

# Parent Pride

A Magazine for Parents and Families of Towson University Students

Summer 2011

## Resource Guide



**WHAT TO KNOW and WHERE TO GO**  
for parents of new students.

**PARENT AND FAMILY ORIENTATION 2011**



## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dear Parents,

Now more than ever, I can relate to the excitement and anxiety of sending a young adult to college as I, too, am in the process of sending my only child to college this summer. I hope you are finding ways to enjoy the time you get to spend with your child before they begin their new journey at Towson.

Because we recognize that our students' families are—and will remain—one of their most important support systems, we have created this *Parent Pride Resource Guide* for you. This publication is designed to provide information on the many services and resources TU offers to assist in the transition to college life and to help students achieve success during their time with us.

One of the goals of the college experience is for students to become independent and personally responsible for their success. The university has numerous outstanding programs and services to support student achievement and to make the university an engaging and involving institution for your student. If you have questions that are not answered by this resource guide, feel free to use our Student LIFE Line at 410-704-LIFE (5433), or contact us at [studentaffairs@towson.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@towson.edu). My staff and I are dedicated to providing you with any information you may need.

This is not only an exciting time in your lives; it is an exciting moment in the history of the university. With a number of new buildings opening this fall and a strong commitment to enhancing student experience and success, we are poised to provide exciting opportunities to support and develop your student's learning, growth and development. Faculty and staff are here not only to teach and support students, but also to challenge them to make the most of this unique educational experience. We expect that our students will be prepared to become productive citizens and leaders in society.

You will soon receive the fall issue of *Parent Pride* that outlines all of our **Family Weekend events taking place Oct. 14–16, 2011**. This program provides a great opportunity for you to reconnect with your student and to catch up on all that has taken place in the first few weeks of their college experience. Best wishes for an extremely smooth transition to Towson University.

Sincerely,



Debra Moriarty, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Student Affairs



Summer 2011

## Parent Pride

Published twice a year by the Office of Campus Life for Towson University's parents and families. A special edition is published each summer for parents of new students.

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*Towson University is a smoke-free campus.*



# PARENT AND FAMILY ORIENTATION



Parent  
**DRIVE-IN**  
TOWSON UNIVERSITY

## Towson University Parent and Family Orientation 2011

Parent and Family Orientation at Towson University has two primary components: the Parent Drive-In program, and parent and family events which run concurrently with the first day of freshman orientation. Due to the size of the freshman class and limited space at the university, we ask that families who live within an hour-and-a-half drive to TU consider attending one of the Parent Drive-In sessions offered in June or July as well as the other components of orientation on August 27. Families that live farther from TU should plan on attending the Parent Drive-In sessions offered on August 27 along with the rest of parent and family orientation.

Parents of transferring students are invited to participate in a parent orientation from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on all the days of the July Transfer Program or join us for any of the programs listed for families of freshmen.

### Parent Drive-In

The Parent Drive-In is the one-stop orientation for parents and family members of incoming TU freshmen. Parents will have the opportunity to learn about some of the key transitional issues of incoming students and talk with TU staff. Information focuses on general developmental issues for new students, and is specifically designed for the families that are sending a student off to college for the first

time. Families who have already sent a student to college may hear information they already know. The program is for parents and family only and is not intended for the incoming student. This allows parents to ask questions without embarrassing their student.

There is no charge for this program, however registration is required as space is limited. To register for any of the six program times, please visit [www.towson.edu/orientation/parentsfamilies](http://www.towson.edu/orientation/parentsfamilies).

**Thursday, June 23, 2011 • 7–9 p.m.**

Location TBA (will be included in email confirmation)

**Saturday, June 25, 2011 • 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

University Union second floor, Potomac Lounge

**Saturday, June 25, 2011 • 2–4:30 p.m.**

University Union second floor, Potomac Lounge

**Thursday, July 21, 2011 • 7–9 p.m.**

University Union second floor, Potomac Lounge

**Sunday, July 24, 2011 • 7–9:30 p.m.**

University Union third floor, Chesapeake Rooms I–III

**Saturday, August 27, 2011 • 3–5:30 p.m.**

University Union second floor, Potomac Lounge

## Late August Parent and Family Orientation

A variety of Parent and Family Orientation events take place on **Saturday, August 27**. Please note that students will begin orientation activities during the evening of Saturday, August 28. Parents should schedule their goodbyes for early Saturday evening, prior to floor meetings, to allow students to fully participate in the program.

### Saturday, August 27

**9 a.m.–5 p.m.**

**Resource Fair; University Union (UU) Potomac Lounge**

Check out all of the resources available to students and their families. TU staff will be on hand to answer questions.

**9 a.m.–5 p.m.**

**Parent Association Welcome Tent; UU Patio**

Meet parents of current students and take your opening day family photograph compliments of the Parents Association.

**4–5:30 p.m.**

**Disability Support Services Orientation Meeting; University Union, 2nd floor**

Learn about the services offered at TU for students with disabilities.

**3–5:30 p.m.**

**“Parent Drive-In” program; UU Potomac Lounge**

To register, please visit [www.towson.edu/orientation/parentsfamilies](http://www.towson.edu/orientation/parentsfamilies)

**6–8 p.m.**

**Parent Send-Off; Commons Building**

Join other parents and TU staff, including the Vice President of Student Affairs, for refreshments and a last round of tips on how to enjoy this important transition for you and your student.

Towson University transition programs are intended to help new students make important connections that will facilitate their college success. While there are several opportunities for parents and family members to participate in the same events as students, most programs are either student-specific or parent-specific. While it is common for students to struggle in their initial transition to college life, they will struggle even more if family members accompany them to the events intended for students. Inevitably, a parent's presence at student events will limit a student's ability to connect with other students, faculty and staff. While the process may be somewhat stressful, a student's best chance for a successful transition occurs when he or she makes those first crucial connections on his or her own. We appreciate your support during this time.

# MOVING ON AND MOVING OUT

## Recognizing the Challenges of Your Child Leaving Home

By Jim Spivack, Ph.D., *Director of the Counseling Center*

Remember back when your son or daughter was first learning to walk—how they tried on unsteady little legs to grab hold of something and pull themselves up, how they stood with their whole body teetering back and forth before falling down, and how resilient they were in trying once again to stand up on their own? As parents you watched with both awe and trepidation, hoping they would not hurt themselves or cry out in pain, and you were proud to see the triumph of those very first steps. Your child had begun the process of becoming independent, moving from total dependence on you toward being more self-sufficient. Do you remember their ambivalence and uncertainty, expressed in statements like “I can do it myself” and “I need you to take care of me”? As your children grew up, you experienced the transitions in their lives and rode the ups and downs, all leading to this point: they are preparing to go off to college, and you are preparing to let them go.

At each stage of your child’s growth and development, you had your own feelings about how well you were doing as a parent, how well you were adjusting and adapting to their ever-changing needs and how you were going to support them through each task presented to you. Not easy when you factor in moodiness, hormonal changes, establishing intimate dating relationships, getting a driver’s license and struggling to understand people from backgrounds different from their own.

Just as children strive during their earlier years to gain independence, define themselves as unique individuals, and develop personal efficacy and competencies, college students will continue to challenge themselves on these dimensions, but from a more grown-up perspective. They will become different people from who they were in high school—physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Yet, they are in transition and won’t necessarily have good answers to their own questions: *Who am I? Where am I going? What should I major in? Will I get a job?* You have made the commitment to support your son or daughter, and it will be important for you recognize that through their uncertainty, questioning or struggling, you might feel challenged, confused and threatened by their choices and the directions they are choosing to follow.

As your children leave your nest, you are faced with your own reactions to their departure—freedom, loneliness, worry, pride, anticipation, loss of control, excitement, hope. You find yourself examining your life and wondering what will happen to your family as your son or daughter takes this next great journey. We all struggle with what it is like being left behind, and what will become of the family unit, which has been the same for more or less 18 years.

It is important for you to understand that these are normal questions and reactions as you negotiate this major transitional period. If you know what to expect, and understand that your child will be searching to find their sense of self and identity during these college years, you will be better prepared to help. It may take a patience that you, perhaps, don’t even know you possess.

As you navigate this uncertain period, we encourage you to begin learning about the expectations that the university has for your son or daughter. On the next page you will notice a checklist of topics that will help both of you prepare for the transition. While these will be covered with your student during the Welcome to Towson orientation, we encourage you to also discuss these with your student so that your family may begin the term on the same foot.

