**Student Productivity - How to Build Your Fall Semester Study Calendar**

**Break it Down**
Okay first things first—mark all the dates of your upcoming projects, presentations, and tests on your calendar. It sounds simplistic but you’d be surprised how quickly things pile up when you’re not expecting them. Then make those days clearly visible on your calendar by making them a different, bright color.

**“Guesstimate” Your Work Load**
Did your middle school teachers use that word as much as mine did?

Sorry, off topic. What I mean is try to guess how much time it will take you to get your studying/work/research done for each of the items you just wrote down, add two to four hours for interruptions, and WRITE DOWN YOUR GUESSTIMATED TIME. Otherwise you will forget.

**TIP:** If you’re doing a project with someone else, I would add a considerable amount of extra time, like a few hours, to your guesstimate. Group projects often put more weight on the hard workers, and if you’re making a study calendar, that means you’re it. So save your grade and give yourself some leeway.

**Schedule Your Time**
Now that you’ve got your time guesstimates and your due dates, it’s time to mark out your work time. If you start now you should be early enough to spread out study for finals and get projects done without a lot of cramming and brain-numbing textbook skimming.

Start by spreading out your subjects based on what is due first, and which will take the most work.

Obviously these two criteria will determine which things come first, but this is basically up to your discretion—you know how you work best and what takes you longest. Make sure you spread out your work, though, so you don’t end up cramming for any one thing at the end OR suffer from subject burnout.

**TIP:** When you schedule your work blocks in each calendar square, schedule play blocks, too, and stick to both. You need both work and play to feel accomplished and human when life gets hectic!

**Re-schedule Your Time**
You might choose to do this every day or every week, but make a regular habit of sitting down and revising your calendar. Maybe you finish a project early—use the leftover time to get a jump on something else. Took longer than you thought to write that French paper? Better allot some extra study time to your Chem class in next week’s schedule.

**Cross off Your Finished Work!!!**

Retrieved and adapted from Surviving College Life: www.survivingcollegelife.com/2008/11/17/student-productivity-how-to-build-your-fall-semester-study-calendar/
Yell Practice began as a post dinner activity in early 1900's, when different corps companies would gather together to “learn heartily the old time pep.” However, it was not until 1931, that Midnight Yell Practice, as it is known today, was held before the t.u. game. It began, when a group of cadets were gathered in Peanut Owen’s dorm room in Puryear Hall. Someone suggested that all of the freshmen should fall out and meet on the steps of the YMCA building at midnight. The cadets notified senior yell leaders Horsefly Berryhill and Two Gun Parker of their intents. Although it could not officially be authorized, they said they may just show up. Needless to say, the word spread quickly, and when the freshmen began to arrive, there were railroad flares and torpedoes stuck in flower pots around the YMCA building to light the area. The first Midnight Yell had begun!!!

Today, Midnight Yell is held the night before a home game in Kyle Field and at the Arches on Thursday nights before away games. Also for an away game, a site is designated for a Midnight Yell in the city of our opponent the night before the game. For example, for the t.u. game, it is held at the Texas Capitol in Austin.

For a yell at Kyle Field, yell leaders lead the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band and the Twelfth Man into the stadium. The yell leaders lead the crowd in old army yells, the school’s songs, and tell fables of how the Aggies are going to beat the ever livin’ hell out of our opponent. Finally, the lights go out, and Aggies kiss their dates. If they don’t have a date, all they have to do is “flick their Bic.” As the story goes, the flames make it easier for two dateless people to find a kiss! The purpose of Midnight Yell is to pump up the 12th Man for the next day’s big game!

Gig ‘Em

Pinky Downs, class of 1906 and a member of the Board of Regents from 1923 to 1933, is credited with the Gig ‘Em hand sign. At the 1930 Yell Practice before the TCU football game, Downs shouted out, “What are we going to do to those Horned Frogs?” Answering his own question, he replied, “Gig ‘Em, Aggies!” while making a fist with his thumb extended. A “gig” is a spear-like tool used for hunting frogs. The gesture became known as the first hand sign of The Southwest Conference.

Howdy!

