

PARENT GUIDE TO TLU

2019-2020



How Your Student Can Make the Transition to College

- Attend all classes and arrive on time.
- Think of themselves as a scholar and take control of their own education.
- Get to know their professors. They are their single greatest resource.
- Be assertive, create their own support systems and seek help when needed.
- Take control of their time by planning to meet academic obligations first and make room for everything else.
- Enroll in at least one course that challenges them.
- Make thoughtful decisions. Don't take a course just to satisfy a requirement or drop one too quickly.

Successfully Move from High School to College

STUDENTS

Whether your son or daughter is joining TLU as a first-year student, transfer or nontraditional student, there are many adjustments to make and recognize to succeed. Personal responsibility is at the core of collegiate success. It is important for them to remember that college is very different from high school. High school is a teaching environment where students acquire facts and skills. College is a learning environment where students think like young adults by taking responsibility for what is learned and applying it. Understanding some of the biggest differences between the two can help students make a smoother transition.

PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Parents often wonder what level of involvement is appropriate when they have a student in college. While it may be difficult at first, realize your student is a young adult and will be the primary point of contact with the university. An instructor or university official has to follow privacy laws and might not be able to provide as much information as you'd like. However, we encourage you to talk with your student about communication expectations and involvement. It's important for you and your student to understand the role of a parent within the university context.

The key to academic success in college is understanding the fundamental differences between high school and college. These differences include classroom behavior, study habits, academic performance, understanding availability of resources and student accountability. Each of these areas requires a student to be self-motivated and proactive in seeking assistance, answers and advice.

High School vs College

FREEDOM

Others usually structure students' time.	Students manage their own time.
High school is mandatory and usually free.	College is voluntary and tuition, room/board, meals, etc. are additional costs.
Students need permission to participate in extracurricular activities.	Students decide whether to participate in extracurricular activities and how many they can handle.
Students can count on parents and teachers to remind them of their responsibilities and to guide them.	Students are responsible for what they do and don't do, as well as the consequences of their decisions.

ACADEMICS

Students proceed from one class directly to another.	Students often have time between classes with class times varying throughout the day, week and evening.
Students spend six hours each day in class.	Students spend 15 to 22 hours, or more, each week in class.
The school year is 36 weeks with same classes extending over both semesters.	The academic year is divided into two 15-week semesters and classes conclude at the end of each semester.
Most of the students' classes are arranged for them.	Students arrange their own schedule in consultation with their academic advisor.
Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.	Professors may or may not take formal attendance.
Teachers carefully monitor academic progress.	Students are responsible for keeping track of their own progress and asking questions.
Students are provided textbooks.	Students need to budget funds for textbooks.
The students' counselors will tell them what is needed to graduate.	Students are expected to know the graduation requirements that apply to them.
Students may do only last minute studying or fewer than two hours per week.	Students should study at least two to three hours outside of class for each hour in class.
Students can often hear or read presentations once to learn all they need to know.	Students must review class material and notes on their own.
Students will usually be told in class what they need to learn from the assigned readings.	Students are responsible for reading and understanding the assigned material and lectures. The professor will assume they have done so.

Campus Safety

TLU takes the safety of our students, faculty and staff seriously and is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone on our campus. Students are encouraged to contact TLU Police to report any suspicious or unlawful activity.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

TLU Police 830-372-8000
Chief Irene Garcia 830-372-6309
Seguin Police/Fire/EMS Dial "911"

E2CAMPUS EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS:

TLU has an automated emergency notification system that sends voice, text and email notifications instantly and simultaneously to all registered mobile phone numbers and email addresses. E2Campus is a service that is provided by the university for students, parents, faculty, staff and the Seguin community and is used for emergency notifications only. We encourage students and parents to sign up for E2Campus alerts at www.e2campus.net.

YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR TLU NEWS AND ALERTS:

www.facebook.com/txlutheran
Twitter @txlutheran

TLU Alcohol Policy

No one under the age of 21 may possess or consume alcoholic beverages in accordance with Texas state law and university policy.