Lastly, please become familiar with the services on campus that exist to help students with their transition from home to college, including the Counseling Center, Health Center, Career Center and Disability Support Services. You can find their contact information on pages 17-21 of this guide. Each department is staffed by professionals with many years of experience working with college students who are prepared to assist you and your son or daughter with your questions and concerns. They are also available to talk and consult with you about how to best help your child make a good adjustment to Towson, and have a successful academic and personal experience. On behalf of Towson University, we wish you all the best in managing this exciting and challenging time.

# FAMILY COMMUNICATION



One of the hallmarks of a successful transition to college life is the triangle of communication that occurs between a college student, his or her family members and the university. In order to make this transition a smooth one, we recommend setting aside a specific time where you can discuss the following topics with your student. It is helpful to explore three aspects of the following topics: the student response, the family response and the common ground or compromise reached. In some cases there is a university expectation or process that will help guide the beginning of the conversation.

Student's Responsibility	Parents' Guidance	University's Role	
<b>ACADEMICS</b>			
			<b>What does the university expect?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	What are "good grades" and "bad grades"?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	What grades are considered acceptable for college as opposed to high school?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Who decides the student's major? What does a change in major require?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the philosophy on missing class?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	How many courses should a student take each term?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	What should the balance be between co-curricular activities and academics?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	What is a healthy level of involvement in student organizations and activities?
<b>FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	How are tuition bills and financial aid issues settled? Who pays for tuition?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Who pays for food? Is a meal plan purchased? If so, what does it cover?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Who pays for parking? Where can a student park?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Who pays for entertainment? What does this include?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Who pays for gas?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Who pays for clothes?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Who pays for books? Are used books preferred?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Who pays for a cell phone? What happens if minutes or texts are exceeded?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the student is working, how many hours per week? On campus, off or both?
<b>LIFE AT HOME (FOR COMMUTER OR VISITS HOME)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a "curfew"? If there is, what time?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	How much time will the student spend with parents and family vs. friends?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Where will the student stay?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>What responsibilities will the student continue to have at home?</b>
			Laundry? Care of Siblings? Household chores?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>How will the student get to campus or home?</b>
			Carpool? Public transportation? Parents drive? Student Drives?
<b>COMMUNICATION AND VISITS</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	How regularly? Phone calls? Emails? Text messages?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	How often does the student go home?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	How often do family members visit the student at college?

# HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE



## Helping Your Student Adjust to University Housing

By Jerry Dieringer, *Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Housing and Residence Life*  
Ron Butler, *Director, Residence Life*

Adjusting to life on campus, even for students who have already been away from home for extended periods of time, is a key for success. For many students, it is the first time they will share a room with someone else. Students must develop skills to handle conflict, learn to effectively communicate with peers in a living situation, adjust to a new home environment, and thrive among others who have diverse backgrounds, interests and beliefs. The on-campus living environment will provide the opportunity for your student to develop critical thinking skills, be open to diverse opinions and be better prepared for life. What would we like Towson University parents to consider when helping their son or daughter transition to university housing?

### Encourage your student to get involved

- First, give your son or daughter the expectation to attend all classes and make studying a priority.
- Second, ask him or her to attend the floor activities planned by the Resident Assistant of his or her floor, go to the events planned in his or her building, participate in all orientation activities and get involved in the Building Council. In the fall, the campus has many events and opportunities for students to get involved.
- Third, during transitions, working out and exercise can really help, so going to the Burdick gym, attending one of the exercise classes offered or signing up for an intramural team will be a great help in making connections and keeping stress down.
- Finally, make sure your student is getting out of his or her room. Hours on the Internet and watching TV or movies can detract from connecting with others in the campus community.

### Transitioning into adulthood

Students in their first year of university life are beginning the process of transitioning from a teenager to a young adult. With this comes the responsibility for them to make choices and develop the ability to negotiate relationships while addressing conflicts or concerns. As a parent, you are able to help in this transition. When your student brings concerns to you, they often just need you to listen, support them and talk with them about how to respond or problem solve. Resist the urge to solve problems for your student when possible. If your student has issues or concerns, the university prefers to first hear from the student directly. Students learn by doing and gain experience each time they do something on their own.

### Campus resources

There are many campus resources to help students, so please encourage your son or daughter to explore these and take advantage of them. Have your student talk with a staff member who can direct them to the appropriate office or resource.

### Things for parents to remember

- Communicate with your student. You have influence to help your child make good choices. Remember that your son or daughter is going through a transition. You will need time to cover different topics of conversation, so talk to your son or daughter often. It's also okay if they don't communicate as often as you might expect. As the year progresses, it's common for students to feel more comfortable and have less of a need to call.
- Make sure your student understands that you recognize him or her as a young adult.
- Discuss the transition. Freshmen frequently make new friends quickly. Encourage this, but be prepared for your son or daughter to feel the sadness of separation from home. The initial sadness and grief they may feel is a normal and important part of the transition process. It will usually pass.
- Be prepared for your student's and your own conflicting emotions as the day of departure approaches. Discomfort is part of the process.
- Discuss the use of alcohol and other personal choices your student will be making. Encourage responsibility, but know you cannot control what happens.

Residence Life staff members are trained to assist students. Each student has a professional Resident Assistant (RA) and a Residence Life Coordinator (RLC) who live and work in the building. Residence Life staff offer opportunities for involvement, programs and activities, and are great resources for students. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Housing & Residence Life at 410-704-2516.

# DINING SERVICES AND MEAL PLANS



## Dining Services and Plans

Towson University has 13 dining venues on campus: two all-you-care-to-eat dining facilities, nine a-la-carte locations and two convenience stores. Menu options range from traditional favorites to vegetarian, kosher and halal cuisine. Meals can be purchased through a student's OneCard or with cash, Mastercard or Visa cards at all locations.

Students who live on campus are required to purchase a dining plan. They can choose from our new Flex Dining Plans. If your student lives off campus, he or she can choose from either the Flex Dining Plans or the Block Dining Plans. Students residing in Towson Run Apartments or the new West Village resident buildings (Paca and Tubman House) are strongly encouraged to sign up for a dining plan.

Dining plans come with two components: meals and dining points. We recommend choosing a plan based on the number of meals your student thinks he or she will eat per week. For students living off campus, we recommend considering how many times per week the student will eat on campus. Dining plans and dining points are accessed through the OneCard, which is the student ID. The OneCard works like a debit card; at the time of the transaction the student will see the remaining meal and Dining Points balance. Unused meals can be exchanged for "cash equivalency" at all locations (except Paws at lunch and Starbucks at breakfast and lunch). Additional meals and snacks can be purchased at any Dining Services location using the Dining Points.

## About Dining Points

The OneCard Dining Points account is a declining-balance account that works like a debit card. A student can use Dining Points to buy additional meals, snacks and beverages in the a-la-carte locations: Susquehanna Food Court, Patuxent, Paws, The Den, Arts Cafe, Starbucks, Brick Street Cafe, Tiger Express, 7720 Cafe, MicroMart and TRAX. Better than cash, purchases with Dining Points have no sales tax—a 6 percent savings on every food purchase. Each time a student makes a purchase, the amount is subtracted from their OneCard Dining Points balance. Dining Points carry over from term to term and year to year, as long as your student is enrolled at Towson. Dining Points can be added to the account at any time.



# FIRST YEAR ADVISING

## Academic Advising and the First-Year Experience

Attending college for the first time is an exciting, challenging, and perhaps anxious experience for both students and parents. For every student, there is a period of adjustment from high school to college. The professional advisers in the Academic Advising Center help students with the academic component of this adjustment. The center also helps to clarify academic issues for parents.

Towson University is committed to providing comprehensive advising designed to enrich the educational experiences of every student. Advising provides an opportunity for students to identify valuable campus resources, understand university policies and procedures and develop an academic plan that successfully fulfills both personal and educational goals.

Towson University has an advising program that is personalized and unique for metropolitan universities of its size. Every incoming freshman is assigned a First-Year Experience (FYE) academic adviser. FYE advisers are Towson faculty or staff who are specifically selected, trained and experienced to work with new students. Students are required to meet with their advisers at least five times in their first year in college. During those meetings, advisers will make sure that students understand the university's general Core Curriculum requirements, requirements for a major and overall graduation requirements. Our main goal is to teach students how to take an active role in their own education. The FYE Adviser is noted on each student's class schedule as ORIE 305. ORIE 305 carries no credit and no tuition costs. After the freshman year, students who have declared a major will transition to major-based academic advising. Students who have not declared a major will be advised by a professional in the Academic Advising Center.

