DATES & DEADLINES

Sept 1  Late Schedule Changes
Sept 2  Student Involvement Fair
Sept 2  Study Abroad General Information Session
Sept 7  Labor Day (Classes do not meet)
Sept 9  Official 12th Class Day/Last Day to Drop with 100% Refund
Sept 9  Fall 2015 Tuition Adjustment Forms Due
Sept 11 Black and Latino Playwrights Conference
Sept 22 Last Day to Drop a First 8 Week Class
Sept 25 Tomas Rivera Award Conference

PERFORMANCES, EVENTS & SPORTS

Sept 2  Bobcat Bash
Sept 12 Prairie View A&M vs. Texas State Football
Sept 15 Faculty Artist: Russell Haight, Saxophone
Sept 16 Robert Rodriguez: LBJ Distinguished Lecture
Sept 18-19 Family Weekend
Sept 23 Faculty Artist: Mark Anthony Cruz, Guitar
Sept 27 Arkansas State vs. Texas State Women’s Soccer
Family Weekend 2015

Family Weekend is just 3 weeks away! We can’t wait to spend a fun-filled weekend with you and your Bobcats! We have some exciting new additions to the Family Weekend lineup.

On Saturday join us for a free tour of the Performing Arts Center, one of several new buildings on campus. No reservation is required.

If you’re looking for a bit of adventure and a chance to explore the natural beauty of San Marcos, schedule your paddle raft trip along the San Marcos River with the Outdoor Center for Friday night or Saturday morning. Cost is $20 per participant.

Are you joining us for the Family Weekend Welcome Dinner? In addition to a delicious BBQ meal, we will have opportunities for student success.

Tips from the Library

Opportunities for Student Success

The office of Parent and Family Relations is located within the Department of Retention Management and Planning. In addition to providing resources for our parents and families, Retention Management also assists our students through quality programming and services.

Brilliant Bobcats College Success Series is a workshop series focused on teaching students various strategies and skills for college success. The series features speakers and facilitators from academic advising centers, Financial Aid and Scholarships, Healthy Cats, PACE Mentoring and Academic Coaching, Retention Management and Planning, Student Involvement, the Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC) and the Writing Center.

Bobcat Bond is a mentoring program provided for second year students and beyond to learn from faculty, staff and student mentors who serve as coaches, role models, advisors, guides and referral agents.

FACES: Foster Care Alumni Creating Educational Success is a campus-wide network of support to assist students who grew up in the foster care system achieve educational success by focusing on recruitment, retention and graduation.

Retention Management and Planning also provides several Transfer Student Resources. Our newest programs include a group for our students who are parents, as well as a group for our out of state students. Encourage your students to contact us if they would like to participate and be involved in any of our initiatives.

Have Any Suggestions on How to Improve the Newsletter? We Want To Hear From You!

The Albert B. Alkek Library is an important information resource of the Texas State community. The library collection includes over 1.5 million printed volumes, 99,700+ electronic journals, 506,000 e-books, and 430+ databases. The best part? It is all available to your student for free!

September is a busy time for all your Bobcats, but Alkek Library can help them keep up and keep connected!

• Get research help in person at the Research & Information Desk, or by phone, chat, text or email.

• Tutoring at the Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC).

• Use the Learning Commons for studying and collaborative group work.

• Visit University Archives to discover the rich history of Texas State dating back to founding of Southwest Texas State Normal School in 1899.

The Library staff are ready to help your student succeed!
WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR STUDENT

Written by Christina Zavala  *Adapted from You’re Own Your Own (But I’m Here If You Need Me) by Marjorie Savage

Each fall, students start the year at various stages in their undergraduate career. Some students are starting their first year and transitioning into life at Texas State, while others are entering their final year and thinking about their future plans. No matter what year they are, students will encounter a variety of critical issues they must navigate.

The first year is all about change as students are trying to transition into college life and being away from home. Some critical issues may involve time management, study skills, note taking, homesickness, and sharing space with a roommate. It can be challenging for students to balance academics (classes, homework, and exams) with their own personal and social life. Oftentimes, students may acquire excessive or insufficient habits when it comes to sleep, nutrition, school, and their social life. Bottom line—balance is key. Make sure your students take advantage of some of our many resources for additional materials and workshops: SLAC (Student Learning Assistance Center), Brilliant Bobcats, Student Support Services, and the Counseling Center. It’s important that you provide your students with as much support as possible during this transitional period and help them cope and develop strategies to navigate this unfamiliar territory.

Sophomore year often involves the internalization of personal values, forming deeper relationships/ friendships, and managing the responsibilities that come with living off campus. Because students already have one year of school under their belt, they may feel like they have everything figured out and become complacent. It’s important that students maintain a good amount of academic rigor and maintain a successful GPA. At this point, students may feel more comfortable with their time management skills that they may want to explore different job opportunities. The best kind of employment your student may seek is an on campus job. Many offices on campus understand the academic demands on students and are willing to work with their class schedules, meanwhile providing support and encouragement throughout their collegiate journey. By the end of their sophomore year, students are typically expected to declare a major and determine what minor they would like to pursue. Encourage students to meet with an academic advisor, especially if they are undecided on their major. Students are at a ripe time to pursue their passions and figure out what their interests are through their electives and student organizations.

By junior year, students are usually taking classes for their major and minor. They know the campus like the back of their hand and have established a well-oiled routine for student success. Students may decide this is the time to study abroad while also getting some credits out of the way. They may seek out internships throughout the year in preparation for graduate school or a career after graduation. Oftentimes, students will start to seek out leadership positions on campus and in various organizations if they haven’t done so already. For many students, though, junior year can be the toughest to navigate. Some critical issues may involve: switching majors, raising/ maintaining grades, thinking about the future, staying on track for graduation, and seeking out new opportunities to distinguish oneself from the crowd.

Senior year—In ideal circumstances, students will have a pretty manageable class load (usually around 12 hours), especially if they were strategic in taking on an increased class load during their first three years. Some critical issues may involve: balancing priorities, facing against time, facing the unknown, maintaining good grades, coping with goodbyes, preparing for job interviews, applying for graduate school, fulfilling graduation requirements, and applying for graduation by the due date. Students are also deciding between graduate school and entering the workforce after graduation. If graduate school is a consideration, students should know what schools they are applying to and research any additional requirements for admission such as the Graduate Record Exam or a professional school test. Students should set achievable and early deadlines for submitting a Statement of Purpose and the Graduate Record Exam if they are applying to graduate school. Oftentimes, students will have the opportunity to explore and examine themselves as individuals while being exposed to new ideas along the way. It’s all part of the process as students develop into young adults so remember to be patient throughout all of this transition. Remember to offer up as much support as you can and be a coach and mentor along the way!

Author Note: Christina Zavala is a member of the Parent and Family Relations Team and a recent graduate of the Student Affairs in Higher Education Master’s program at Texas State University.

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

The Office of Disability Services helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment. Ensuring students are in an environment where they feel included and heard is core to the ODS mission. ODS does many things, but some ways in which they foster a supportive and inclusive environment are by building and maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, promoting disability awareness among all members of the university community, and by providing guidance regarding university policies and procedures to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Some services ODS provides include but are not limited to:
- Approval of accommodations for academic exams and quizzes
- Assistance in accessing adaptive computer equipment
- Alternative text/audio books
- Disability management counseling
- Information and referral to on-campus and off-campus resources
- Liaison and advocacy between students, faculty and staff
- Volunteer note takers
- Referral for tutoring
- Special Groups Registration of classes

For more information, please contact the ODS office at 512.245.3451 or at ods@txstate.edu.