

2016 NEW PARENT GUIDE

A publication for incoming Longhorn Families



TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

TEXAS
20

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TEXAS
PARENTS'
— ASSOCIATION —

DEAR LONGHORN PARENTS & FAMILIES

Welcome to the Forty Acres! As the parent of an alumnus of UT, I know what you are feeling and share in your excitement. Your child leaving home for college is a unique moment for all of you—one filled with anticipation, joy, and adventure.

The new Longhorn in your family will soon be orienting him- or herself to a large array of opportunities for academic success, camaraderie, and personal and professional development. This New Parent Guide provides an overview of campus resources and what to expect in the coming months. I hope that it also provides assurance that your son or daughter will be prepared for the four fulfilling years that lie ahead.

As parents, we serve our children well by being connected with their university, even as we recognize their growing independence. Though it was a poignant moment for my wife and me when our daughters left home for college, I remember watching them mature during their collegiate careers into remarkable women. I look forward to you experiencing that pride.

Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2020, and to the remarkable people in their lives who have brought them to the starting line of their Longhorn career. Best wishes, and Hook 'em Horns!



Gregory L. Fenves
President, The University of Texas at Austin



There is much excitement in your lives right now as your student's high school experience draws to a close. Our sincere hope is that you will focus on those milestones and enjoy the moment. I realize that advice is easier said than done because, at the same time, the next leg of the journey is about to begin at The University of Texas at Austin. Naturally, you begin planning, wondering (and possibly fretting) about how to prepare and where this new path will take both you and your student.

In preparation for any journey, what is needed? A map is a good start. You will also want a trusted guide who has traveled along the unfamiliar roads and resources that will aid in your pursuit of the final destination. The New Parent Guide is your map and Texas Parents stands ready to be your guide, helping you help your student and connecting you with campus resources that will support both your student's transition to UT and your role as a Longhorn parent.

With your favorite beverage in hand, a comfy chair (and perhaps your reading glasses) take time to explore the pages of this New Parent Guide and begin plotting your course for an exciting four year journey!

On behalf of Texas Parents members and staff, welcome to the UT Family. We look forward getting to know you during this incredible time in your family's lives.

Sincerely,



Susie Smith
Director, Texas Parents



WHAT IS TEXAS PARENTS

and why should I belong?

Choosing to belong to Texas Parents helps you and your student in many ways: navigating the university, providing support and guidance and connecting you with a community of fellow Longhorn parents who become a dedicated network of support.

We care.

Remember when your student was old enough to stay at the house alone but before leaving you told him or her to go over to the neighbor's house if he or she needed anything? As you and your student begin this new, exciting chapter, think of Texas Parents as that next-door neighbor. We are here to help and we care.

Helping parents since 1948.

Texas Parents is both the official parents' association of The University of Texas at Austin and a department in the Division of Student Affairs. A fully staffed campus office helps you help your student, keeps you informed and creates positive ways for you to be involved with and support UT.

Communication is one of the best member benefits.

Monthly eNewsletters will keep you connected to campus by providing important news, dates, deadlines and event information, such as tuition payment deadlines. The eNewsletter is a reliable resource for you to stay informed should you want to double-check that your student is handling important matters. You'll also learn about scholarships, job opportunities and the various resources on campus that support your student. Our closed Facebook group lets you visit with fellow members parent-to-parent. Common discussion topics include tutoring, off-campus housing, transportation and textbooks. Finally, exclusive webinars tackle topics such as how you can support your student during stressful times.

You'll be investing in a better UT for your student.

Belonging to Texas Parents is also a way that you add value to the campus community your student now calls home. With membership funds, Texas Parents awards grants for student-run community service projects and events like Pancakes for Parkinson's, Project Come Together and Forty Acres Fest. Funds also support the Student Emergency Services office that assists students in crisis.

Choose to belong.

Members also receive a bevy of benefits that are listed on our website. You can join as a one-year (\$60) or four-year member (\$180) and a portion of your gift is tax-deductible. Join by completing the attached registration form (page 7), online at TexasParents.org, or when attending Family Orientation.