### Student responsibilities in the FYE advising process:

- Become knowledgeable about academic policies, procedures, and requirements by reviewing the university's *Undergraduate Catalog*, including Core Curriculum and major department requirements
- Regularly check campus e-mail account and keep an open line of communication with the FYE adviser
- Know how to use the Degree Progress Report to understand and assess progress toward satisfying graduation requirements



- Meet with adviser on a regular basis—arrive on time, be prepared, bring questions, use the Freshman Advising Guide
- Understand campus resources and proactively seek assistance as needed
- Take responsibility for choices and the overall academic experience

### Academic adviser responsibilities in the academic advising process:

- Provide accurate information about university policies, procedures and academic requirements, including Core Curriculum, graduation and major-department programs
- Serve as a link between students and the campus community, including helping students with transitional issues and understanding campus resources
- Assist students in identifying and assessing goals and objectives as part of developing an academic plan
- Provide registration information and advice regarding course selection appropriate to the student's academic plan
- Assist students in understanding academic progress using the Degree Progress Report

Parents can encourage and support their students in exploring new areas of knowledge, as well as focusing on a specific major. As part of fulfilling Towson's graduation requirements, your student may need to take classes in subjects that seem far removed from their interests. That is part of the beauty of college—students are introduced to a variety of subjects to which they have not yet been exposed. Opportunities to study beyond high school level English, math, social studies, and science enhance a student's overall development. Learning about subjects such as philosophy, criminal justice, cultural studies and economics will broaden a student's understanding and appreciation of global issues and may help a student choose, refine or expand a major.

You are an important part of your child's life and his or her growing academic and social awareness. Encouraging your student to use the available campus resources to make thoughtful and well-informed decisions will be crucial in their continued development and enrichment.

# FAMILY WEEKEND

SAVE THE DATE FOR FAMILY WEEKEND!  
October 14–16, 2011



- **FAMILY FUN**
- **TRIPS**
- **AMAZING RACE**
- **ENTERTAINMENT**
- **BRUNCH**
- **ART SHOWS**
- **ATHLETIC EVENTS... and much more!**

[www.towson.edu/main/lifetu/events/familyweekend](http://www.towson.edu/main/lifetu/events/familyweekend)

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES



### Fall 2011

- |                |   |                   |  |
|----------------|---|-------------------|--|
| <b>Aug. 27</b> | New student move-in—Residence Halls.  | <b>Nov. 9</b>     | Last day to withdraw from full term courses with a grade of W. Last day to change to pass or audit option. |
| <b>Aug. 31</b> | Classes and Change of Schedule period begins.   | <b>Nov. 22</b>    | Residence Halls close at 6 p.m.  |
| <b>Sept. 5</b> | Labor Day—NO CLASSES.   | <b>Nov. 23-27</b> | Thanksgiving Holiday NO CLASSES  |
| <b>Sept. 6</b> | Change of Schedule period ends for first 7-week session. Last day to drop a course for first 7-week session with no grade posted to academic record. Last day to add a course for first 7-week session. | <b>Nov. 27</b>    | Residence halls open at noon.  |
| <b>Sept. 9</b> | Change of Schedule period ends for full term. Last day to drop a course with no grade posted to academic record. Last day to add a course.  | <b>Nov. 28</b>    | Classes resume.  |
| <b>Oct. 5</b>  | Last day to withdraw from first 7-week session.   | <b>Nov. 29</b>    | Last day to withdraw from second 7-week session with a grade of W.   |
| <b>Oct. 20</b> | Mid-term and end of first 7-week session.   | <b>Dec. 10</b>    | Last Saturday class.   |
| <b>Oct. 21</b> | Second 7-week session begins.   | <b>Dec. 14</b>    | Last day of classes.   |
| <b>Oct. 26</b> | Change of Schedule period ends for second 7-week session. Last day to drop a course for with no grade posted to academic record. Last day to add a course for second 7-week session                     | <b>Dec. 15</b>    | Final examinations begin.  |
|                |   | <b>Dec. 21</b>    | Last day of examinations and end of term.  |
|                |   | <b>Dec. 22</b>    | Residence halls close at 9 a.m.  |

For a complete academic schedule, visit [www.towson.edu/registrar](http://www.towson.edu/registrar).

# COLLEGE STUDENTS AND ALCOHOL

## A message to parents

By Donna Cox, *director Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Center*

As a first-year college student, your son or daughter will be presented with incredible opportunities for intellectual, social and personal growth. However, there are also aspects of college life that can lead students to make potentially risky decisions, particularly with respect to alcohol. Factors such as peer pressure, availability of alcohol and being away from home for the first time all can contribute to this risk.

As you and your son or daughter prepare for college life, it is important that you set aside time to talk about these risks. We know, based on national surveys, that most students make responsible decisions about the use of alcohol. We also know, based on research studies, that students are more likely to make those responsible decisions if parents have discussed the risks and consequences of alcohol with them before they come to campus.

High-risk drinking can lead to personal, academic and legal issues that can compromise future goals. According to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), a quarter of college students in the U.S. reported some type academic consequence (e.g., missed class, lower grades) due to alcohol. Harvard University professor Henry Wechsler reported that 159,000 first-year students in the United States drop out annually due to heavy drinking behaviors. These are facts that we at TU are trying to change, and we need your help.

Please talk to your son or daughter about drinking. Be factual and straightforward, and set clear expectations about class attendance, staying in touch and alcohol use. Discuss how your child can protect his/her right to stay safe when away from home, including how to “party” safely. Reinforce good citizen responsibilities that include obeying the law, respecting university policies and reflecting on

how personal actions affect the health and safety of others. Emphasize that choices leading to violation of these laws and policies may result in legal or university sanctions. Encourage your son or daughter to dismantle the alcohol myth that “everybody’s doing it,” and reinforce that today’s students are, in fact, more concerned about their grades and staying healthy. While peer pressure can influence student decisions, we want you to know that parental power has a greater influence—you have a greater influence.

Alcohol use may be perceived by students and parents as a “rite of passage”—but it is not. We are committed to changing this perception, providing students and parents with resources to help them understand the risks associated with drinking. If your student claims that everyone around them is drinking and that it is the only way to meet people; help remind him or her to assess the reality of these statements. There are always other alternatives, many of which will be discussed at orientation. Some parents choose to go beyond the consequences conversation to discuss how to behave in a situation involving alcohol. These conversations involve practical steps for monitoring both their personal behavior (such as identifying exactly what a limit entails for them personally and how to stick to it) and determining how they plan to help other students when their drinking becomes a danger to themselves or others (such as preventing them from getting in a car with other people who have been drinking).

Additionally, underage students are sometimes tempted to obtain a fake ID, thinking that it will open doors. Remind your son or daughter that the only doors that it opens are steep fines, court fees, mandated community service and the potential for a criminal record—which is public record. All of these pieces could

harm their chances of participating in study abroad, joining campus organizations, and could limit their choices for achieving life goals such as obtaining a job or entrance into graduate schools, law schools, and medical schools.

We thank you for your help and encourage you to contact the Division of Student Affairs with any questions or concerns.

**Interested in more information on alcohol use, including ways to talk to your son or daughter about college drinking? The websites listed below are great places to start.**

- > [www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov](http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov)
- > [www.factsontap.org/factsontap/parents.htm](http://www.factsontap.org/factsontap/parents.htm)
- > [www.higheredcenter.org/parents](http://www.higheredcenter.org/parents)
- > [www.acde.org/parent/default.htm](http://www.acde.org/parent/default.htm)
- > [www.towson.edu/studentaffairs/policies/studentalcoholanddrugpolicy.asp](http://www.towson.edu/studentaffairs/policies/studentalcoholanddrugpolicy.asp)

## Office of Student Conduct and Civility Education

The Office of Student Conduct and Civility Education understands that sending your student to college is as much of a transition for you as it is for him or her. Students are expected to make decisions on their own, learn to resolve conflict independently and take responsibility for their actions. At the same time they seek your love, respect, your opinion and generally operate on the values that you instilled in them.

