

SECRETS TO SOAR

Insider Tips for Auburn's Transfer Students

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

Dates To Remember

Oct 4: eBill Due. It was posted on September 12.

Oct 7: 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 10-11: Fall Break (No Classes)

Oct 17: 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 1: Last Day to Withdraw from a course with no grade penalty. "W" assigned.

Nov 4: Spring Registration Begins. Be sure to check AU Access in late October for your specific registration time.

Nov 25-29: Thanksgiving Break

- 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

Choosing to transfer to Auburn University was without a doubt one of the best decisions I've ever made. I am so thankful for the professors that have taught me, the relationships I've built, and the outstanding campus resources that have led me through an amazing experience here at Auburn. One of my biggest takeaways that allowed me to succeed was building good relationships with my professors. Utilizing your professors' office hours is a great tool to help understand your professors' expectations of you. Auburn professors may teach and manage their classes differently than professors from other institutions. I vividly

remember not doing well on a paper in one of my classes during my first semester. It was our very first major assignment, and I was shocked at how bad I had done. I later went to the professor's office hours and he kindly went over what I had done wrong and how I could improve. He also outlined the necessary steps I could take to meet his expectations of the class, and how I could succeed on later assignments down the road. Because of this meeting, my professor and I built a strong professional relationship, and his insight was the boost of confidence that assisted me in receiving an A in his class.



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Gain Experience Now and Build Your Portfolio

By: Addye Buckley-Burnell, Associate Director, Career Development

Welcome to Auburn! You are here now and working toward a degree which means you have already been working hard. Do not stop now; this is step one on your path, but no longer is that enough to land a job or entrance into a graduate school upon graduation. Your classes will give you the knowledge needed, but you need real world application and experience to prove your ability to apply this knowledge. Start early in planning the needed experience while at Auburn to be successful when you graduate.

Know your field: Because every industry and career field is different, it is necessary to know the demands for your particular area. If you are looking to go to graduate school for psychology, you will want to gain research experience and possibly volunteer with populations of interest. If you are going to medical school, job shadowing and volunteering for medical related organizations will be desired. But if you are going for a job in marketing, having an internship and experience with social media marketing or networking/recruitment is helpful. It is not a one size fits all world, so speak with your professors and career counselors in the [University Career Center](#) to develop a plan of action. To get you started,

check out the [Pathways Major Guides for your Major](#).

One of the best ways to see what is expected is to look at job postings. You may not be looking for a job, co-op, or internship right now, but it is helpful for you to see exactly what employers are looking for in applicants early on in your process in order to plan. This may give you insights into experiences or certifications that are needed or may simply give you a realistic view of potential employers and salary expectations. Use [Handshake](#) to see some postings that will help you here.

Develop

Relationships: No one expects you to do this all on your own, but it is up to you to reach out to build relationships. Your professors, advisors, and career counselors are here to help at every step; make the most of these individuals. If you want to leverage these relationships, you need to allow these people to get to know you and ask for the help you need. You will need 3-5 recommendations for all your future endeavors, so start now in forming the relationships with people in your industry. It is not enough to do well in a class to get a solid recommendation from



a professor. They need to know you and be able to speak to your abilities. Ask questions, express interest in the research they are pursuing, and utilize office hours to begin building these relationships.

Build Your Resume: You will need a solid resume to apply for leadership positions, scholarships, or internships/jobs as soon as they are posted. It is best to start early and have a good resume ready to go when needed. This resume may also need to be adjusted to be a curriculum vitae (CV) depending on your goals. Check out our [Job Search Guide](#) to get started and [VMock](#) to review your first draft. Once you are tailoring the resume to a position, visit us during drop-ins (Monday-Friday 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.) to have your document reviewed. Remember this is a living document that you will consistently need to update with your new experiences.

You are not alone to navigate all of this. Use your resources here at Auburn to help you along the way. If you are not sure where to go or what to do next, simply visit the [University Career Center](#) and we will work with you to develop your plan.

UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Transfer Tip:

Are you finding that your study habits are not living up to your class expectations? Schedule an appointment with an Academic Coach (call 334-844-5972 or use [Advise Assist](#)). You will sit down with a professional or graduate student who will help you figure out what is going on and be able to give you personalized strategies to help you improve. An Academic Coach can help you with workload management, academic goal setting and follow through, textbook reading, note taking, memory strategies, test preparation, concentration, time management and much more. Appointments are free unless you miss your appointment.

A Word from the Office of the Registrar about Transfer Credit

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!



FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE
STUDENT AFFAIRS