TEXAS 
PARENTS
— ASSOCIATION —
Proudly serving UT families since 1948

Benefits

- Stay connected with UT
- Be informed about University deadlines and events
- Enjoy a parent-centric community
- Invest in the campus community your student calls home

Join

For membership options, please click or call Texas Parents. Click: TexasParents.org
Call: (888) 690-0012 or (512) 471-2353
Email: TexasParents@austin.utexas.edu

Address

Gregory Gym (GRE) 1.107
2101 Speedway Stop D7500
Austin, Texas 78712-1401

Your Texas Parents Professional Staff

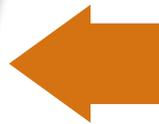
Susie Smith
Adrienne MacKenzie
Morgane Le Marchand

Welcome

CLASS OF 2020



Open
your Free
**UFCU Checking
Account during
Orientation, get
your t-shirt*
and more!**



CONVENIENT SERVICES

- **Most ATMs on campus**
- **300 ATMs** in Austin and Central Texas
- **VISA® Debit Card with Fraud Protection** – Plus, walk out with your card the same day!
- **Mobile Banking with Mobile Deposit for Checks**
- **Account to Account transfer** from other financial institutions
- **Online Banking with Bill Pay and eStatements**

Visit University Federal Credit Union's
University location at 2244 Guadalupe St,
conveniently located next to the Co-Op.

*While supplies last. No purchase necessary.
Federally insured by NCUA



UFCU.org



FAMILY ORIENTATION

The University of Texas at Austin



The UT community, led by Texas Parents, is pleased to present a daylong program designed just for you. The purpose of this program is to introduce you to the university and its resources while your student attends his or her first day of orientation. By attending Family Orientation, you are taking the next critical step in supporting your Longhorn's successful transition to UT.

This is an exciting time for your family and with all there is to learn about college life and being the parent of a college student, it can be overwhelming. The Family Orientation program and subsequent Next Steps newsletters are intentionally designed with messaging, activities and presentations that will introduce you to the university and prepare you for the role of a Longhorn parent.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Getting into the Longhorn state of mind is important. Your day begins with an introduction to the university's history and many traditions. The day starts and ends in the heart of campus at the Gregory Gym Arena. For many of you, this historical site will be where your relationship with the university truly begins and, possibly in just four years, where it will end as you sit in the same seats and watch your student graduate.

Education is the foundation of every UT student's experience. At the program, you will meet with academic representatives from your student's college or school who will provide information about academic expectations and explain their role in supporting your student's academic success while on the Forty Acres. This information goes beyond what you may have learned at earlier campus visits.

The university has countless departments and programs to support your student's growth in and beyond the classroom. You will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of information sessions presented by campus departments whose purpose is to enhance and enrich your student's experience. These include how to pay tuition, navigate financial aid, student health and campus safety.

A highlight of Family Orientation is meeting others in your new Longhorn parent community. In addition to connecting with fellow new Longhorn families, you will meet Texas Parents Association member volunteers. Who better to ask questions of than experienced UT parents who had your same questions when their students were incoming freshmen? You will also meet our incredible student leaders who will share the ins and outs of their college experiences, while also giving insights as to what it is truly like to live the Longhorn life.

While Family Orientation is optional, we strongly encourage you to attend. At the end of the day, you'll go home feeling more connected to the university and with conversational topics to connect more deeply with your student about his or her upcoming college experience.

Visit UTAUSTINFAMILYORIENTATION.COM for details including dates, online registration, pricing, hotel suggestions and more.



QUICK HIGHLIGHTS OF FAMILY ORIENTATION

Register

FOR YOUR FAMILY
ORIENTATION SESSION AT
UTAUSTINFAMILYORIENTATION.COM

Learn

ABOUT ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS
FROM YOUR STUDENT'S COLLEGE
OR SCHOOL

Choose

FROM A VARIETY OF INFORMATIONAL
SESSIONS PRESENTED BY CAMPUS
DEPARTMENTS

Connect

WITH OTHER PARENTS, CURRENT
UT AUSTIN STUDENTS AND
ADMINISTRATORS

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

What You Need to Know

ALL INCOMING FRESHMEN ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ORIENTATION TO PREPARE THEM FOR A WORLD-CLASS ACADEMIC JOURNEY AND GET THEM IN THE "Longhorn State of Mind."

WHAT TO EXPECT AT ORIENTATION

During the three-day orientation, your student will learn about academic expectations, form new friendships, find out about 360 Connections and register for classes. Students should visit orientation.utexas.edu to register for a session and learn about how to prepare for orientation.