So, what should you do if your student becomes involved in the campus conduct system? Visit [www.towson.edu/judicialaffairs](http://www.towson.edu/judicialaffairs). This link can serve as a resource for gaining knowledge about our conduct policies and provide you with recommendations if you discover that your student is involved in the campus conduct process.



# FINDING THEIR PLACE ON CAMPUS



## How to Get Your Student Involved on Campus

By Lisa Reagle, *Director of New Student Programs*

Most Towson students admit that while they were first hesitant about getting involved, it was ultimately their ability to put themselves out there that helped them find friends and love their Towson experience. Even so, your son or daughter may tell you that there's nothing to do or that he or she is having a hard time making friends. It can be challenging to help when you are not physically with your student. Fortunately a number of offices on campus, including Student Activities and New Student Programs, are committed to assisting your student be successful and find their niche. Below is a list of suggestions about how you can become a partner in the process.

### Over the summer

In between sleeping, traveling, working, hanging out with friends and daydreaming about college, remind your student to take some time to look through the To-Do list for instructions on how to access the Involved@TU website, <http://involved.towson.edu>. Involved@TU is an online database that contains information on Towson's 200 student organizations (think Facebook for student groups). This includes contact information, meeting times, upcoming events and how to join.

### During move-in, orientation and the first few weeks of classes

We asked current students to suggest ways for you to make this time less overwhelming. Here's what they had to say:

- Take action. It will be scary at first, but the only way that your student will get to know other people is by making himself or herself accessible. Encourage your student to meet:
  - His or her resident Assistant (RA), if living on campus. RAs know about events going on in their residence halls. Encourage your student to attend.
  - Other commuters, if living off campus. There will be a Commuter Student Cookout held on Burdick Field on Saturday, August 27 from 6–8 p.m. During this time, your student will learn more about the Commuter Student Association (CSA) events.
  - Orientation leaders and the people in his or her First Year Experience (FYE) group. Orientation leaders will begin meeting with students on Sunday, August 28 and will ask your student about his or her interests. The more students have thought about how they enjoy spending their time, the easier it will be for the Orientation leader to guide them to groups that will help them feel like they have a Towson family.

- People in class. Remind your son or daughter that striking up a conversation with a classmate is a great way to find people with whom to study, review notes and prepare for exams. Sure, it might feel awkward at first, the other person will be glad your student took the first step.
- Learn what involvement is like in college. During the Welcome to Towson orientation program, we stress to students that each person's Towson involvement looks different. Some students are involved in several student organizations, whereas others choose to have an on-campus job, participate in community service projects, or participate in sports clubs and intramurals. Be aware of the two dates below to assist you in asking questions about involvement at just the right time:
  - On Tuesday, August 30, there will be an information session called Involvement 101. During this time, we will help your student think about how much time, and in some cases money, they are willing to commit to these new experiences.
  - Towson's Involvement Fair will be held on September 7 on Burdick Field. This event is held at the beginning of each term to showcase the many diverse student organizations on campus. Each fair is represented by student organizations with information tables to recruit new members.

### During the year

Hopefully your son or daughter has taken advantage of the opportunities listed above. If, in spite of these efforts, you find yourself responding to calls, emails or texts related to homesickness or a lack of attachment to Towson, try to determine the root of the situation. Is your student heading home every weekend, spending too much time on the phone or online with friends and family from home, only coming to campus for classes, only leaving their room for meals? If this is the case, it will take a change in your student's behavior for them to enjoy their experience more. Our staff is available year-round to help students think about how to change their experience and how to find their place on campus; all they have to do is stop by! Direct your student to the Offices of Student Activities and New Student Programs. We share a suite in the University Union 217.

# CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY



## About the TU Police

The Towson University Police Department (TUPD) has an authorized strength of 42 sworn police officers and provides a full range of police and security services to the TU community. Its officers, all police academy graduates with Maryland Police Training Commission certification, have full authority to enforce federal, state and local laws. The department is responsible for the investigation of most criminal incidents that occur on university property, though TUPD may coordinate with Baltimore County Police and/or the Maryland State Police when investigating certain crimes. TUPD also enforces university policies and emphasizes safety education and awareness to all members of the campus community. The department has worked tirelessly in recent years to improve internal and external communication and crime prevention strategies, adopting the philosophy of “community policing” to improve the overall quality of campus life. Patrols have been increased, education programs have been expanded, and residence hall security has been tightened. As proof of its ongoing commitment to campus safety, the Towson University Police Department has received the Governor’s Crime Prevention Award for Excellence for 24 consecutive years.



## Crime Prevention

TUPD, working with other university departments, has developed a program aimed at preventing crime through awareness and participation in the university community. While TUPD takes great measures to ensure the safety of campus, each individual is primarily responsible for his or her own safety. Students should report suspicious persons, keep doors locked, store valuables in a safe place, avoid walking in areas that are poorly lit or look unsafe, utilize the TU escort service and always stay alert. Students are also strongly encouraged to take advantage of services offered by the university police. Such safety initiatives include:

### Emergency Blue Light Phones

In case of emergency, Towson University has installed blue light phones around campus. Callers can immediately reach Towson University Police by simply pressing the emergency button.

### University Escort Service

The University Escort Service is maintained through a partnership between Transportation Services and TUPD. Transportation Services operates on-campus shuttle buses until 2 a.m. every day. When regularly scheduled shuttle service ends, Transportation Services offers RIDEVAN, which provides on-campus transportation to students from 2-6 a.m. TUPD supplements these operations by providing walking escorts during the hours of darkness with the SAFEWALK Program. When requested, TUPD will dispatch a police aid to a specific location on campus. The individual will be escorted to another on-campus location or the nearest shuttle stop, depending on the requested location. Both the RIDEVAN and SAFEWALK services are available by calling 410-704-SAFE (7233) or by using the campus emergency telephones.

## Residence Hall Safety

TU residence halls and Towson Run apartments are locked at all times. Residents must present a TU OneCard to gain entry at night and guests must be accompanied by a resident. Uniformed security guards are also stationed at the front entrance overnight to ensure that only residents and escorted guests may enter.

## Operation Identification

This free service allows any member of the university community to have personal property engraved with a driver’s license or other identifying number to facilitate the recovery of property that is lost or stolen.

## Police Blotter, Crime Alerts and Communication

TUPD distributes Crime Alerts through university email whenever a serious threat to the campus occurs on university property or in the neighboring community. Moreover, the police department maintains a weekly Police Blotter in *The Twilight*, the university newspaper, to keep students informed of crime trends, safety tips and special programs. A full TUPD crime log is also maintained online at [www.towson.edu/police](http://www.towson.edu/police).

## Self-defense

TUPD has partnered with other departments on campus to offer the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) System, a program of realistic self-defense techniques for women. The RAD System is a comprehensive, women-only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, and progresses on to the basics of hands-on defense training. RAD is not a martial arts program.



## Education

The TUPD Community Crime Reduction Unit provides information seminars on a variety of topics, including the prevention of rape and sexual assault, theft and robbery prevention, drug and alcohol awareness, identity theft, safety issues and personal defense advice.

## Emergency Preparedness

The safety and security of students is of utmost concern to Towson University. As such, TUPD has developed and distributed the Emergency Resource Guide for use in the event of a criminal or violent act on campus. This guide covers many different situations, including active shooter and lock-down procedures. For the past three years, TUPD has been training officers to respond to an active shooter in a building, and plans are currently underway to train faculty and staff. Parents may view the Emergency Resource Guide online at [www.towson.edu/police](http://www.towson.edu/police).

## Emergency Text Message Alert System

Towson University now employs a state-of-the-art emergency notification system for its community that is capable of sending messages instantly and simultaneously to all registered text message-capable mobile phones, Blackberries, wireless PDAs, pagers, smart or satellite phones, and email addresses. Alerts are displayed on the university's website and messages also "pop up" on the computer screen of anyone using Google, Yahoo! or AOL as their homepage.

Students—and parents—are strongly encouraged to register. This is the surest and timeliest way for you to receive notifications critical to student safety and well being. Currently, the system allows users to opt in to public safety/crime alerts, campus closings and severe/dangerous weather alerts. (Please note: Depending on

your wireless service agreement, a nominal charge may be incurred for receiving text messages.) To register, visit the TUPD website at [www.towson.edu/police](http://www.towson.edu/police) and click "Campus Emergency Notification System" (located on the left side of the screen). In order to successfully complete this process, you will need to have your cell phone with you and on.