“Howdy” is the official greeting of Texas A&M University. It is our way of ensuring that no one feels like a stranger. The exact origin on this tradition is not known. However, “Howdy” is what sets us apart as the friendliest campus in the world.

Corps of Cadets

Texas A&M was established as a military institution, and the Corps of Cadets has played an important part in its history and development. Although membership in the Corps became voluntary in 1965, Texas A&M historically has produced more military officers than any other institution in the nation, except for the service academies. More than 200 of its graduates have become generals or admirals. More Aggies were commissioned and fought in World War II than men from West Point or Annapolis.

The Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M is not just another ROTC unit that might be found at most campuses. The 2,200 men and women of the Corps form the largest uniformed body of students outside the U.S. military academies. Although cadets can earn commissions as military officers, membership in the Corps itself carries no military obligation. In fact, only about 30 percent of graduating cadets are commissioned, while the rest pursue civilian careers. The Corps has more to offer than just military training. It is a tightly-knit group of students that offers camaraderie, as well as leadership training that is useful in all post-college careers. From:traditions.tamu.edu
After the first round of exams, freshmen begin to grasp the fact that life in college is not the same as life in high school. Many of the differences are easy to adapt to: you are only in class a few hours a day, you can take a nap anywhere on campus, and if you skip class to watch MTV, nobody calls home to your mom! But some adjustments are more complicated.

One of the biggest differences between high school and college is the difference between high school teachers and college professors.

Think about it! In high school, your teachers knew your name, knew what sports you played and what clubs you were in, knew what other classes you were taking, and knew if you had a job outside of school. Personality goes a long way in high school, and probably if your teacher liked you, he or she was willing to give you extra time on a test or overlook some late assignments. Your high school teachers may have also been your athletic coach, band director, or yearbook advisor. Your teachers in high school knew you both inside and outside the classroom.

Now you are in college. A big college. One of the biggest (and best!) universities in the country. The first difference is that in college your teachers are called “Professors.” Your professors probably don’t know your name because you are one of 300 students in the classroom. They don’t know what sports you play, what organizations you are involved in, or where you work part-time. And if you have never gone to visit your professors during office hours, or if you aren’t involved in class discussions, then your professors probably don’t know your personality very well.

But believe this – your professors DO care about you, and they DO want to help you! Your professors want to get to know you as a person, not just as the student in seat 134. Your professors want you to ask questions during class, to visit them during office hours, and to let them know when you are struggling with the material. It is easy to be intimidated by professors! They have Master’s or Doctoral degrees and are experts in their field. They are sometimes very stern and serious, and they always grade tough! But remember that your professors are committed to helping you learn. They want you to succeed in their class and in all of your academic pursuits at Texas A&M University.

Keep in mind, your professors don’t know you as well as your high school teachers did, so it is important that you make a good impression when communicating with your professors. Here are some tips:

**Be polite** – If you show respect for your professor, then your professor will have respect for you. Address your professor with the appropriate title: “Dr. Jones,” “Mr. Dickens,” or “Ms. Smith.”

**Be professional** – If you want your professor to treat you like a mature young adult, then you need to act like one! When you email a professor, write in complete sentences and avoid slang. Use grammar check and spell check for EVERY email and assignment. Sign your emails with your first and last name, as well as your UIN.

**Be prepared** – When you visit a professor during office hours, be prepared with specific questions about the lecture or the chapter. Identify certain concepts or terms that you are having trouble understanding, and ask the professor to explain those terms.

**Be peaceful** – It is hard not to be angry and disappointed when the grade you get on a test or paper is much lower than you were expecting. However, you can’t always blame the professor for your bad grade. There are many factors that affect a grade. When you are discussing grades with your professor, be calm. Ask the professor what you did wrong and what you need to do to improve on the next test or paper. Ask the professor to suggest resources that might help you. If you remain calm and keep a positive attitude, your professor will be more inspired to help you.

Your professors at Texas A&M University have high expectations for you, and they want you to achieve those expectations. If you are willing to work hard and make the extra effort in class, then you will succeed. Remember, you aren’t in high school anymore. The textbooks are enormous, the reading assignments are long, and the homework is intense. Welcome to college!
Five Reasons Why Office Hours Are Your New Best Friend

Office hours—that little block of time during which your professor is actually available to talk to you, one-on-one, about (almost) anything you want. Dropping in for just a few minutes could be the best use of your time this week (and next week... and the week after...). Here’s why...