At orientation, students will meet with an academic advisor from their college or school to discuss their degree plan and make sure they are prepared to register for classes on the final day of orientation. Math and language assessments will also be offered to determine what classes your student needs to take. For more information on required assessments and testing during orientation, students should visit orientation.utexas.edu.

YOUR STUDENT WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO GET HIS OR HER STUDENT ID CARD FROM THE ID CENTER.

New students are required to upgrade their UT EIDs to conduct university business online, such as viewing grades and activating financial aid awards. Many students complete this process at the ID Center on campus during orientation, but it is not required. If a student is under the age of 18, a legal guardian must be present and provide a valid government-issued photo ID. If a legal guardian cannot be present, students can complete the Electronic Agreement Form, have their legal guardian's signature notarized and bring the form to the ID Center during orientation. To download the form, visit bit.ly/UpgradeEID and select "Upgrade My UT EID."

BEFORE ARRIVING AT ORIENTATION

Students are required to watch a series of pre-orientation videos before they can check in at orientation. These videos, which are essential to the college transition, will be sent to your student via email in May and will cover what to expect at orientation, 360 Connections, being Longhorn ready, orientation conduct expectations and more.

Before attending orientation, students under the age of 22 must submit proof of their meningococcal vaccine in order to register for classes. International students (including those without a valid immigration status who attended a Texas high school and will pay in-state tuition) have additional pre-registration requirements. Submit vaccination documentation to University Health Services at least two weeks before students attend orientation to allow time for processing. Visit bit.ly/RequiredVaccine for more information.

360 CONNECTIONS are small groups of students and mentors who meet regularly to learn about leadership, traditions, and academics, and provide a support network for all freshmen as they transition to college life.



Beyond ORIENTATION

Dear parents and families,

Congratulations! Your children will soon join the Longhorn family, and you deserve enormous credit for your part in getting them here. It is my privilege to serve as the Graduation Champion for the Class of 2020. You can think of me as the strongest advocate for your sons or daughters as they make their transition into being a university scholar.

I'm also a chemistry professor teaching first-year students, as well as a former student dean. And as a father of six, including two who have finished college, I know how stressful and unnerving this transition can be for you as a parent.

It's my job to make sure your children navigate this process, and are given all the tools they need to find academic success. This means not only finding the right academic fit and preparing them for the rigors of the college classroom, but also helping them to stay on track to graduate on time in four years. Students who stay on track to graduate in four years earn better grades, incur less debt in tuition and loans, and get a jump start on the next phase in their lives.

From the day they set foot on campus for orientation, my goal is to make sure they feel like they belong here, find the resources they need, help them explore the vast array of educational and experiential opportunities, and then graduate fully prepared to pursue their dreams.

Parents often ask me what they can do to make their children's lives a success at UT. Simple. Encourage them to stay connected and get involved on campus. What your students will want from you (even more than money) is to know that through all the ups and downs of that first semester, you are the rock they can always count on. Attend Family Orientation and read the information provided by Texas Parents. That will help answer questions and give you insights from other parents who have been through this before.

Again, congratulations on all you have done for your children, and thank you for your trust in us.

David Laude
Graduation Champion
Senior Vice Provost of Enrollment and Curriculum
Professor of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences



HOW UT COMMUNICATES WITH YOUR STUDENT

All communications from the university go directly to the email address your student has on record. Encourage your student to verify that the information listed is up-to-date so that he or she receives all communications from the university. Because time-sensitive information, such as tuition deadlines, is sent by email, encourage your student to open and read all emails he or she receives from UT. Students can verify or update their email address and other contact information online at bit.ly/StudentContactInfo

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN THE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES (UGS)?

UGS is one of UT's undergraduate schools and home to students exploring majors. Students enroll in UGS for up to two years and complete core coursework before transferring to one of UT's degree-granting colleges or schools.

UGS students benefit from strategic advising combined with career counseling, academic support, and interdisciplinary programs, all aimed at helping them discover their strengths.

