



Office of Retention Services

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INSIDE TRACK

July 2010

WELCOME TO ARKANSAS TECH

Each month, you will receive the monthly newsletter (**Inside Track**) from the Office of Parent Relations. We hope this newsletter answers questions you might have, along with sharing timely suggestions to help you during the upcoming months. If there is anything that I can do for you, please do not hesitate to ask. That is why I am here.

President Dr. Robert C. Brown would also like to welcome you to Arkansas Tech University. Please make plans to attend the "Parent Welcome Session" at **1:30 pm on August 21st in Witherspoon Auditorium** (next to the Library and Technology Center). Dr Brown will welcome parents and give you some great advice on how to handle the upcoming year. Along with Dr Brown, Vice President of Student Services Dr. Gary Biller and the entire Student Services Staff will be on hand to answer any questions that you might have.

AUGUST 21ST! INCOMING FRESHMEN!

Living On Campus

On August 21st, **freshmen** from around the state and nation will be moving on the campus of Arkansas Tech University. This will be an exciting time and we are ready. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Residential Life at 479-968-0376, or you can visit their website at www.atu.edu/reslife/. If your student lives on the first, third, or fifth floor—the earliest you can move in is **8:30 am**. If your student lives on the second or fourth floor—it is **10:00 am**. This will allow a smooth flow of traffic and help everyone handle this huge transition. If you are in "overflow," you will check in at the Residential Housing office on the second floor of the Doc Bryan Building anytime after **9:00 am**.

Keeping your family connected!



PARKING & STUDENT ID'S

Students may pick up their hangtags anytime on or after August 2nd at Public Safety. Hangtags are color-coded to designate where students can park. The student must have their ID with them (which they can pick up from Student Accounts on or after August 2nd).

When students pick up their hangtags, they will also receive a campus map. This map will show locations where the student will be allowed to park. Make sure your student knows the regulations because there is no “grace period.” Starting Monday, August 23rd, if a student parks in a location designated a different color—they will be ticketed.

Your student should **never** park in a handicapped space unless they have a handicapped tag; the fine is mandated by the state of Arkansas and is \$100.00.

LIVING OFF CAMPUS

Living off campus, sometimes students feel left out, or do not know where to go to find out information about activities and organizations on campus. Encourage your off-campus student to find out what is happening by taking these three steps:

1. Visit the Off Campus website. Students can go to www.atu.edu/retserv and click on “Off Campus Students” or join the Facebook group by searching “ATU Off Campus Students.” Timely information is available.
2. Visit the Student Services website. While there, a student can check out the upcoming activities and the list of student organizations that might interest them. www.atu.edu/stuserv.
3. Meet with their B2E mentor. Each student is assigned a mentor from the Bridge to Excellence (B2E) program. This mentor will help them with any questions they might have. Mentors are an excellent source for information about activities and organizations on campus.
4. Ask classmates and/or instructor. The classroom itself can be one of the best places to find out about upcoming activities or campus organizations to join.

COMMUTER (OFF-CAMPUS) STUDENTS

If your student will be driving to class, here are a few tips that will help him or her start the year off right:

First and foremost, your student **MUST** park in their designated zone. For off-campus students, it is designated with a **YELLOW** hangtag and **YELLOW** signs.

Helpful hint—Your student should arrive on campus at least **30 minutes early** for the first week to ten days. During this time, many students are unfamiliar with the parking rules and regulations, so your student might find it difficult to find a parking space. Recommend that they find a parking place that is in a central location of their classes so they can keep books and other items in the car for quick access when needed.