1. **You Want an A.** If you want to get an A in a course, attending your professor’s office hours can be one of the easiest ways to get there. Here you finally have the time (and smaller group or even one-on-one setting) to ask the professor questions. Discuss problems you are having in the class, get suggestions for how/where/what to study and hey, if you’re feeling brave, ask some questions about the upcoming test.

2. **You’re Applying for a Scholarship...or Med School.** Guess what scholarships and med schools both want? Letters of recommendation. How can you get a good one if you’re sitting in a lecture-hall-sea of faces? Well, you probably can’t. Spending one-on-one time getting to know your professor will make him or her more likely to be comfortable writing you one of these letters at the end of the quarter or semester. They’ll know what kind of student you are, what kind of person you are, and hopefully feel a friendship towards you that makes them want to help.

3. **You Might Learn to Keep Your Eyes Open.** If you’re having trouble staying awake in class, one sure-fire way to keep yourself alert is to make sure the professor knows your name. You’re not going to want to doze off if there’s potential that your grade could suffer—or you could get called out in the middle of class. Not the most fun way, maybe, but certainly effective!

4. **You’ll Meet New People.** You may be attending office hours for other reasons (like to get in the running for an internship, for example) but you could be surprised how enjoyable they can be. You may find yourself enjoying your newfound friendship (or mentee-ship) with your professor, and if his/her office hours are popular, you’ll meet other like-minded people from similar courses. The conversations that break out during these more casual meetings can be a lot of fun.

5. **You... Um... Still Want an A.** Let’s say you’ve been attending office hours for a few weeks, clearly making an effort in the class, and you mess up on a test. Office hours are the perfect opportunity to discuss this discrepancy with your professor—whether you’re hoping for a curved grade or just need help figuring out what went wrong, this is the time and place to discuss it.

Retrieved and adapted from Surviving College Life: survivingcollegelife.com/2008/09/22/5-reasons-why-office-hours-are-your-new-best-friend/

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**Extra Help**

- **Physics Help Desk** (physics.tamu.edu/academics/current-undergraduates/undergrad-resources) The physics help desk, located in MPHY 135, is staffed by current graduate students with TA experience. Students do not need an appointment to drop in and receive assistance with physics concepts and assignments (PHYS 201, 202, 208, 218).

- **University Writing Center** (writingcenter.tamu.edu) Provides one-on-one consultations on writing or public speaking with a College Reading and Learning Association certified consultant. Will answer your questions regarding any part of the composing process, and will help develop oral presentations, slides, posters, and even write scripts for audio or video presentations.

- **Department of Multicultural Services Tutoring** (tutor.tamu.edu) Offers one-on-one tutoring in math and sciences with tutors that are supportive and encouraging.

- **Academic Success Center** (successcenter.tamu.edu)
  - Academic Coaching
  - Drop-In Tutoring
  - Supplemental Instruction (S.I.)
  - Workshops & Courses

- **Mathematics Department Help** (math.tamu.edu/courses/helpsessions.html)
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<td>1 4:00pm Rise Above - A Career in Music and Space Exploration</td>
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<td>8 10:00am - 3:00pm Sciences Career Fair</td>
<td>9 Volleyball vs Arizona Volleyball at New Mexico State Midnight Yell Practice</td>
<td>10 Football vs Prairie View A&amp;M Volleyball at UTEP</td>
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<td>15 Multicultural Greek Council Welcome Weekend RSO General Meeting 7-8pm - MSC L427</td>
<td>16 Aggie Ring Day Volleyball vs Wisconsin</td>
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<td>29 Fall Student Body Elections Soccer vs South Carolina</td>
<td>30 Undergraduate Degree Plan Approval Deadline Volleyball at LSU</td>
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<td>Volleyball vs Auburn</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Conference on Energy Soccer at Alabama</td>
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“Make your life a mission, not an intermission.”

-Arnold H. Glasgow