"UGS allowed me to ease myself into the far more challenging courses that were required in electrical engineering, as well as providing me with an advisor who was caring and supportive of my progress." (Curtis Martin, 2015 graduate in Electrical Engineering)

CAMP TEXAS

Camp Texas is an optional three-day extended orientation program hosted by Texas Exes, UT's alumni association, at a lakefront ranch outside of Austin. Incoming freshmen and transfer students are taught about UT traditions, life on the Forty Acres, and what it means to be a Longhorn. Students who attend Camp Texas consistently become campus leaders, have fulfilling experiences at the university, and maintain their base of friends made during Camp Texas.

Registration opens May 16 and spots fill up fast! Visit texaseses.org/camp for details.



A NEWSLETTER FOR YOU!

The Next Steps e-newsletter will continue to provide you with helpful information and resources until you arrive in August with your student. If you register for Family Orientation, you'll automatically receive Next Steps in July and August. If you are unable to attend Family Orientation, sign up for the newsletter at bit.ly/NextSteps2020

Beyond the CLASSROOM

Dear Longhorn Families,

Congratulations on your student becoming part of our diverse, world-class research university where we are changing the world. Your student will receive an extraordinary education and learn a lot about life here — both inside and outside of the classroom.



You have an important role in your student's college experience. One way you can help is by encouraging him or her to get connected on campus. Being involved in healthy activities outside of class helps students get more out of their college experience including earning higher grade point averages and graduating on time.

So encourage your student to develop friendships in a residence hall, study at the Student Activity Center, grab lunch at the Littlefield Patio Café, participate in events like Longhorn Welcome, scale the climbing wall at Gregory Gym or register on HornsLink to access one of our 1,300 student organizations. We have many ways to help students make this campus their own.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about your students' university experience. During this journey, the Division of Student Affairs pledges to be here for you and your student.

Hook 'em,

Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

**Division of
Student Affairs**

ABOUT THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Your student will soon discover that learning happens across the Forty Acres — both in and out of the classroom. The Division of Student Affairs' staff and departments are essential partners in your student's educational experience. We create opportunities, foster growth, provide support and most importantly, inspire our students to succeed on campus and beyond.

Our Division is comprised of some of the university's largest non-academic units, and we play a critical role in your student's campus experience. In addition to leading new student orientation, we serve students with 14 on-campus residence halls and their 11 dining/retail facilities, medical and mental health services, recreational sports, student activities (including 1,300 student organizations), two university unions, the Texas Parents Association and so much more.

Please know that we're here to cultivate a caring culture, promote education of students beyond the classroom, and support health and wellness. Throughout it all, we inspire a culture of excellence for students through our innovative programs, facilities, services and staff. Learn more at www.utexas.edu/studentaffairs and click on "Departments."



FINANCE\$: What Parents Need To Know

TUITION DEADLINES

Student Accounts Receivable (SAR) is the department on campus that handles tuition and billing. They can be reached at 512-475-7777 or visit utexas.edu/business/accounting/sar

If your student registers for classes by July 15 (during orientation sessions 1-6), he or she will receive an electronic billing notification for fall tuition and fees on July 19. The payment deadline is 5 p.m. sharp on August 10. Students who register for classes after July 15, such as during the August Orientation, must pay their bill by 5 p.m. sharp on August 23.

Tuition bills will be sent to your student via email; no paper bills will be mailed nor will parents receive bills via email. Please note, the tuition bill does not include the cost of on-campus housing; your student will receive a separate bill for housing in mid-August.

WAYS TO PAY

Tuition may be paid in one lump sum or in three installments. To select the installment plan, your student must electronically sign a promissory note by clicking on the "Installment Plan Note" link at bit.ly/MyTuitionBill before the first payment will be accepted. The first payment is approximately half of the total tuition and includes a \$15 installment fee. The second installment is due September 23, and the third on October 21. Learn how parents can pay tuition as an eProxy on page 11.

Online:

Students can pay at bit.ly/MyTuitionBill with any of the following: eCheck, Electronic Funds Transfer, or credit card (MasterCard, Discover and American Express). While accepted at other campus locations, Visa is not accepted for tuition payments. A non-refundable 2.3% convenience fee is applied to all credit card payments.

In Person:

Personal check, cashier's check, money order and cash are accepted at the Cashier's Office in the Main Building, Room 8, weekdays 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (Credit and debit cards are not accepted.)