The university has installed an early warning exterior siren system which provides timely warnings of impending emergencies through the use of audible tones, prerecorded messages and live voice transmissions. Many buildings on campus also have voice transmission capabilities. These systems, along with the text messaging alert system, are highly effective methods for notifying students, faculty, staff, parents and visitors of any emergencies that arise on campus.

## Public Safety Video

In its new public safety video, TUPD provides parents with an overview of the police department as well as crime prevention tips and information on personal safety, the escort service, emergency blue light phones, residence hall security, fire safety and health services. To access the video, visit [www.towson.edu/police](http://www.towson.edu/police) and click "Campus Safety Video."

## Emergency Preparedness Video

The TUPD also recommends all faculty, staff and students become familiar with the Emergency Preparedness Training ("RAIN") video which may be viewed on the TUPD website, [www.towson.edu/police](http://www.towson.edu/police).

*Parents and students may visit [www.towson.edu/police](http://www.towson.edu/police) for recent crime statistics, updated crime logs, and the Crime Awareness and Campus Security (Clery) Report.*



# FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



## Money Attitude: TU's Financial Literacy Program

Mary Fortier, *Program Manager, Financial Services*

Melissa Groves, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, Economics*

Danielle Thron Treiber, *SECU Financial Educator and 2009 AFCPE Educator of the Year*

Towson University's Money Attitude program creates awareness about financial matters impacting college students by linking the college experience to personal finances, such as student loans, credit cards, employment, taxes and savings. The program provides free resources and services to students and parents through:

- Counseling by peers for goal setting, budgeting and tracking money.
- Workshops on important topics impacting students.
- Free tax preparation services.
- Training mentors as part of applied learning and professional development.
- Partnerships with financial institutions to provide student saving incentives.

The program recently expanded by partnering with the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) of Maryland. This collaboration benefits both students and parents because of SECU's large portfolio of programs and services specifically designed for young adults, like the Student Unlimited Banking (SUB) program. For more information, visit [www.secumd.org/html/index/index.cfm](http://www.secumd.org/html/index/index.cfm).

Below is a list of additional on-campus resources available to help students.

### Academic Success

If your finances are impacting your academic career, contact:

Academic Advising Center, Lecture Hall, 410-704-2472  
[www.towson.edu/academicadvising/index.asp](http://www.towson.edu/academicadvising/index.asp)

Financial Aid Office, Enrollment Services 339, 410-704-4236  
[www.towson.edu/main/finaid](http://www.towson.edu/main/finaid)

### Did you know...

- More students drop out of college due to debt than due to academic issues.
- Students are now taking more than four years to graduate because of financial problems.
- A poor credit rating affects a student's ability to lease or buy a car, rent or own a home, and even get a job.
- About 20 percent of identity theft occurs to individuals under the age of 30 and by someone they know.
- Financial issues cause emotional and physical problems.

### Goal Setting and Budgeting

If you want to learn how to set short- and long-term financial goals contact:

Money Attitude Counseling Services, Financial Services, Administration Building, fourth floor  
[www.towson.edu/moneyattitude](http://www.towson.edu/moneyattitude)  
[mymoney@towson.edu](mailto:mymoney@towson.edu)

### Employment

To learn more about on- and off-campus employment or career advising, contact:

The Career Center, 7800 York Road, 410-704-2233  
[www.towson.edu/careercenter](http://www.towson.edu/careercenter)

To learn more about getting paid on campus and taxes, contact:

Financial Services, Administration Building, 410-704-5599  
[www.towson.edu/adminfinance/fiscalplanning](http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/fiscalplanning)  
[financialservices/Payroll-home.asp](http://financialservices/Payroll-home.asp)

### Health and Emotional Wellness

If personal finance issues are impacting your physical or emotional well being, contact:

*Physical health*—Dowell Health Center, 410-704-2466  
[www.towson.edu/dowellhealthcenter](http://www.towson.edu/dowellhealthcenter)

*Emotional wellness*—Counseling Center, Glen Oak, 410-704-2512  
[www.towson.edu/counseling](http://www.towson.edu/counseling)

### Identity Theft

If you think you are a victim of identity theft, contact:

University Police, General Services, 410-704-2133  
[www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/police](http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/police)

### Credit Score Rating

To understand more about appropriate use of credit, your credit report and score go to:

Money Attitude Website  
[www.towson.edu/financialliteracy/CreditTips.asp](http://www.towson.edu/financialliteracy/CreditTips.asp)

The Buck Starts Here: Take Control of Your Finances  
[youngadult.secumd.org/topic/credit.cfm](http://youngadult.secumd.org/topic/credit.cfm)

# FROM THE BURSAR'S OFFICE



## All About Billing

### Paperless Term Bills and Monthly Statements

In order to make term bills and monthly statements convenient and accessible to the campus community, the Bursar's Office distributes TU's tuition bills electronically. Here's how the e-bill system works:

- Paper tuition bills are not mailed to your home.
- When tuition bills are ready each term, students receive an email on their TU account instructing them to view their e-bill through Towson Online Services. The first of these e-bill notifications for the fall term will be sent in July.
- Parents or other third parties who wish to view or pay their student's tuition bills online need to be established by the student as authorized users in the e-bill system. These individuals will have access to the bills under a separate username and password.
- Bill payments can be made online, in person at the Bursar's Office, or through the mail.
- Additional information about e-billing, including how to view an e-bill or establish an authorized user, is available at [www.towson.edu/ebill](http://www.towson.edu/ebill).

### Tuition and Billing Information

Information pertaining to tuition, fees and billing can be found on the Bursar's website, [www.towson.edu/bursar](http://www.towson.edu/bursar). Please note that the Bursar's Office will often communicate pertinent billing information to students via messages to their TU e-mail account. Thus, it is crucial for all students to monitor their TU account on a regular basis.

Make sure to submit full payment or a verification of third-party funds (such as scholarships) by the payment deadline, which is located on the e-bill. Accounts not paid in full by the payment deadline will be assessed a \$75 late fee.

### Payment Options

- **Cash:** The Bursar's Office Payment Center is open 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday–Friday, and is located on the third floor of the Enrollment Services Center.
- **Check or money order:** Please make checks or money orders payable to Towson University and include the student's TU ID number on the front of the check. To submit payment:

Print a copy of your e-bill and mail it with your check or money order to: Towson University, Bursar's Office, 8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252; or,

Pay in person at the Bursar's Office Payment Center, on the third floor of the Enrollment Services Center.

- **Pay your bill online:** Payment may be made online by e-check/ACH or credit card. To make an e-check/ACH payment, you will need your financial institution's routing number and your bank/credit union account number. Neither TU nor our online payment vendor charges a fee for e-check/ACH payments.

All credit card payments are processed by a third-party vendor, and are assessed a 2.75 percent convenience fee (minimum \$3) on the payment amount. Discover, MasterCard and American Express credit cards are accepted. Due to Visa's restriction on assessing a convenience fee, Visa is not accepted.

- **Wire Transfers:** For the bank information necessary to submit a wire transfer, please contact Alisa Nathan or Dawn Kuessner at 410-704-2100, and select option 5. The student's name and TU ID number should appear on the wire transfer document.

### Deferred Payment Plan

The university offers a deferred payment plan which is administered through a third-party, Nelnet/eCashier. The deferred payment plan extends to students and parents a monthly budget plan for meeting the cost of tuition, university fees, and on-campus housing and meals for each term. Please note that Millennium Hall, Paca House, and Tubman House are privately operated by Capstone Management, and rent for these facilities is not included as part of the university's regular term billing. Therefore, they cannot be included in a deferred payment plan.

Students and parents can set up a deferred payment agreement with the university's Nelnet/eCashier, online at [www.towson.edu/bursar/paymentplan](http://www.towson.edu/bursar/paymentplan). For more information or assistance in setting up a plan, contact the Bursar's Office at 410-704-2100 and select option 6. Nelnet/eCashier is not affiliated with the university and does not act as the university's agent. Accordingly, the university bears no responsibility for the acts or omissions of this partner. Moreover, a student's liability for tuition and fees is not discharged until payment is made in full.

