

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITIONING FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

ENROLLMENT

Make sure your daughter has:

- Accepted or declined her offer of admission
- Followed the procedures for accepting admission offer, which usually requires a deposit by May 1, or another date as stated by the college, to secure her placement in the freshman class
- NOTE: if a student does not satisfy her enrollment deposit by the date stated by her college the college could cancel her offer of admission
- Your daughter will need to submit a final transcript to the college where she enrolls—**NOTE: students will complete a College Choice Survey in late April where they will designate the college they will attend next fall; the College Counseling Office sends her final transcript to the college indicated**

HOUSING

- Make sure your daughter has completed housing application requirements and secured housing (whether she's living on or off campus)
- Ask your daughter to submit housing & academic interest choices if requested---many colleges allow students to specify their top residence hall choices and allow them to apply to join living learning communities where they can live with other students who share similar interests

FINANCIAL AID

- Make sure you have applied for financial aid to determine your daughter's eligibility for grant, loan, and work-study programs by completing the FAFSA---Free Application for Federal Aid and/or the CSS Profile as required by colleges
- Be sure to follow-up with any information needed by the college to complete the financial aid process
- Have your daughter accept any scholarships and/or financial aid awards by the specified deadlines; not doing so could result in these awards being cancelled

HEALTH INFORMATION

Make sure your daughter:

- Submits required health history information, which usually includes proof of required immunizations
- Submits proof of vaccination against bacterial meningitis (an immunization given within 5 years of the date of intended enrollment) or meets certain requirements for declining such a vaccination; many colleges, especially those in Texas, may not allow students to register for classes until this requirement is satisfied
- Submits proof of medical insurance as required by the college

TECHNOLOGY RELATED ITEMS

Make sure your daughter:

- Knows and accepts the electronic identification and password assigned by her college, i.e., UTEID, TAMU UIN; many colleges require students to use their university issued electronic ID when completing official university business
- Knows and accepts the email assigned by the university; many colleges require students to use their university assigned email when completing official university business
- Knows the computer policies of her specific institution

ORIENTATION AND PRE-COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

Make sure your daughter:

- Registers for and attends freshman orientation, attends all academic sessions, meets with her advisor, and participates in sessions designed to help her learn more about her college (***Due to the current situation with Covid-19, many colleges are hosting online orientation programs***)
- Takes any required placement exams at orientation (if applicable) and requests course credit from these and other exams (AP exams) if eligible; she should check with her academic advisor for assistance
- Decides which courses to take by reviewing the college course book or online course guide and meeting with her academic advisor
- Registers for classes and verifies that none of them was cancelled before the semester begins
- Signs up for summer camp programs designed to help her learn more about the campus and its traditions, i.e., TAMU Fish Camp, UT Austin Camp Texas, UTD Comet Camp
- Verifies that her final transcript was received by the date indicated at her college; some colleges and universities will not allow students to register for the spring semester if this transcript has not been received
- Researches the best way to obtain her textbooks, i.e., students may buy them new or used, borrow them from friends, rent them from online sources, etc.
- Your daughter should obtain a parking permit if she will have a car on campus
- Ask your daughter to check her student information portal to ensure she has completed all of the required tasks needed before beginning college
- Make sure your daughter has updated her emergency contact information with her college

CAMPUS AND COLLEGE LIFE

Have your daughter:

- Plan which welcome week events she will attend
- Review opportunities to become involved in student life
- Decide if she will seek a job on campus
- Know how to practice good safety habits
- Learn about the resources available to help her have a positive college experience, i.e., learning assistance, counseling services, health related services, etc.

- Learn some basic life skills such as:
 - How to wash, dry and iron clothes
 - How to cook basic meals, brew a cup (or pot) of coffee or tea
 - How to organize and keep safe personal and academic records (medical, insurance, academic, etc.)
 - Keep track of all Internet accounts, including logins and passwords
 - Know how to handle money matters: manage a personal checking account, responsibly use a credit card, know how to pay bills, and how to manage a budget
 - How to use public transportation, including buses, trains, and taxis
 - If she has a car, know how to put gas in it and service it when needed (oil, water, air in tires)
 - Make doctor's appointments, and have the names of a recommended dentist and/or doctor if needed
 - Deal with emergencies: medical, car accident (minor and major), weather, you name it
- Discuss her relationship with you moving forward, which can include:
 - Determining when, how often, and by which means you will communicate with each other
 - Establishing guidelines for how often you will visit each other (parents visiting campus and your daughter coming home)
 - Establishing guidelines for how you can or can't assist your daughter with academic issues---she is in college now, professors expect that any communication regarding her classes occurs between the student and professor
 - Establishing guidelines for financial and other types of support
- Create a list of items to take to college. College Board has a great 'Off to College Checklist' to reference at: [Off to College Checklist](#)

The following sources served as references for this tip sheet:

[UT Austin Freshman Checklist](#)

[UT Dallas Freshman Admissions](#)

[Texas A&M University Freshman Admissions](#)

[University of Illinois Freshman Admissions](#)

[Seven Things To Do Before Starting College](#)

[6 Things High School Grads Need To Do Before Leaving for College](#)

[30 Practical Things Students Need to Know](#)