By Mail:

Checks and money orders payable to The University of Texas at Austin must include your student's full name and EID and must be received by 5 p.m. sharp on the payment deadline. Check the SAR website for the mailing address.

If your student has a Texas Prepaid Tuition plan, specific steps will need to be taken to apply the plan to your student's tuition bill. Contact SAR or visit bit.ly/TGTPFAQ for more information.

FINANCIAL AID

The Office of Financial Aid (OFA) coordinates and assists students with the financial aid process. Your student can contact OFA at ask@finaid.utexas.edu or visit finaid.utexas.edu. Attend the Tuition and Financial Aid sessions at Family Orientation for more detailed information.

To receive financial aid, students should have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov. UT requires the FAFSA in order to determine student eligibility for federal, state and institutional loans, grants and work-study. If your student submitted a FAFSA, he or she should have already received a Financial Aid Notification and activated it by May 1.

Financial aid funds will be applied to your student's tuition bill no sooner than one week before classes begin in August, which is after tuition bills are due.

Students can use their anticipated financial aid to pay their tuition bill. If your student's financial aid fully covers his or her tuition and fees, he or she must click the "Pay with Financial Aid" button that appears on the tuition bill. Watch OFA's video, "Paying Your Tuition Bill with Financial Aid" (bit.ly/PayWithAid) for step-by-step instructions. If your student's financial aid does not fully cover the tuition bill, the student must pay the amount of tuition that is not covered by financial aid by the payment deadline; this will secure your student's registration. If your student did not receive any financial aid, he or she must make payment arrangements by the payment deadline.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

If your student received a private donor scholarship, it will likely be disbursed through OFA. Scholarship donor checks should be mailed to the mailing address listed at bit.ly/ContactOFA. The check should contain your student's name and EID and will take about four weeks to process.

IF STUDENTS DO NOT TAKE ACTION ON THEIR TUITION BILL BY THE PAYMENT DEADLINE, THEIR CLASSES WILL BE DROPPED (NO EXCEPTIONS).

KEEPING YOUR ST

ABOUT UHS

University Health Services (UHS) is fully-accredited, conveniently located on campus and provides a wide range of affordable health care services to all UT students. Attend the UHS session at Family Orientation to learn more about services, insurance, charges and more.

PREPARE YOUR LONGHORN NOW FOR THEIR FIRST HEALTHCARE APPOINTMENT AWAY FROM HOME

UHS suggests sitting down with your Longhorn to complete his or her online medical history forms and insurance forms (if insured) before coming to campus. Many students don't know their health history well, so your help is needed for accuracy. This will speed up appointment scheduling and check-in when he or she is feeling under the weather.

Visit healthyhorns.utexas.edu/appointments.html for more information.

INSURANCE ACCEPTED AT UHS

UHS is in-network with most insurance providers, with the exception of government plans such as Medicare or Medicaid. Before your Longhorn moves to Austin, call your insurance provider and find out what your plan covers at UHS, which is generally referenced as a "college health facility". You may need to provide the following information:

UHS Tax ID #: 74-6000203; NPI #: 1740313337. The full list of providers can be found at bit.ly/UHSInsurance

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance is not required to use UHS, however, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) now requires students who do not qualify for exemptions to have health insurance or pay a penalty. Your student can stay covered as a dependent on your health insurance plan until age 26. Or, UT students can enroll in AcademicBlue, an affordable student health insurance plan offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas and sponsored by The University of Texas System. Visit bit.ly/AcademicBlue for more information about AcademicBlue and bit.ly/StudentACA for more information about students and the ACA.

EXPERTS TO TALK TO 24 HOURS A DAY

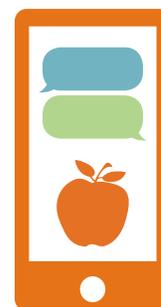
UHS provides a free 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line (512-475-6877) to all UT students 365 days a year. Nurses provide guidance on how to care for an illness or injury or offer advice about seeing a healthcare provider.

Students also have 24/7 access to trained mental health counselors to discuss urgent concerns through the Counseling and Mental Health Center Crisis Line (512-471-2255). Encourage your Longhorn to put these phone numbers in his or her phone contacts.



“ I would have had to drop out without the care that I received. ”

Feedback from a UT student regarding University Health Services



Help keep your Longhorn healthy.

