



First-Generation Start to School Checklist

Each month, we'll send you a checklist that provides you recommendations to be successful in not only earning your degree but becoming part of the academic and UT Tyler community.

August 30 – Sept. 3

- The University operates under an [academic calendar](#) that includes important dates. These dates have meaning for different reasons that have an impact on financial aid, refunds, grades, and final exams. The [census date](#) is the final date for many enrollment-related actions, including adding courses, changing sections, or dropping courses without incurring grades of “W” or “Q”. This is the last date that students can drop a course and receive a “W” or “Q”, after this point students can no longer formally drop, and will receive a grade based upon the work they have completed. The census date for the 15 week long semester is tomorrow Sept. 3rd.

Sept. 6th-10th

- The census date has passed, if you are struggling with a course and are considering a withdrawal, you need to be fully informed of the consequences of this action.
 - Meet with your advisor to discuss your plan for timely graduation, when is the course offered next, and how this will affect your [6 allotted drops over your entire undergraduate career](#).
 - Meet with your financial aid counselor to determine how this will affect your financial aid.
 - Dropping courses has different implications for special populations such as International Students, Athletes, and students using Veteran's Benefits, so if you fall in to one of these categories, you will need to meet with those offices as well.
- Sept. 6th is the Labor Day Holiday! Enjoy your long weekend and take advantage of this time to finalize your system of accountability and look in [Patriots Engage](#) to see what events your resident life team has to offer. Get involved and have fun!
- If you are in online only courses, check your due dates in either your syllabus or canvas for each course.
- Look at your syllabi for upcoming writing assignments and schedule a time with [The Writing Center](#) to get started.

Sept. 13th-17th

- If you signed up for an [installment plan](#) to pay your balance, check your first due date. Many of the plans have a due date of Sept. 15th for the next installment.
- [Student Government Association](#) (SGA) represents your voice on campus, and is comprised of all students enrolled at UT Tyler, SGA assists the university in identifying -- and communicating to the university community -- the interests, programs and goals of the majority of students. The association also assists in providing students with programs to meet their needs. Check their website to see when the next meeting is and plan to attend.
- [PASS tutoring](#) and [SI](#) opened, check these websites to schedule your appointment with tutoring and to see when your SI sessions are being offered.
- Attend a [virtual FAQ with your Career Coach](#). Examples of questions to ask could include:
 - What is Handshake?
 - When do I need to create my Resume' document
 - Do I really need to consider internships as a Freshman or Sophomore? Why?
 - Why do I need to schedule an appointment with my Career Coach?
 - What if I change majors, how do I know who my new Career Coach will be?

Sept. 20-24th

- You will be submitting your first major project/exam, if you do not do well, meet with your faculty to see how you can improve.
- During this meeting with your faculty, to go over questions you missed to see if you did not retain

information from a particular source, such as: lectures, books, or supplemental documents. This may inform you of areas you can improve upon whether it be reading comprehension, note taking, missed lectures, etc. Once you pinpoint a possible weakness in your learning comprehension, you can work to improve.

Sept. 27th-30th

- Your midterm grades should start appearing in Canvas. Some instructors do not submit midterm grades, if you feel these would be beneficial, you can encourage your instructors to submit this information.
- Call your parents or others in your family support system to let them know how you are doing!
- Join our [I'm First Facebook Group](#) for helpful hints and important information.

Academic Resources:

Check out the Academic Supports available to you and see what could help you be successful in your course. These include:

- Your Academic Advisor – you can see who that is in myUTTyler and EAB-Navigate.
- [PASS Tutoring Center](#): The PASS Tutoring Center supports a variety of courses.
- [Supplemental Instruction](#) (SI): SI is a series of weekly peer-assisted study sessions in courses identified by previous students as difficult.
- [Upswing](#): (24/7 Online Tutoring): Upswing is a free, confidential, and convenient way to receive help in nearly all of UT Tyler's undergraduate courses. Use your UT Tyler credentials to log in to this resource.
- [The Writing Center](#): The Writing Center provides all undergraduate and graduate students a place to work on their writing projects and skills. There are tutoring options as well as workshops available to support you in your academic writing.
- [Math Learning Center](#): The Math Learning Center provides drop-in tutoring for lower-level math courses throughout the week. The MLC also has computer workstations for your use.
- Our Library Liaisons: UT Tyler has an incredible staff of librarians ready to assist you. [Discipline/major library liaisons](#): are available to support you and you can also schedule appointments for research consultations. In addition, the Robert R. Muntz library's Head of University Archives and Special Collections can assist you with scholarly communications, primary sources, and archive materials.
- Digital Success Toolkits: Digital Support Toolkits are supplemental materials generated by faculty to help you be successful in targeted courses typically taken by our freshman and sophomore population. Students registered in Digital Support Toolkits supported courses will find these in their Canvas dashboard. You don't have to register – just take advantage of this great resource
- Faculty Office Hours

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Sarah Bowdin, M.S.

Assistant VP for Academic Success



3900 University Blvd. | Tyler, TX 75799

903.566.7057 | Office: LIB 424

[Click here](#) to schedule a virtual meeting

Your Success. Our Passion.