## Black, Gold and Green

*A Message about Campus Sustainability*

By Jack Nye, *Director of Sustainability*

As new students embark on an exciting period of development and growth, so too does Towson University. Our campus continues to grow with new and evolved programs to respond to the interests of our student body and address the important issues of our ever-changing world. Part of our response has been the development of the TU Go Green campaign to educate and engage our students on the issues of global climate change and natural resource management.

TU Go Green covers a myriad of environmental initiatives on campus, including the American College and University President's Climate Commitment. As part of this pledge to climate neutrality, TU committed to several immediate actions to lower the carbon footprint of campus. These immediate actions included: achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification for all future campus building projects; reducing solid waste generated on campus; and increasing alternative transportation options and programs for the campus community. In less than four years, much progress has been made. We have already implemented all of the immediate actions listed above and we have also developed a comprehensive inventory of greenhouse gas emissions as well as a strategy to remediate and address those emissions.

This summer the university will open several new buildings that will achieve LEED. The benefit of LEED facilities include, less energy and water use, minimized waste and lower carbon emissions compared to traditionally constructed buildings. The second phase of the College of Liberal Arts building will open this August and include sustainable features such as a green roof and high-efficiency HVAC and lighting systems. Two new residence halls, a satellite student union and a 1,500-space parking garage will also be open.



TU has implemented a conservation program encouraging students to reuse, reduce and recycle, as well as an innovative single-stream recycling system that is convenient and easy to use. TU has developed a popular off-campus shuttle program that works with our other alternative transportation initiatives, such as the Zipcar program, to minimize use of individual vehicles. These programs make public transportation affordable and convenient to the campus community while lowering carbon emissions.



TU supports numerous environmentally focused student groups and activities that provide opportunities to get involved. These range from recycling and energy competitions to Go Green Orientations and the Adopt-a-Campus program. Our campus also hosts sustainability conferences and environmental committees that serve as a means for the development of green initiatives and educational opportunities. Together, TU faculty, staff and students are working to make our campus a greener place.

I am pleased to share with you the great strides we are making toward sustainability. To continue our progress it is imperative that every new student shares in the responsibility of making our campus a more sustainable place to live, learn and thrive. I challenge every new student to get involved and learn about the opportunities and expectations to be environmentally responsible citizens—both on campus and off.

### Our Expectations

**Reduce energy and resource use.** Towson has pledged to reduce campus energy use by 15 percent by 2015. Students can contribute by taking shorter showers, turning off lights and unplugging electronic devices when not in use. To conserve energy, students living on campus are asked to keep the thermostat in their rooms at reasonable settings (72 in summer, 65 in winter) and to follow thermostat-setting instructions when leaving for breaks. For details, visit [www.towson.edu/energy](http://www.towson.edu/energy).

**Use TU transportation.** Save money and energy by leaving your car at home. In addition to on-campus shuttles, Towson's off-campus shuttle program transports students to many local apartment complexes and transportation hubs. The Baltimore Colletown shuttle gives students easy access to nearby college, university, shopping and entertainment destinations. Our Zipcar program enables students to inexpensively rent vehicles for as little as an hour or as long as three days, and our ride-sharing program matches students with similar travel schedules. For more information, see [www.towson.edu/transportation](http://www.towson.edu/transportation).

**Recycle.** The 3,000-plus single-stream recycling containers on campus make recycling easy and convenient. There is only one choice: recycle it or trash it. No separating necessary. For details, go to [www.towson.edu/recycling](http://www.towson.edu/recycling).

**Get involved.** For all the latest information about what is happening on campus and how to get involved go to [www.towson.edu/gogreen](http://www.towson.edu/gogreen).

# SERVICES AND RESOURCES



## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

Cook Library 524  
410-704-2291; 410-704-4979; 410-704-3216 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/aac](http://www.towson.edu/aac)  
[achieve@towson.edu](mailto:achieve@towson.edu)

The Academic Achievement Center (AAC), a comprehensive academic learning center, serves the entire TU student population with tutorial support, learning strategy workshops and academic coaching. The AAC has a master-level tutor program certified through the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). The center provides tutoring services primarily in the lower-level behavioral and social sciences, English literature, business, foreign languages, physical, natural and computer sciences, mathematics and music courses. Services are free to registered undergraduates and depend upon availability of a qualified tutor.

To promote retention and in-class success, AAC learning specialists provide individual and group strategy sessions to help students learn how to prepare study schedules, improve in their note-taking skills as well as enhance their overall study skills and habits. Upon faculty request, AAC staff facilitates in-class academic strategy sessions.

Additionally, the Academic Achievement Center conducts placement testing for incoming TU students who earn a score below 500 on the reading, writing or math sections of the SAT and below a 21 on the reading, writing or math sections of the ACT. These students are required to take the appropriate sections of the online Accuplacer® examination published by the College Board. Scores from the Accuplacer® will determine which courses a student must enroll in during their first term at TU. For additional questions regarding placement testing, please go to [www.towson.edu/placementtesting](http://www.towson.edu/placementtesting).

## ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER

Lecture Hall Building  
410-704-2472; 410-704-4020 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/advising](http://www.towson.edu/advising)

The Academic Advising Center offers programs and services that help students become well-informed and effective at decision making and planning their Towson education. The Academic Advising Center coordinates the First Year Experience (FYE) advising program and offers placement testing including the Accuplacer® test (which evaluates basic reading, writing and math skills) to entering freshmen and transfer students. The HELP: Student Academic Advising Program advises students on academic warning and academic probation, and advises those who are undecided majors or are in the process of choosing or changing their majors. Appointments are recommended but students are also seen on a walk-in basis.

## ATHLETICS

Auburn House 200  
410-704-2759; 410-704-3002 (fax)  
[www.towsontigers.com](http://www.towsontigers.com)

The Tigers are members of the most competitive mid-major NCAA Division I conference in the nation—the Colonial Athletic Association. Women's gymnastics competes in the ECAC. Johnny Unitas Stadium, Towson Center, Burdick Pool and Schuerholz Field provide Towson's 20 varsity teams with excellent facilities. Student admission to all Tiger regular season home events at these venues is free upon presentation of a valid OneCard ID. The Tiger's website, [www.towsontigers.com](http://www.towsontigers.com), is the best source for all current and archived information on Towson athletics including schedules, feature stories, game write-ups, media guides and action photos.

## AUXILIARY SERVICES BUSINESS OFFICE

University Union, first floor  
(across from University Store)  
410-704-2284; 410-704-3431 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/onecard](http://www.towson.edu/onecard)

This is a one-stop business transactions office for OneCard retail/vending and dining points accounts, ID cards, parking permits, citation payments and MVA Nonresident Permits. OneCard accounts can also be managed online, where students can deposit funds to retail/vending and dining points accounts, check balances and view a history of transactions.

## BURSAR'S OFFICE

Enrollment Services Center 336  
410-704-2100; 1-888-5BURSAR; 410-704-2185 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/bursar](http://www.towson.edu/bursar)

Towson University's student business office is called the Bursar's Office. The Bursar's Office coordinates billing, bill payment, collection of delinquent accounts, financial aid rebate disbursement, account adjustments and account research.

## CAMPUS LIFE

University Union 232  
410-704-2332; 410-704-4810 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/campuslife](http://www.towson.edu/campuslife)

Campus Life serves as the home for Campus Recreation Services, the Office of Student Activities (including leadership, community service, campus programming, Student Government Association and student organizations), New Student Programs, Off-Campus Student Services and Fraternity and Sorority Life. Campus Life also oversees programmatic initiatives such as the Parents Association, Family Weekend, Welcome to Towson, September Celebration and FebFest.

# SERVICES AND RESOURCES



## CAMPUS RECREATION SERVICES

Burdick Hall 151

410-704-2367; 410-704-4329 (fax)

[www.towson.edu/campusrec](http://www.towson.edu/campusrec)

Campus Recreation Services (CRS) is located in Burdick Hall and consists of seven program areas: Adventure Pursuits, Aquatics, Fitness and Wellness, Informal Recreation, Intramural Sports, Special Events and Sport Clubs. CRS strongly supports the university's mission of creating a healthy campus and encourages students, faculty and staff to utilize the facilities and participate in our programs. A valid TU OneCard is required for access to any CRS facilities and programs. Find it all in Burdick Hall.