Information just for parents at healthyhorns.utexas.edu
Click "Parents"

STUDENT Healthy

TRANSITIONING YOUR LONGHORN'S MENTAL HEALTH CARE

If your Longhorn has previously experienced mental health or emotional concerns, it's important to take some extra steps before he or she arrives at UT. Planning for this now will help your student more successfully navigate the stressors of college life.

If your student is seeing someone professionally at home, consider establishing a relationship with a provider in Austin. Starting college involves numerous changes, and having the support of a professional nearby can ease the transitions your student will be going through. If he or she is taking medications, discuss with the prescribing physician whether he or she can continue to prescribe medication from a distance, or if your student needs a doctor in Austin.

The Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) has counselors available throughout the summer Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (CST) to help parents and students navigate this transition. The important thing is to plan ahead to ensure your student is adequately supported, and to establish a backup plan in case your student's needs change.

Visit cmhc.utexas.edu/incomingstudents for more information.

To learn more about CMHC, visit cmhc.utexas.edu/parents.html



TRANSFERRING PRESCRIPTIONS FROM OUT-OF-STATE PHYSICIANS

The State of Texas' pharmacy rules require prescriptions for Schedule II Controlled Substances to be issued by a physician who is licensed to prescribe in Texas. These include most medications to treat ADD or ADHD (such as Adderall or Vyvanse) and hydrocodone-containing products (such as Vicodin or Norco). If your student takes medication classified as a Schedule II Controlled Substance, take action to obtain a new prescription BEFORE he or she needs a refill of the medication and establish a new doctor in Texas.

Visit bit.ly/PrescriptionsUT for more information.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (SSD)

Many students who received accommodations in high school continue to receive them in college. If your student has a documented ongoing or temporary disability, he or she is eligible to receive reasonable accommodations, appropriate academic adjustments, or auxiliary aids to assure equal access and opportunity.

Students must register with the SSD office and schedule an initial intake appointment to discuss available services and appropriate accommodations. Visit ddce.utexas.edu/disability for more information.

A SAFE CAMPUS FOR YOUR STUDENT

The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD) is a full-fledged accredited police department servicing the UT Austin community with more than 140 dedicated individuals. The department has the authority and responsibility to investigate all crimes occurring on university property, and assists the Austin Police Department with some crimes close to campus.

Keeping Campus Safe

UTPD works day and night, 365 days a year, to ensure the safety of UT students through police enforcement and crime prevention. There are many safety measures in place on and around campus, but knowledge and common sense are the most effective safety strategies. Let your student know about the following resources to prepare him or her in case of an emergency:

EMERGENCY PHONES provide a direct connection to UTPD with a push of a button. There are over 120 of these outdoor yellow call boxes topped with a blue light making them easy to locate on campus.



EMERGENCY TEXT ALERTS are automatically sent to students' cell phones when necessary. Monthly tests of multiple emergency communication systems ensure students are familiar with emergency signals. Encourage your student to verify his or her phone number at bit.ly/UTTextAlerts. This service is limited to UT students and is not available to parents. Parents can follow UTPD on Facebook (facebook.com/utaustinpolic) and Twitter (twitter.com/utaustinpolic) for updates.

"CAMPUS WATCH" DAILY EMAILS discuss recent crimes and provide a variety of crime prevention tips. Sign up at bit.ly/UTCampusWatch

Attend the Student Safety session at Family Orientation to learn more about this 24/7 police force and campus safety.

Talk to Your Student About Safety

The university has many policies and procedures in place to keep students safe, but public safety is the responsibility of each individual. Discuss the following topics with your student before he or she arrives on campus and communicate your concerns and expectations.

PERSONAL SAFETY & AWARENESS

Students should always be aware of their surrounding environment and personal safety. Talk to your student about potential situations and strategies to stay safe, like getting home safely at night. Encourage your student to trust his or her gut and not hesitate to immediately report suspicious activity by dialing 911. Review the safety topics at **BeSafe.utexas.edu** and discuss UTPD's personal safety tips (bit.ly/UTPersonalSafety), even if some seem like common sense.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Many campus crimes are crimes of opportunity, which are preventable. Students should never leave their property unattended, such as phones, wallets, laptops and keys, even for a minute. Students can register their valuable property with UTPD (utexas.edu/police/property), which aids in the recovery of stolen property. UTPD also offers engraving services to mark metal or plastic items, such as cell phones and laptops, with a driver's license number.

