



Good Advice

The newsletter of the Advising Center at Texas Tech

The Advising Center at Texas Tech exists to equip, empower, guide and encourage students and their families in the pursuit and attainment of their educational goals.

MARCH 5, 2007

Standing Apart from the Herd

What every student and parent needs to know about preparing for college ... and excelling here.



DISCOVERY!

Choosing a major and career is an important step in your first year of college. By using the DISCOVERY! program you don't not lose time and money. Instead, you spend your first year discovering who you are, what you want out of life, and creating an educational plan to get you there. "What major really fits you?" It is a big question ... and we are here to help.

WWW.DISCOVERY.TTU.EDU

McNair Scholars Program

So you're an overachiever, huh? Sweet. Ron McNair, a first generation college graduate and researcher, was an overachiever we all can look up to. In his memory, the McNair Scholars pursue postgraduate research and degrees beyond the typical college diploma. Interested? Great.

WWW.MCNAIRSCHOLARS.TTU.EDU

Welcome to University Day. Just showing up here is an accomplishment in itself for many students. Some are realizing that they are the first in their families to attend college. Some will become the youngest in a long line of siblings and relatives who have become college graduates. Wherever in this spectrum you may fall, you are welcome here at Texas Tech University.

However, as you travel about from event to event

today, you may be feeling a little like one small person floating aimlessly in an enormous herd. We know how that feels and have prepared this guide to tuck away until you return home. When things calm down, pull it out, and take some time to assess your progress in preparing for college. Whether you're in 7th grade or 12th, the first step to reaching your goals is often the hardest. We hope this advice will help you in your journey.

7th, 8th, & 9th Grade

Four foundational items for your checklist.

1. Parents, make sure students are on the highest track for college-bound students.
2. Students can take the first year of foreign language like Spanish on the Recommended Track in the 8th grade.
3. Students can take Algebra I on the Recommended Track in the 8th grade.
4. The second and third year of a foreign language, such as Spanish, must be taken in grades 9-12. If at all possible, continue to take foreign language as a Senior.

High School Sophomores

Time to get it in gear.

1. Get on the "Recommended or Advanced" diploma track. Do not settle for the Basic Diploma Track. Get it in writing. The difference between taking courses that lead to the Recommended/Advanced track versus the Basic track could make the difference of you receiving a full Texas Grant and additional matching money. If you are eligible, the total of these two (without additional aid) could potentially pay for tuition and [continued on page 2]

Your Junior Year

Movin' on up ...

1. Improve your Class Rank. At this point you probably only have one or two more semesters to affect this number, and your placement can impact your acceptance into college. Keep your goals in mind!
2. Take the TASP now. Knock it out of the park.
3. Take the ACT or SAT at least 2 times this year unless your score is one of the top two scores possible. [continued on page 2]

So You're a Senior ...

We welcome the class of 2007.

1. Confirm the updated entrance requirements for each university you are considering: ACT/SAT scores required, class rank, GPA, etc.
2. Retake the ACT or SAT to improve your score unless your score is one of the top two scores possible.
3. Use this last semester to finish strong with the best GPA possible. Make the most of every moment to prepare for college, even while enjoying your last months before leaving home.

TTU Prelaw Program

Law School. Really? That's brave. Don't be intimidated, though. With your drive and determination, plus a little direction and encouragement, it can be yours for the taking. While starting a degree in law may be four or more years away, preparing for law school starts today. The TTU Prelaw Program is here to walk with you through the application process, planning your finances, and preparing for the LSAT exam. Law School is waiting and the competition will be fierce. Will you be ready?

**WWW.PRELAW.
TTU.EDU**

PEGASUS Program for First Generation College (FGC) Students

Get ready to fly. Your parents didn't graduate from a four-year college, and that means that you're the first in your family to really learn about college through the experience of being here. PEGASUS is here to help you explore with purpose and succeed with panache. Yeah, panache - I'm not talking flapjacks. Pegasus is the mythological horse that can fly. You are the one in your family who will go beyond what you've dreamed. You are now cleared for takeoff.

WWW.FGC.TTU.EDU

High School Sophomores

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- fees each year. This is not loan money. You do not have to pay back this grant money. If you were eligible, this amount of money would potentially pay for your tuition and fees at Texas Tech.
2. Do well on your TAKS Test. If you fail any part, you will have to take the whole TASP Test. By this point, you're likely to do fine, so don't stress over it. Just make sure to take it seriously and seek help preparing if you believe you'll need it.
 3. Take at least one year of algebra and one year of geometry before taking the ACT or SAT. To answer your question, "Yes, this will be on the test."
 4. Take the PSAT. This is how you get become a part of the National Merit Finalist pool ... did someone say "Scholarship?"
 5. Make good grades, your class rank means a lot in the university acceptance process. Once you're accepted, did you know that certain majors have GPA and/or class rank requirements before you can become a part of their program?
 6. Start thinking about what you want to study in college. Guidance Counselors can help.
 7. Download the Texas Common Application (<http://www.srel.ttu.edu/>) to see what colleges look for. Continually update your college application for the next two years.
 8. Find out what the entrance requirements are for each university: ACT/SAT scores Class Rank, GPA, etc.