Enjoy recreation and sport activities:

- Participate in one of our 37 sport clubs ranging from badminton to men's and women's lacrosse.
- Join an intramural team: soccer, flag football or basketball.
- Make use of our state-of-the-art 8,400 square-foot Fitness Center and 33-foot climbing gym.
- Drop by the Burdick gymnasiums or pool for activities such as pickup basketball or lap swimming.
- Attend a backpacking, kayaking or climbing trip with our trained trip leaders.
- Run in our annual LEAD Strong Half Marathon or roller skate the night away at our annual Skate Night.
- Bring a group to the Challenge Course to develop leadership skills and team building without leaving campus.

## CAREER CENTER AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

7800 York Road, Suite 206

410-704-2233; 410-704-3459 (fax)

[www.towson.edu/careercenter](http://www.towson.edu/careercenter)

The Career Center offers undergraduate and graduate students a variety of career-related programs and services which support their ability to:

- Make decisions about their major, assess their skills and interests, and explore career options with assistance from career counselors, a Career and Life Planning course (GENL121), online resources and materials in the Career Resource Center.
- Build a strong resume, develop networking and interviewing skills and learn to market themselves via workshops, one-on-one assistance and online resources.
- Get connected to employers for part-time, seasonal, full-time and internship opportunities via the Career Center's coordinated internship program, the Hire@TU database, career and job fairs and the on-campus recruitment program.
- Explore and successfully navigate the graduate school application process.

## CENTER FOR STUDENT DIVERSITY

University Union 313

410-704-2051; 410-704-4229 (fax)

[www.towson.edu/diversity](http://www.towson.edu/diversity)

The Center for Student Diversity (CSD) strives to create a campus community where everyone understands and values diverse cultures, experiences and perspectives. To achieve our goal, we provide programs and services that serve the intellectual, social, personal and cultural needs of all students while paying particular attention to underrepresented and marginalized groups. We also assist the university in the recruitment, retention and graduation of students from these groups by promoting institutional access and academic success.

Currently, the CSD cluster comprises the African American Student Development Program; the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Student Development Program; the Asian Pacific Islander and Latino Student Development Program; Student Success Programs (including SAGE and CEEP); Women's Resources; and Campus Ministries.

## COUNSELING CENTER

Glen Esk

410-704-2512

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

[www.towson.edu/counseling](http://www.towson.edu/counseling)

The Counseling Center helps students resolve emotional difficulties, select and reach goals, improve personal skills, and overcome the effects of trauma, disadvantage or substance abuse. Available services and resources include individual and group counseling, alcohol and drug counseling, outreach and consultation, psychiatric services and a peer education program. A variety of self-help resources and referral to local mental health clinicians in the community are also accessible from the Counseling Center website, including information on anxiety, depression, substance abuse, maximizing academic performance, relationship issues, adjusting to college life, Internet addictions, childhood trauma, eating disorders and body image, multicultural awareness, support for international students, managing your money, tips for graduating seniors, and links to other online compilations.

## DINING SERVICES

University Union 200A

410-704-2302; 410-704-3560 (fax)

[dining@towson.edu](mailto:dining@towson.edu)

<http://dining.towson.edu>

Dining Services offers a wide variety of options to meet your dining needs, including two all-you-care-to-eat facilities, nine à la carte locations and two convenience stores. Visit our website for information concerning dining plans, dining locations, hours of operation or for any other questions.

# SERVICES AND RESOURCES



## DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Administration Building 232  
410-704-2638 (Voice or TDD)  
[www.towson.edu/dss](http://www.towson.edu/dss)

Disability Support Services (DSS) is the office designated to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must identify themselves to DSS, request an appointment to discuss their needs, and provide DSS with up-to-date and complete documentation of their disabilities by a qualified professional. The type of documentation needed varies with the disability. Generally, a psycho-educational evaluation is required for learning and cognitive disabilities. A report from a psychiatrist, psychologist or certified mental health care provider is required for ADHD and psychological disabilities, while a typed letter from a physician is needed for medical and physical disabilities.

Students are encouraged to register with DSS once admitted to the university to ensure timely provision of services. When a student is registered with DSS, memos are prepared for the student's instructors that certify the disability and specify approved classroom accommodations. Students who suspect that they have a disability but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact DSS for advice on how to obtain an appropriate evaluation. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

## DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Administration Building 236  
410-704-2055; 410-704-3441 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/studentaffairs](http://www.towson.edu/studentaffairs)  
[studentaffairs@towson.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@towson.edu)

The Division of Student Affairs strives to create transformative learning experiences pivotal in students' education and identity development by:

- engaging students in a broad range of programs, services and opportunities that help them acquire essential skills to thrive as emerging citizens and leaders
- fostering and modeling a respectful and inclusive environment that enables students to identify personal values, appreciate differences and adapt to a diverse society
- creating connections and partnerships that contribute to the recruitment and retention of students

The university, through the Division of Student Affairs, provides a wide range of support services and programs designed specifically to meet the out-of-class and co-curricular needs of students. The division directly supports students' total educational experience; its operating philosophy rests on the belief that out-of-class activities and co-curricular learning complement the formal learning that takes place in the classroom. We make an effort to ensure that the student affairs program is student-centered and educational in nature.

The Division of Student Affairs is organized in four cluster groupings to better serve students: Campus Life; Center for Student Diversity; Housing and Residence Life; and Student Development Programs and Services.

## FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Enrollment Services Center 339  
410-704-4236; 410-704-2584 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/finaid](http://www.towson.edu/finaid)

Financial aid options for students include grants, loans, scholarships and employment programs. Funds for these programs come from the U.S. Department of Education, the state of Maryland and Towson University.

## HEALTH CENTER

Dowell Health Center  
410-704-2466; 410-704-3715 (fax)  
TTY phone: 410-704-3101  
[www.towson.edu/dowellhealthcenter](http://www.towson.edu/dowellhealthcenter)

Patient appointments: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Office hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. For medical emergencies after clinic hours, call 911 or University Police at 410-704-2133. For after-hours nurse advice, call 410-704-2466.

The Dowell Health Center, an ambulatory care facility, offers a full range of health care services: treatment of acute and chronic illness, minor injuries, women's health care and birth control, STD testing and treatment, HIV testing, nutrition counseling and health education. The center also has an office lab and a formulary of common prescription and over-the-counter drugs, including prescription contraceptives. Our experienced staff includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, RNs, a registered dietician and health educators.

Health Center charges for medical services and in-house lab tests can be billed to your private insurance. See the health center website for more information. All health center charges not billed to insurance may be paid by personal check or bursar-billed to the student's TU account.

Our Fast Track Clinic handles simple problems like colds, sore throats and UTIs with the goal of getting students in and out quickly. Fast Track hours are 9–11:30 a.m. and 1:30–4:30 p.m. Students should bring their TU ID and insurance card.

# SERVICES AND RESOURCES



## HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

Newell Hall, lower level, street side  
410-704-2516; 410-704-4228 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/housing](http://www.towson.edu/housing)

Living on campus can be one of the most important decisions your student makes regarding his or her education and future. As a resident student, he or she will meet new people and encounter new cultures, new ideas and new ways of thinking. Students are encouraged to seek out campus groups or organizations that can help refine their skills and talents while allowing them to develop new ones. It's a fact: students who participate in university organizations and clubs are generally more successful than those who do not.

## NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS

University Union 217  
410-704-2309; 410-704-3930 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/orientation](http://www.towson.edu/orientation)  
[newstudentprograms@towson.edu](mailto:newstudentprograms@towson.edu)

Orientation for freshmen occurs in late August just before the start of classes. During this time, students participate in a number of activities and programs designed to assist them in their transition to TU. Students also begin to meet with their Orientation Leader and First Year Experience (FYE) adviser. Throughout their first year, freshmen participate in FYE group sessions to learn more about the campus, resources for success and how to register for spring term classes.

For students who are transferring, New Student Programs offers the Transfer Program, a two-part process where students meet with the faculty of their college, receive academic advising, register for classes and learn about campus resources.

New Student Programs also assists families of new students with becoming familiar with Towson University. During the academic year, NSP continues to support the transition of all new students through a variety of programs and leadership development opportunities.

## OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES

University Union 217  
410-704-3307; 410-704-2219 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/commuters](http://www.towson.edu/commuters)  
[commuters@towson.edu](mailto:commuters@towson.edu)

Off-Campus Student Services provides commuting students with a wide range of resources, services and programs designed to engage them in co-curricular activities that will enrich their educational experience and enhance their overall development. Resources include MTA information and schedules, area maps, off-campus housing options, programs such as Commuter Appreciation Day and Good Evening Commuters, and assistance to the SGA-affiliated Commuter Student Organization (CSO). In addition, the OCSS coordinates the Off-Campus Living Fair, Apartments Visit TU, and What to Know When Moving Off Campus workshops.

## ONECARD

University Union 118  
410-704-2284; 410-704-6089 (fax)  
[www.towson.edu/onecard](http://www.towson.edu/onecard)  
[onecard@towson.edu](mailto:onecard@towson.edu)

The OneCard, TU's ID card for students, faculty and staff, gives students access to the front entrance of their residence hall, Cook Library, computer labs, recreational facilities, athletic events, campus events and services. If your student opens a Retail/Vending Points account or a Dining Points account, his or her OneCard serves as a debit card for purchases in many vending machines and at Dining Services locations, the University Store, residence hall laundry facilities, the Dowell Health Center, Copies Plus and the Auxiliary Services Business Office. Students with a Retail Account may also use their OneCard at participating merchants in the Towson area. Students who are on a dining plan will also use the OneCard to get into dining halls.

## PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Union Garage  
410-704-5087; 410-704-4341 (fax)  
<http://parking.towson.edu>

Parking and shuttle information: 410-704-PARK (7275) or  
[upark@towson.edu](mailto:upark@towson.edu)

Paratransit information: 410-704-RIDE (7433) or  
[uride@towson.edu](mailto:uride@towson.edu)

Visit the website for specific information regarding on- and off-campus shuttle services, the purchase and availability of parking permits, eligibility for purchasing a permit, permit sale dates, visitor parking, parking regulations and restrictions, and other parking and transportation information. Vehicles parked on campus between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Fridays must have a valid long-term parking permit, be parked in a visitor space with a visitor permit or be parked at a paid meter. Parking regulations help ensure safe and adequate parking for the entire campus community. Vehicles parked in violation of regulations may be issued a citation.

General parking and transportation information (during fall and spring terms):

- Permits are not required in faculty/staff, commuter or visitor spaces on weekends or on official university holidays when the campus is closed.
- TU operates both on-campus and off-campus shuttle services throughout the day and evenings. See the website for specific routes and hours of operation.
- Paratransit service is available for individuals with certified mobility issues and may be arranged by contacting the department at 410-704-RIDE (7433). Applications and policies may be found and reviewed on the website.

# SERVICES AND RESOURCES



- TU operates a Safe Ride point-to-point on-campus service. During term late evening hours, when the on-campus route is not running, community members may call 410-704-7233 (SAFE) to request a ride to and from any campus location that is accessible to a bus. See the Parking and Transportation website for information on Gold route and SAFE ride schedules.
- The University Police provide escort services during evening hours to areas not served by the shuttle program. Call 410-704-7233 (SAFE) to request an escort. See the TU Police Department website for more information on the escort service.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Office of Financial Aid, Scholarship Unit**  
**Enrollment Services Center 305**  
**410-704-2647; 410-704-4634 (fax)**  
**[www.towson.edu/finaid](http://www.towson.edu/finaid)**

The Scholarship Unit serves as a clearinghouse for information on scholarships. TU awards a limited number of academic scholarships each fall to qualified, full-time incoming freshmen and transfer students.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**University Union 217**  
**410-704-3307**  
**[www.towson.edu/studentactivities](http://www.towson.edu/studentactivities)**

The Office of Student Activities complements the mission of the university by creating opportunities and environments that inspire students to become active members of the campus and community. Working in collaboration with university faculty and staff, Student Activities staff offer a wide array of educational, cultural, social and recreational programming that fosters student learning and development through campus programming, community service, student organizations, leadership and off-campus student services.

## STUDENT COMPUTING SERVICES

**Cook Library, Room 35**  
**410-704-5151**  
**[scs@towson.edu](mailto:scs@towson.edu)**  
**[www.towson.edu/scs](http://www.towson.edu/scs)**

Student Computing Services (SCS) orients students to the university computing environment and supports their computer use. Integrated support services are available in a single, convenient location in Cook Library 35 and include the SCS Computer Lab, which offers computer hardware, software and workspace to students on a walk-in basis; the SCS Learning Center, which complements the lab and service desk by offering training and consulting services; the SCS Studio, which can be reserved for video/audio recording and presentation rehearsal; and the SCS Service Desk, which provides technical support and troubleshooting assistance to students experiencing problems

with their accounts, diagnostic services for student-owned computers and on-site hardware repair for in-program student-owned Dell laptops. Still and video digital cameras are available for short-term loan. The SCS Service Desk offers support via e-mail, telephone and to walk-in clients. SCS also supports the use of the residential student campus network (ResNet).

## STUDENT LIFE LINE

**Administration Building 236**  
**410-704-LIFE (5433)**  
**[studentaffairs@towson.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@towson.edu)**

The Division of Student Affairs runs the Student LIFE Line, a telephone line to assist students with any question they may have about TU. LIFE Line is staffed and ready to assist callers Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. After these hours, students can leave a voicemail message and will receive a response the next business day.

## STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

**Administration Building, second floor**  
**410-704-2451; 410-704-4703 (fax)**  
**[studyabroad@towson.edu](mailto:studyabroad@towson.edu)**  
**[www.towson.edu/studyabroad](http://www.towson.edu/studyabroad)**

The Study Abroad Office provides advising and resources to students interested in studying in a foreign country. Study opportunities exist at institutions in Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Canada and Australia. Programs are available for an academic year, one term, or during the summer or Minimester. University financial aid may be applied to all TU-sponsored or TU-approved study abroad programs. The Study Abroad Office awards a number of \$500 to \$2,000 scholarships each year to eligible students. Students should start planning for study abroad at least a year in advance.

## UNIVERSITY POLICE

**General Services Building**  
**410-704-2133 (Police Emergencies)**  
**911 (Medical or Fire Emergencies)**  
**410-704-2134 (General Information)**  
**[www.towson.edu/police](http://www.towson.edu/police)**

**Hours: seven days a week, 24 hours a day**

The Towson University Police Department is an independently organized, legally empowered agency responsible for law enforcement within the jurisdiction of the university. Each police officer is fully certified by the Maryland Police Training Commission and has full authority to enforce state, federal and local laws. Crime prevention should be the concern of our entire community; ultimately, it must be the responsibility of each individual. To report a crime or other campus emergency, call 410-704-2133 (4-2133 from any campus phone) immediately.



# TU PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM



The Towson University Parents Association has many opportunities for parents of current students to get involved. To become a member, complete the form below and mail it to us. The Parents Association now has two membership options: a \$50 annual membership which is renewable in the summer of each year and a \$125 four-year membership—a savings of \$75.

## Join the Parents Association and receive:

- A chance to win one of two \$1,000 scholarships for your student
- Membership cards for you and your student with discounts to popular spots around the Towson area
- A discount coupon at the University Store
- Discounts on Family Weekend events
- Discounts on home athletic events
- A chance to interact with key university officials
- Parents Association memorabilia
- An opportunity to meet other parents and learn from their experiences
- An opportunity to meet parents that work on campus
- A chance to make a difference at Towson University

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  \$50 Annual Membership     \$125 Four-year Membership

Make check payable to **Towson University Parents Association** and return the completed form and your check to:

Teri Hall  
Towson University  
Campus Life  
8000 York Road  
Towson, MD 21252-0001

Campus Life

Towson University  
8000 York Road  
Towson, MD 21252-0001



NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TOWSON UNIVERSITY

*To the family of:*

## STUDENT LIFE LINE 410-704-LIFE (5433)

The Division of Student Affairs offers the Student LIFE Line, a telephone line to assist students with any questions they may have about the university. LIFE Line is staffed and ready to assist callers Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. After these hours, callers can leave a voicemail message that will be responded to the next business day.

The Division of Student Affairs also has an e-mail account where any question relating to departments within Student Affairs can be directed. The e-mail address is [studentaffairs@towson.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@towson.edu). We will respond to all inquiries promptly.



*Towson University's policies, programs and activities comply with federal and state laws and University System of Maryland regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, disability and sexual orientation.*

*Towson University is a smoke-free campus.*

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