



Office of Retention Services

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2010 Family Day

**Saturday,
September
18th, 2:00
pm.**

INSIDE TRACK

June 2010

TECHKNOWLEDGE

PARENT ORIENTATIONS FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

Arkansas Tech University is once again presenting summer orientations for freshmen students **and** their parents. Named "Techknowledge," these orientations have been very successful. While freshmen meet each other and learn about the university, parents gather in a separate setting to hear speakers from areas such as Housing, Campus Security, Health Services, Counseling Services, Career Services, Financial Aid, and more. If you know a parent of an incoming freshman, please let them know about our student/parent orientations. There will be three orientations in July on July 1, 15, and 22.

More information can be obtained at www.atu.edu/orientation.

SURVEY RESULTS

The Office of Parent Relations appreciates you taking the time to fill out the survey for this past year. The results are in, and it seems that you are satisfied with our office and its services. We do our best to answer all questions and help you in any way possible. With the survey results in hand, we will strive to make the office and the university even better.

**For the latest news and information about Arkansas Tech University,
visit TECH NEWS at www.arkansastechnews.com.**

Keeping your family connected!



"I'M GONNA BID MY BLUES GOODBYE!"

Do any of the following statements describe your ATU student during the summer-time?

- A. Can't wait to get back to school in the fall!
- B. Working hard earning summer money to pay the bills for next fall.
- C. Sleeping in 'till noon everyday, recovering from a busy school year.
- D. Having doubts about getting back to college in the fall.

If the answer "D" applies to your son or daughter, don't panic! The summer between a student's first and second year in college can be a time of questioning the whole "college thing." A busy, challenging year has passed, and sometimes the thought of coming back in August is overwhelming. Here's a bit of advice for those of you who may have a student who is questioning returning to college this fall:

1. **Financial worries.** Affording the next year of college can be a big worry for student and families, especially in our current economic climate. Our Financial Aid Office is always ready to help students and families who have questions about affording school. Never assume that assistance is not available to you—be sure to ask! It's also important to remember to think of college as an investment. It can be a challenge to get the resources to make it happen, but the opportunities that a college degree brings are very much worth it!
2. **Career Questions.** Another common issue is anxiety related to *career* and *major* choices. Some parents may be hearing their student say something like, "**Why should I go back to college right now when I just don't know what I want to do with my life?**" The truth is that many (probably most) college students do not feel settled when it comes to their choice of career or college major. While there is no such thing as a magic crystal ball that can tell students what career or major to choose, the folks in Career Services are always ready to help students deal with these kind of questions (yes, they are open during the summer). Remember, students have until they earn 45 credits to declare a major, and it's also very common for students to change majors during their time in college. Students who take time off to "figure things out" often find it difficult to come back to college. As our Advising Center says on their website, "the best place for an undecided student to be is on a college campus."
3. **Motivation.** Yes, the first year of college has been a lot of work. Some students find summer to be an easy time—sleeping in late, playing video games, watching movies, hanging out with friends, etc. It's important to unwind, but it's also important not to get too lazy! Some students never lose their sense of motivation; school could start up tomorrow and they'd be ready to get right back at it! However, some students will find their levels of motivation drop a bit and then return later in the summer as the break starts to "get old." In other cases, students may struggle to find the motivation to want to take on their next year of college. The best thing a parent can do to keep students motivated is to help them remember the long term goal — a college degree, which equals a lifetime of opportunities in the future! Other ways to keep motivation flowing during the summer are to pick up a summer job, look for volunteer opportunities (especially good for students who are anxious about career or major choices), or identify some worthwhile projects to complete before school starts back up.

Submitted by Matthew M. Hauger
Associate Dean/Director of Student Success

THE ROLE OF CAMPUS SECURITY

Increased officer presence and vigilance on campuses nationwide have raised questions about the role of security at colleges and universities. While many like to think so, higher education institutions are not immune from violence, crimes, and other legal issues. Most campus security departments function like any other local or state police agency. The police officers are present to maintain safety and order, as well as to educate students on personal safety. Most campus police departments are responsible for:

- _ conducting regular patrols of buildings and grounds via foot, bicycle, and/or vehicle
- _ responding to mental and physical health emergencies and facilitating the response of the appropriate professionals
- _ enforcing parking regulations
- _ confronting violations of campus, local, and/or federal law
- _ notifying the campus of potential and actual occurrences of crime activity
- _ providing escort services
- _ looking out for students' safety
- _ presenting crime prevention seminars
- _ maintaining and reporting crime statistics
- _ helping maintain security and order at campus events

First and foremost, campus security officials provide help and protection. Students should always feel comfortable calling campus police for assistance – at any time of day or night. You should too. **(TECH SECURITY- 479-968-0222)** If you are concerned about your student, calling campus police is your best bet. The department may be able to notify your student that you are trying to reach him and request that he call home or put you in touch with the appropriate professionals on campus. There is often an after-hours on-call system in place on campuses.

The campus security department can page professional staff members to assist in real emergencies. Campus security rarely gets the respect it deserves. Many people don't realize that they have received the same training and possess the same credentials as the police officers we see in towns and cities. In fact, campus police departments are often comprised of current and retired police officers. They work in collaboration with local police and fire departments to provide a safe and secure campus community.

Campus Crime Reporting

Students often have an unrealistic idea about the level of safety on their campus. How aware is your student of the most commonly committed crimes on her campus? Does she know how to find out this information?

The Clery Act, a landmark federal law, requires colleges across the United States to disclose information about crimes on and around campus. This includes publishing an annual report of statistics, notifying the community about crimes that pose a safety threat, and maintaining a public crime log.

The U.S. Department of Education is responsible for enforcing this law. The Clery Act applies to most colleges, whether public or private. Those found in violation of the act can be fined and become ineligible for federal financial aid funding. In most cases, crime statistics can be found on a college's campus security website. If not, encourage your student to find out where to get a copy of the report of statistics. Additionally, ensure your student is aware of how the institution notifies the campus community of potential/actual crimes. Though there are professionals available to protect the campus community, your student's personal safety is her responsibility.

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TECH CAMPUS SECURITY

Staffed by certified police officers, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) enforces federal, state, and local laws in its jurisdiction, as well as campus traffic and parking regulations. The enforcement of these laws is tempered with an educational philosophy which supports the mission, goals, and objectives of the University. At least one officer is on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. DPS provides a safe, secure environment that will maximize the educational growth and development of TECH's students. In addition, DPS also serves faculty, staff, visitors, and other members of the TECH community.

DPS maintains a close working relationship with the Russellville Police, Pope County Sheriff's Office, and the Arkansas State Police. Off-campus criminal activities in which any University-recognized organization is involved are reported to the University by the local police agencies.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

TECH has an early warning system as an additional means of communicating with the campus community during emergency situations. Students and parents who register receive a text message warning in the case of a serious campus emergency. To join the system, text the word **"tech"** to the number **50618**. Leave the subject line blank. After the message is sent, you will receive a confirmation message.

UNDECIDED? NO PROBLEM!

Is your student unsure about his/her major and career? Consider suggesting career development. The Career Services Office will provide 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 for more information.

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ON CAMPUS COUNSELING SERVICES

Did you know that the University has counseling services that are FREE to the students? Located in Doc Bryan Building, room 233, counselor Valerie Breashears or Dr. Larry Root would be glad to speak to your student about academic situations, behaviors, relationships, and feelings that students might be having. Office hours are Monday—Friday, 8:00 am until 5:00 pm.

479-968-0276.

TECH
Parent Association