more difficult topics/courses. You want to avoid spending a lot of time on topics that you already know or will be barely be covered on an exam.
- Choose a productive environment:** Think back to where you study best. Is it in your
- Plan study breaks:** Remember to plan in breaks to give your mind a rest and then work hard between those breaks. This will help you focus on your work leading up to the break, rather than working aimlessly.
- Get ready for each exam:** Make sure to gather all of the materials you'll need like a pencil, scantron, or watch to keep track of time during the test in advance so you are not stressing right before your exam. You may also want to set extra alarms or ask friends to help make sure you are awake for your tests so you don't accidentally oversleep.

Finally, remember to be healthy during exam week. It isn't helpful to pull all-nighters every night of the week, or to have excess amounts of caffeine. Make sure to get plenty of sleep, stay hydrated, and eat well so you can perform at your best.



### Dates To Remember:

**Dec 6:** First eBill of Spring semester is due. Schedules are subject to cancellation for non-payment.

**Dec 9-13:** Finals

**Dec 12:** Next eBill is posted and will be due Jan 3.

**Dec 21-Jan 5:** University Closed

**Jan 8:** Spring Classes Begin

**Dec 19-16:** You can begin to see your final grades in AU Access. Professors will post final grades during this timeframe and your academic record will be updated at noon and midnight daily.

**Dec 16:** All Final Grades should be posted in AU Access.

**Dec 23-Jan 3:** University Closed

**Jan 14:** Last Day to Add Courses

**Jan 15-29:** Drop Course Penalty Days. Dropping a course during this period will result in a \$100 per course



FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE  
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### Preparing for the Break Tips

It's the winter season, which means breaks from school and spending time with family and old friends. Here are a few things you should do before, during and after your breaks.

Before you leave for Winter Break, take some time to plan out your break and any possible vacations or activities. That way you know exactly what you need to bring home and when you need to be back to campus for the start of the spring semester.

During the break, use this time to fully unwind and reflect on the experiences of the previous semester. Did your classes and your experience here go the way you wanted? If not, use this time to figure out how to make the spring semester better. This is also a

perfect time to reconnect with old friends, and get back into your hobbies. Don't forget to use this time to make sure you are ready for the spring semester (i.e. confirm your spring schedule, plan how to get textbooks).

Going back home after you have developed your independence at Auburn can be a transition. It can be an adjustment because you may still be expected to fit back into the rules and responsibilities you previously had and you could temporarily lose some of your freedoms you had here. Since this can be a transition for both you and your family, make sure to communicate with them and discuss expectations you both have so you are able to find a compromise everyone can live with.

Going home for winter break can also make you realize the things that you miss about home, and make your spring semester a little harder. Know that this is normal and many students can have second semester homesickness. It can be helpful to rely on your support group (either here or back home), talk with Student Counseling & Psychological Services ([auburn.edu/scs/](http://auburn.edu/scs/)), or try to have fun experiences to fill your time here (spring sports, road trips, game nights, students organizations, day trips, etc.)

Enjoy your month break and rejuvenate yourself before the spring semester.