DISCUSS ALCOHOL

This may be an uncomfortable topic but research indicates that parents can have a positive influence on their student's behavior by discussing alcohol before he or she arrives on campus. Your student will also be required to complete an online education program about alcohol and healthy relationships, which will reinforce your conversation.

Sign up for the Next Steps newsletter at bit.ly/NextSteps2020 to learn more about how parents can stay up to date with university emergency communications and for suggestions on how to begin the conversation about alcohol.

ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENT TO PUT UTPD'S 24/7
PHONE NUMBER IN HIS OR HER CELL PHONE IN
CASE OF EMERGENCY

512-471-4441

More

NEED-TO-KNOWS

ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCE HALLS

Students will receive information about their room assignment, including roommate information, in mid to late July.

Students will check in and move into on-campus residence halls during Moov-In, Friday–Saturday, August 19–20. Early check-in is available for an additional fee.

Attend the Living on Campus session at Family Orientation to learn more about housing communities, meal plans, Bevo Bucks, billing and more.

TRANSPORTATION

Should my student bring a car to campus?

Students and parents should decide together whether a car on campus is necessary. Discuss why a car would be needed, such as reasons that would consistently take him or her off campus. Besides gas, maintenance and insurance, include parking as an expense. Parking on campus requires a university permit or hourly rates in garages and doesn't guarantee proximity to the residence halls. Parking for students with disabilities is available. Visit utexas.edu/parking for more information.

Other transportation options

Convenient public transportation is available to students at no cost. UT Austin and Capital Metro, the City of Austin's transit system, provide a popular, free shuttle bus system to and from campus and the surrounding neighborhoods. Routes and schedules are available at bit.ly/UTShuttle

Students can also ride Capital Metro for free with their valid UT ID card. Many areas of the city beyond the university's shuttle system, including the airport, are accessible. For more information, visit CapMetro.org

Many students also choose to bicycle to campus and around Austin. Bicycle lanes are prevalent throughout the city and most campus buildings have convenient bike racks.

UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS' RIGHTS TO PRIVACY

Many parents are surprised to find that they do not have access to their student's grades at UT, but grades are one of the many pieces of information protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

FERPA is a federal law that restricts access to educational records and information that make the student's identity easily traceable. Access to this information is restricted to appropriate university personnel who require this information in order to perform their legitimate educational duties.

According to FERPA, parents no longer have access to their student's educational records, including their grades, regardless of whether they are paying for their student's education or not. If information from an educational record is needed to resolve a crisis or emergency situation, the university may release that information if it is determined that the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

We encourage parents and students to create open lines of communication so that parents are able to get information such as grades from the best source, their students.

For more information about FERPA, visit utexas.edu/student/registrar/ferpa

EPROXY

Your student can grant you access to make payments on his or her behalf as an eProxy. Parents or guardians are given their own UT EID and password which is tied to their students' UT EID. eProxy access allows you to make tuition payments, housing payments, add money in Dine in Dollars or Bevo Bucks, and view transactions and balances for housing.

In order to become an eProxy, your student must grant you the authority to access his or her electronic records. If you would like to become an eProxy for your student, we encourage you to discuss this option with your student now, before he or she is overwhelmed with the beginning of a busy fall semester.

It is important to note that eProxy does not give you access to other student information, such as grades.

More details about eProxy are available at utexas.edu/student/eproxy

Summer 2016

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

JUNE

- All Students can begin scheduling university residence hall check-in times for Mooov-In in August
- 6-8 Freshman Orientation 1
(Family Orientation on the 6th only)
- 13-15 Freshman Orientation 2
(Family Orientation on the 13th only)
- 20-22 Freshman Orientation 3
(Family Orientation on the 20th only)
- 27-29 Freshman Orientation 4
(Family Orientation on the 27th only)

JULY

- 6-8 Freshman Orientation 5
(Family Orientation on the 6th only)
- 11-13 Freshman Orientation 6
(Family Orientation on the 11th only)
- Mid University residence hall room assignments distributed electronically to student's email on record
- 19 Fall semester tuition bills distributed electronically to student's email on record