Your Junior Year

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- On the form, send scores to all universities you think you might attend, not just the top few.
4. Be involved with all types of things at school: clubs, organization such as Academic Decathlon, Destination Imagination, UIL, FFA, TAFPE, NHS, volunteer work, etc.
 5. Be involved with your community: Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Be a mentor in an elementary school. Just get involved with things so you will have a resume for college entrance.
 6. Start looking for scholarships (local, institutional, and federal). Use the web.
 7. Research Financial Aid (federal and at each institution).
 8. Update your copy of the Texas Common Application to college.
 9. Visit your top 5 college choices during September, October, and November.
 10. Look at the colleges and university websites. You can find a lot of information and take a virtual tour online.
 11. Take Advanced Placement classes and tests.
 12. Take CLEP tests offered in your area.
 13. Take math, science, and foreign language each term.
 14. Attend college fairs and financial aid nights to gather information.
 15. Contact college admissions offices to find out if there are college fairs, campus tours, and

So You're a Senior...

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4. It is your responsibility to make sure that all this information is correct and all your scores are posted. Find a person who can help you with this (someone who works at the college or someone who is attending the college now and knows the system).
5. Fill out scholarship applications, especially those for local scholarships.
6. Continue to think about what you want to study in college. You do not have to know when you enter college. If you are not certain what you want to major in, declare the Undecided or Undeclared status.
7. Each term take math, science, and foreign language. Do NOT slack off on the courses you take the last term in high school.
8. Take Advanced Placement classes and tests.
9. Take CLEP tests offered in your area.
10. Revisit your top three college choices during September, October, and November.
11. Start communicating with your college academic advisor. If you are going to Texas Tech as an Undecided Student, email us at advising@ttu.edu, or call us at (806) 742-2189.
12. If you start college at a local community college, such as South Plains College (SPC), and want to eventually transfer to TTU, we'll work with you and your SPC advisor at any time.
13. If your student has learning disability or physical disabilities, please have them reevaluated to have proof to receive accommodations at the university level. Find out what the requirements for disabled students are at each institution to which you apply.

What is an Advisor?

Texas Tech believes in the potential of each student to succeed and values their pursuit of excellence. Therefore, TTU provides academic advisors and advising programs to inform, guide, empower, and encourage students from Orientation to Graduation. While students are responsible for their academic progress, academic advisors assist with educational planning that leads to timely matriculation and graduation. Students' success requires their commitment to and investment in an action-oriented decision-making process. This fosters intellectual and personal development which results in informed and invested educational choices.

Students' Responsibilities

The advising process is designed to prepare students to be leaders and decision-makers. To that end, students are responsible for being active and invested participants, especially by:

- Investing the time and energy necessary to meet and exceed the highest standards of academic excellence
 - Engaging in a mutually respectful working relationship with their academic advisor(s)
 - Making and keeping a minimum of one appointment per semester with the appropriate academic advisor(s)
 - Creating a class schedule based on deliberate examination of educational, career, and life goals
 - Cooperating and communicating with the university by reading and responding to all official communications
 - Reading and acting in accordance with official university documents related to institutional procedures, degree program requirements, standards of academic progress, and the code of student conduct
 - Completing required paperwork and adhering to university deadlines
- Discussing the Graduate-On-Time (GOT) contract program with an academic advisor to determine its merits to their educational plan; and where deemed appropriate, signing a contract in the academic advisor's office before the university-stipulated deadline
 - Keeping advisors informed about circumstances that could influence academic performance, e.g. work schedules, illness, family situations
 - Notifying advisors immediately when receiving a course grade of D or F, when dropping a course, or when withdrawing from the university
 - Exploring and, as appropriate, utilizing available student resources
 - Investigating opportunities to conduct undergraduate research, study abroad, and participate in service learning
 - Documenting and maintaining records of all university interactions

Advisors' Responsibilities

Advising is a process through which students examine themselves, explore their opportunities, determine their best-fit educational paths, and develop action plans for achieving their university degrees. Academic advisors facilitate this process. Additionally, advisors advocate for students in the university system, serve as resource brokers for the university community, and help students thrive in a large university setting. Academic Advising Programs identify relevant and desirable student learning and development outcomes and provide programs and services that encourage the achievement of those outcomes. The most important outcome of academic advising is self-discovery: each student's educational goals are matched with offerings of the university. To that end, advisors are responsible for:

STUDENT GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

- Reinforcing student self-direction and self-sufficiency
- Assisting students in assessing their interests

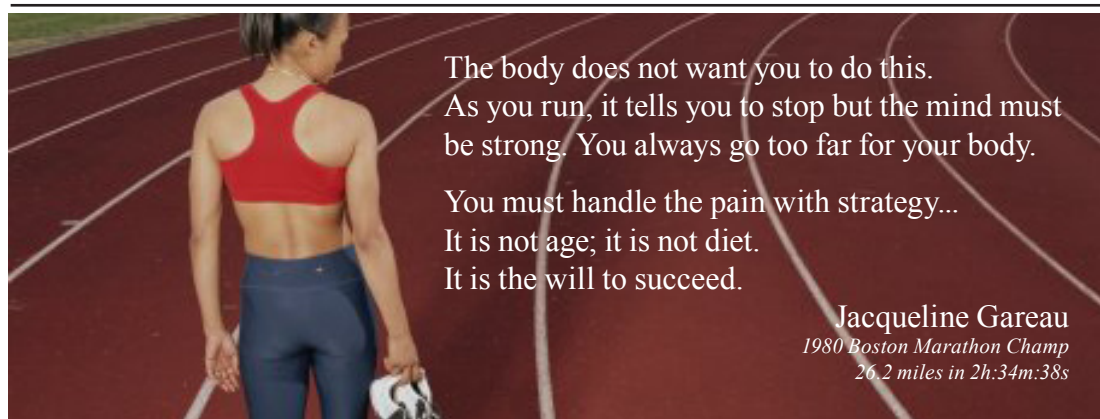
A little advice for the parents out there...

What can I do as a parent to help my child be successful in college?

The Advising Center understands that you as a parent have invested your time and energy (not to mention your money), towards the success of your soon-to-be-college-student since around 1988. That's a significant investment. We also understand that you know your son or daughter better than we ever will, and that makes you the single greatest asset they have as they pursue academic success.

Now, because we know the university pretty well, we want to make sure to partner with and equip you with all the tools you'll need as you continue to support your student ... albeit in a brand new way.

Beginning with our parent session at New Student Orientation, continuing with our website at www.advising.ttu.edu/parents, and partnering with The TTU Parent Relations Office, you'll find that Texas Tech University is ready and willing to answer your questions, guide you to experts on student success, and further assist you as your child transitions into the adult world.



The body does not want you to do this.
As you run, it tells you to stop but the mind must be strong. You always go too far for your body.

You must handle the pain with strategy...
It is not age; it is not diet.
It is the will to succeed.

Jacqueline Gareau
1980 Boston Marathon Champ
26.2 miles in 2h:34m:38s



Good Advice

Advising Center at Texas Tech

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What is an Advisor?

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and abilities, making decisions, and developing short-term and long-term plans to meet their objectives

- Discussing and clarifying educational, career, and life goals to assist in the development of a meaningful educational plan
- Assisting students to understand the educational context within which they are enrolled
- Assisting students to make the best academic decisions possible by encouraging identification and assessment of alternatives and consideration of the consequences of their decisions
- Instructing students in the use of course selection tools and registration systems

ACCURACY & AVAILABILITY

- Interpreting university policies, procedures, and standards, and clarifying requirements for both general education and their chosen academic major
- Providing current, accurate, and timely information, especially for the selection of appropriate courses and other educational experiences
- Making advising conferences available to students each academic term in a format that is convenient to the student, i.e., in person, by telephone, or on-line, individually or in groups
- Allowing an appropriate amount of time for students to discuss plans, programs, courses, academic progress, and other subjects related to their educational programs

ASSESSMENT, REFERRAL, & PRIVACY

- Directing students with educational, career or

personal concerns, or skill/learning deficiencies to resources and programs on the campus when necessary

- Making students aware of and referring to educational, institutional, and community resources and services, e.g., internship, study abroad, honors, service-learning, research opportunities
- Identifying environmental conditions that may positively or negatively influence student academic achievement and proposing interventions that may neutralize negative conditions
- Evaluating and monitoring student academic progress and the impact on achievement of goals
- Collecting and distributing relevant data about student needs, preferences, aspirations, and performance for use in institutional decisions and policy
- Maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Operating Policies of Texas Tech University and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (aka FERPA)

Departments in each academic college provide academic advisors who specialize in specific majors. Texas Tech also values students who have yet to choose an academic major or who are uncertain of their educational direction. The Advising Center at Texas Tech serves these students through retention-based academic advising and conducts university-wide transition programs to facilitate the persistence and success of all students.

When faced with a difficult question or challenging situation, the Texas Tech University Advising Center is always a good place to begin.

From here, it's possible.