- All academic buildings, athletic fields and most residence halls are alcohol free.
- The sale of alcoholic beverages on campus is prohibited, except by those with a valid liquor license and approval by the Vice President and Dean of Student Life & Learning. For complete policy and instructions regarding alcohol for student organization events, please refer to the Student Activities section of the handbook.
- The alcohol policy applies to all organizations and university-sponsored student activities on or off campus. Student organizations and their members that fail to follow the policy will be referred to the TLU disciplinary system.
- Any alcohol violation by students under 21 may result in the notification of the students' parents or guardian. A second alcohol violation will result in automatic notification. Parents may also be called when any student, regardless of age, endangers him/herself and/or others, is arrested for driving while intoxicated, or is responsible for property damage while under the influence of alcohol.
- For complete policies regarding alcohol as it pertains to residential facilities and living, please refer to the Residence Life section of the handbook under housing policies.

For further information on the alcohol policy as well as other university policies, please visit the TLU website www.tlu.edu/safety.

TALK TO YOUR COLLEGE STUDENT ABOUT DRUGS & ALCOHOL

- For some students, being away at college is the first time they've been in an environment without parental supervision. Be honest and open with your student and discuss physical risks, as well as legal and social consequences.
- Explain the expectations you and your student have regarding alcohol, drugs and academic performance.
- Stay in touch and talk about peer pressure. Let them know they have a right to refuse any activity they feel is uncomfortable or questionable by standing up for themselves and others.

TLU CARE - ANYTIME TELEHEALTH FOR STUDENTS

Access to 24/7 medical and mental health support for any full-time, undergraduate TLU student. For more information please visit: www.tlu.care

COUNSELING SERVICES

To assist students with changing environments, changing situations, stressful relationships, as well as other concerns and problems, TLU offers counseling services through a licensed professional counselor. Conversations are confidential and referrals to community professionals are available. Visit my.tlu.edu or contact the Director of Counseling & Disability Services, Marlene Moriarity, Ph.D., LPC-S at 830-372-8009 or mmoriarity@tlu.edu.

High School vs College

TEACHERS/PROFESSORS

Teachers check students' homework. Professors may not check homework but will assume students can perform the same tasks on exams.

Teachers approach students if they believe they need assistance. Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect students to initiate contact if they need help.

Teachers are often available for conversations before, during or after class. Professors expect and want students to meet with them during their scheduled office hours.

Teachers have been trained to use methods that assist in imparting knowledge to students. Professors have training as experts in their academic areas.

Teachers provide missed information when students are absent. Professors expect students to get any information missed when absent.

Teachers present information to help understand textbook material. Professors may not follow their textbook. They may provide visuals and background information or discuss research about the topic they're studying. They might expect students to relate the class to textbook readings.

Teachers impart knowledge, sometimes drawing direct connections to lead students through the thinking process. Professors expect students to think about and connect seemingly unrelated topics.

Teachers often remind students of due dates and assignments. Professors expect students to read, save and consult the course syllabus about what is expected of them, due dates and how they'll be graded.

Teachers lead student learning by asking questions. Professors expect students to be engaged in class discussions and ask questions.

Good homework grades may help raise a student's overall grade when test scores are low. Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of the course grade.

Students may graduate as long as they have passed all required courses with a grade of "D" or higher. Students may graduate only if their average in classes meets the department and university standards—usually a 2.0.

PARENTAL DIFFERENCES

Information is given directly to parents since most students are under 18. FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) prevents university officials from releasing information to family, friends or others without written consent of the student.

Parents are frequently involved in parent/teacher conferences. Instructors and parents rarely interact. Because of the number of students, the level of expected self-advocacy and FERPA, professors won't initiate parental contact.

Parents generally see students daily and are able to ask about school events, schedules and progress. Parent interaction may range from several times a semester to multiple times daily. Talk to your student about communication expectations.

Student conduct issues, inside and outside of the classroom, involve parents. Students will exclusively deal with conduct issues in and out of the classroom. Parents may offer advice while respecting professional/personal boundaries.

Students may work through high school for spending money and major financial obligations are generally parental responsibilities. Academic bills will be sent to the student and are a student's responsibility, as are budgeting and spending. Talk to your student about earning, spending and borrowing expectations.