AUGUST

- 10 Tuition payment due by 5 p.m. for students who registered for the fall semester by July 15 (may be paid in full or in installments)
- 17-18 August Orientation
(Family Orientation on the 17th only)
- 19 University residence halls open at 9 a.m.
- 19 University Health Services benefits available to registered students
- 19 Recreational Sports facilities are open to registered students
- 19-20 Mooov-In for on-campus residents
- 22 Fall semester add/drop for students who registered and paid their tuition and fees by August 10
- 23 Fall semester registration and add/drop open to all students
- 23 Tuition payment due by 5 p.m. for students who registered for the fall semester after July 15
- 23 Gone to Texas
- 24 Classes begin

For more important dates and deadlines, visit UTFreshmenParents.weebly.com

Family WEEKEND

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

== 2016 ==

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPT. 23-25, 2016

Registration Opens Tuesday, Sept. 6! Activities fill up quickly!

Take part in this great UT tradition full of academic events, unique tours and programs, the annual Texas Parents Barbecue, and much more. Most importantly, it will be quality time spent with your student, meeting friends and seeing campus from his or her eyes!

Texas Parents members receive exclusive email reminders and access to an early registration period. All UT parents will receive a registration reminder postcard in late August.

Visit UTAustinFamilyWeekend.com to learn more.

Live the Longhorn Life at Family Weekend 2016!



JOIN THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS CLUB,
with a **PREFERRED INITIATION FEE**
for **PARENTS OF LONGHORNS!**

Located on the east side of
Darrell K Royal- Texas Memorial Stadium.
A great place for game day, graduation
parties, and every day dining!

Contact the Club for more information
512.477.5800 | UTCLUB.COM



Speaking

PARENT-TO-PARENT

Dear Class of 2020 Parents and Families,

Let's face it. The transition from high school to college can be demanding for a parent!

We hope this New Parent Guide was a helpful introduction to the UT resources designed for student success and to the community that will become a home away from home for your student over the next four years. The important thing for you to understand is that this guide is only an introduction.

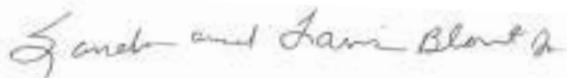
As the parents of a soon-to-be graduating Longhorn, we have found that the best way to help our son attain his collegiate goal is to stay informed and connected to UT.

Here are our top two suggestions for you: first, attend Family Orientation this summer. The information offered at this daylong program will build on what you have learned in this publication. Texas Parents members will be on hand to share their experiences and answer your questions. And second, take the opportunity to join Texas Parents. The benefits of membership are numerous, including discounts at Austin businesses and access to Texas Parents' entertaining and informative Facebook group.

You don't have to just take our word for it; see below for what the parents of the Class of 2019 had to say about Family Orientation and Texas Parents.

Congratulations! You are about to experience an exciting, discovery-filled ride with your Longhorn. We say this as parents who have watched our son embrace UT traditions and begin his own, and who will graduate with a vision to "change the world."

Our family welcomes you and your student to UT's Class of 2020. Congratulations and Hook 'Em Horns!



Sandra and Farris Blount
Class of '80 and '82
Texas Parents Advisory Board 2015-2016 Co-Chairs



FARRIS, FARRIS, SANDRA AND JOSHUA ('16)

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT...

FAMILY ORIENTATION

"I appreciate all the resources and speakers at the Family Orientation. Thank you for your efforts to ease our minds as our kids leave the nest."

"I was incredibly impressed with the offerings and staff members at Family Orientation! I left feeling extremely confident in my son's choice of University!"

"The entire Family Orientation experience was extremely helpful and removed plenty of doubt."

"This was the BEST day ever, so exciting. We just loved it."

"I enjoyed the orientation day very much. Even as a UT alum, it was very helpful."

TEXAS PARENTS

"Texas Parents is an awesome resource to help make this transition in life much less rocky."

"I absolutely love everything about Texas Parents! The office makes a big school seem much smaller and allows parents to feel involved while letting their children learn independence."

"The most valuable resource is being able to call the office when I need help. As an out-of-state parent, it is my one resource for helping us navigate a very large university in a place where we have absolutely no connections."

"The eNewsletter and Facebook page are so valuable, especially for a new Texas Parent. I don't know how I would've survived this first semester without either of them."

TEXAS PARENTS ASSOCIATION

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