

Howdy Dinner: Tyler Aggie Moms 2023

Student Panel Questions and Answers

Ice Breaker:

- What's best, Layne's or Cane's?
 - Majority said Canes but Layne's is cheaper

Time:

- Do I need to bring my car if I live on campus or do I need to invest in a bike or a motorized vehicle? If I live off campus, do you think I should drive or ride the bus?
 - On Campus: Most suggest not being a car because you have access to everything with the buses including HEB.
 - Off Campus: Most said bring your own car because the bus routes might not fit your schedule or the speed you need to get to campus. If you do ride the bus, plan your timing and schedule for the day accordingly and always ride the bus ahead of your planned schedule.
- Do you have any suggestions to create the schedule that best fits me and How do you choose the best professor for a class?
 - Utilize Aggie Schedule Builder fully such as add the necessary break you might want and set your full expectation and then uncheck boxes if it says not possible.
 - Most said Utilize my professor and grade distribution and compare between the two to get a full understanding. You can also look on class search through Howdy to see if the professor has taught the class recently or not.
- Are there any classes you recommend for freshman year?
 - Utilize freshman to earn a good GPA while knocking out as many core curriculum, ICD, and CD classes as you can. An easy way to check what you need when registering for anything after your 2nd Semester is to go look at your degree evaluation in howdy and see what's in red. Then search for tamu ICD and CD courses and find a course that knocks 2 birds with 1 stone such as a course that might be a creative arts and an ICD course. Additionally go to an advisor but I challenge you to have a plan and solutions when you go to them and they can share their insight from past students.
- Do I need to be involved as much as I was in high school and how do I find the organization that fits me
 - You do not need to be as involved and I recommend only joining at max of 3 organizations. You can find a social org that will allow you to meet new people and have things to do. Additionally, find a professional org that caters to your career or your interest and you can network and find out if that's the career you want to pursue. Thirdly, find you a leadership org. One that can build your resume and that has potential to step into large roles in later years such as Vice President or Chief of Staff.

Academics:

- Where is the best place to study and what are the different study habits needed compared to high school?
 - Most said various areas near your class or at home.
 - Most said how you study such as do you prefer noise, what time of the day is your brain most active to concentrate, and are you utilizing the free portions of your day between classes. Some recommended the amount of understanding you have in the homework because sometimes the hardest homework questions pop up on the tests.
- Do you speak to your professors outside of class and are office hours helpful?
 - Most said depending on the professor. Regardless, take the time to at least attend one and get to know the professor. They might be the difference between an 89.4 being an A or a B.
- When should I consider using a tutor and is supplemental instruction (SI) helpful?
 - SI is an additional tool you can use freshman year especially when office hours might conflict with your schedule or you just need to hear the lecture from another point of view.
- Do you buy textbooks before class or after the first day of class?
 - During syllabus week (the first week of classes) the professors will line out the importance of getting the textbook and if it needs to be a physical book or an online textbook so I recommend waiting.

Life:

- Is there anything about A&M that is different from what you expected and Is there anything I should be sure to do freshman year?
 - Most said joining organizations and that it was easy to talk to random people either in your classes or in the line at Chick-Fil-A. Additionally, pond hopping was mentioned.
- Do you have a job and how does that fit into your class schedule and do you recommend working your first semester?
 - Most do have a job and most didn't work until 2nd semester. It's good to have the first semester as a learning and adjustment period. When you do start working however, on campus jobs can't schedule you to work during a class period and thus there's flexibility.
- Do you have a meal plan, eat out, or cook?
 - I do recommend having a meal plan freshman year because that's one less thing to think about and in the dorms, you can't cook or at least it's not as easy as off campus living.
- If I get sick, do I have to go to class?
 - You certainly don't have to go to class but if there's a test or a quiz in a particular class, be sure to get a doctor's note so that you have a 3 day grace period to make it up. Additionally you don't have to let the professor know but you can always write them an email especially if it becomes long term.
- What to do when I feel home sick or lonely?

- Call your Parents! Seriously, talking with someone or going out to eat is always my break from school and to get things off my mind. Additionally we have Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) that can help and are already covered in your fees.
- Have you ever felt unsafe walking around campus?
 - The Corps of Cadets has a program that if you call, they can walk you wherever you need to go at night and make sure you get there safely. Additionally, University Police (UPD) is always around and if you go to a blue light, they can be at your location within a minute.
- How often do your parents visit you at school?
 - As often as they want

Prospective Students:

- Do you recommend on or off campus living for freshman year and what is living in the dorm like?
 - On campus living just takes less things out of the equations and allows you to focus on school. Additionally, it's good to learn the relationship with a roommate.
- When should I submit my application and when should I start applying for Scholarships?
 - Utilize the early decision process as much as you can. Not only submitting a good application in between late August to Mid October relieves a burden, but being notified in late January to early March and allowing you to make a decision puts you ahead to scholarship opportunities.
- How do I apply for scholarships and what have you learned about scholarships and the process
 - As I said earlier, the sooner you commit to a University, the more money you have a potential to receive because you have committed. Additionally, apply to as many local scholarships as you can. Lastly, keep in mind the requirements to stay eligible for the multi-year scholarship and appeal if necessary.