TIPS FOR MOVE-IN DAY

From PaperClip Productions, here are a few tips that might help you during the big day:

1. **Give yourself time.** You want to make sure to have enough time to help your student unpack and arrange a little. Leave the final decorating and organization to your student and their roommate. You may want to take time to get to know your student's roommate and family too. Planning to grab a bite to eat after both students are settled could serve as a good transition for everyone.
2. **Be patient!** Lots of people will be trying to do the same thing all at once. A friendly smile, door held, or a patient pause will go a long way.
3. **Plan for the weather.** It is usually very hot that day, so make sure to have plenty of water, and dress accordingly.
4. **Pay attention to the directions provided.** Things go best when families follow the well-thought out process designed to make move-in the smoothest process possible.
5. **Keep in mind the emotions everyone may be feeling.** Freshmen are probably feeling excitement, anxiety, and even a little bit of fear. Family members may be dealing with a whole host of adjustment issues of their own.
6. **Have everything done the night before.** Start early and be ready to go in the morning. Make a written list of everything to bring and check it off as you pack it in the car.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Seasonal Student Issues

First-time students can face difficult issues. There is a seasonal ebb and flow when it comes to student issues; here are a few things your freshmen student may be experiencing this month:

- ◇ *Feeling sad about leaving established friends and family at home.*
- ◇ *Concern about issues of belonging and finding a comfortable place on campus.*
- ◇ *Excitement coupled with anxiety about making a fresh start.*
- ◇ *Worry about academics being “hard” and beyond their abilities.*
- ◇ *Thinking about what type of first impression they’ll make.*
- ◇ *Concern about roommates and housing (if living on campus).*
- ◇ *Wondering what to pack and what to leave at home since space will be limited.*
- ◇ *Possibly transitioning into a long-distance relationship or deciding to end a current one.*

◇ **More Move-in tips...**

Some important things you might bring on August 21st.

- ◇ *If you have a hand dolly—bring it. This can help with heavy boxes.*
- ◇ *Pack only the essentials. You don’t have to take everything home in December, but you will in May.*
- ◇ *Bring tools. A small tool kit with screwdrivers and pliers could be VERY handy.*
- ◇ *Don’t forget treasures. Photos of friends and loved ones, as well as soft bedding and pillows, make for a more comforting environment.*
- ◇ *Items like an Ethernet cable, extension cord, shower caddy, and shower shoes are other items one might bring.*

These are things you SHOULD NOT bring on Move-in Day.

- ◇ *Winter clothes. Your student will have plenty of time to bring those at a later time, if they need them at all.*
- ◇ *Hot plates and toaster ovens. These are “open coil” and aren’t allowed.*
- ◇ *Candles and incense. No flames. No fires.*
- ◇ *Extra furniture. Beds, mattresses, chests of drawers, desks, book case, and mirrors are provided.*
- ◇ *Nails and Screws. These are not allowed so instead bring poster putty and adhesives.*
- ◇ *Pets. No pets allowed.*

MAIL TIME!

From the Arkansas Tech University Post Office...

If you would like to send a letter to your student, please use the following format...

Student's Name

Arkansas Tech University

(Box Number) Tech Lane

Russellville, AR 72801

The University has an agreement with UPS and Federal Express, so you can also send PACKAGES to the same address.

ELVIS IS COMING...

On September 18, at 3:00 pm, Arkansas Tech University will host TWO award winning Elvis Tribute Artists! First, Cody Slaughter will bring his excitement to the stage sharing Elvis' early recordings. His looks and dancing will make you believe it is Elvis himself in person. "Hound Dog," "All Shook Up," and "Heartbreak Hotel" are just a few of the songs that will take you back. Then, drift back to the 70's and be mesmerized by Tony Witt as he does a rendition of Elvis that will make you think you are at the Hilton in Las Vegas circa 1975. "My Way," "Suspicious Minds," "In the Ghetto," and many other Elvis classics, will be part of a concert you will never forget.



UNDECIDED? NO PROBLEM!

Is your student unsure about his/her major and career? Consider suggesting career development. Career Development Specialist Jeff Hudnall provides a series of personality assessment tools that will be used to help your student find his/her ideal major or career based upon interests, motivational traits, personality, values, abilities, aptitudes, personal work style, and work environment preferences. Have your student contact our Career Development office at (479) 968-0278 or email jhudnall@atu.edu for more information.

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Updating Contact Information

If you are already a member of the TECH PARENT ASSOCIATION, but need to update your information, please go to...

www.atu.edu/parents.

TECH
Parent Association