

What You Need to Know Before Your First Class

You already know that college is different from high school, but you may not know all of the new expectations and demands that you will face. We asked faculty at UTC to tell us the things that students should know before stepping into the classroom. This session is intended to help you prepare for your first class and beyond in college.

Before Class

- Consider how you are dressed. This is college. You are not at a party, the gym, or at home. **Dress appropriately** for class.
- **Buy all of your textbooks.** You are responsible for the material in them.
- **Come prepared to every class** with your textbook and something to take notes.
- Take the time to **learn the names of your professors** and properly address them when speaking or emailing.
- **Turn off your cell phone** before you walk into the classroom and keep it off until you leave.
- **Be on time** for class, and do not leave until the class is dismissed unless there is a genuine emergency .

During Class

- Before or after your first class, carefully re-view your **course syllabus**.
- Your class may use **UTC Online** (Blackboard). Find out how to log on.
- **Your behavior** in class reflects on you. Think about where you sit, how much attention you are giving to the lecture, and what your body language says.
- **Stay awake.**
- **Take thorough notes** during every class.
- **Participate in class.** If the instructor opens discussion or asks questions, respond thoughtfully.

After Class Ends

- **Complete any assigned readings** before the class they are due.
- **Review your notes** after each class.
- **Manage your time.** Use a syllabus to track due dates and homework.
- **Study every day.** Full-time students should study at least 24 hours per week.
- **Attend all classes.**
- **Work independently** on homework. Follow the UTC Honor Code.
- **Do not procrastinate.**

Notes:

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Even if you start off doing everything right, you may still encounter some problems. Here is a trouble shoot guide to help you tackle any new obstacles.

Problems & Points to Remember

- There are no “do overs” in college.
- Fewer assignments = fewer opportunities to raise a grade.
- Learn from your past mistakes. If you ignore them, you will keep repeating them.
- Ask for help early. Don’t wait until finals.
- Talk to your professors.

Notes:

Resources

Center for Advisement & Student Success

108 University Center (Advisement)
106 Collins Street Annex (Tutoring/SI)
(423) 425-4573

C.A.S.S. provides academic advisement for freshmen and Premajors. Advisors assist students with selecting a major, course registration, and connecting to campus resources. We also offer free tutoring in lower level Math courses as well as introductory Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. We also offer free S.I. study sessions in Econ 1010, History 1010, and Chem 1110. View our website for more information at [www. utc.edu/advise](http://www.utc.edu/advise)

Counseling and Career Planning Center

338 University Center
(423) 425-4438
Intake Office Hours: 9am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

Offers personal and career counseling to currently enrolled students. Intake persons are seen on a first-come, first-served basis and waiting is usually no longer than about 20 minutes. If you are unable to come during intake hours, feel free to call for an appointment. Most importantly, our services are confidential and free, except for testing. You can talk about choosing a major, adjustment to college life, marital/relationship stress, career/vocational issues, family, anxiety, depression and grief, stress management, test anxiety, study skills, crisis intervention, substance abuse, breaking destructive habits, compulsive behaviors, and time management.

Office for Students with Disabilities

110 Frist Hall
(423) 425-4006

Provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure equal access to all educational opportunities and maximizes their potential regardless of the impact of their disability. Students must provide documentation according to federal guidelines.

The Math Plaza

Maclellan Gymnasium
Information coming soon.

The Writing Center

119 Holt Hall
(423) 425-1774
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm & Fri 9am-3pm

A free resource for all UTC students with the goal of providing writers with a comfortable place to write and to provide one-on-one writing consultations.

UTC Lupton Library

Library Hours:
Mon-Thurs 7:45am-midnight
Fri 7:45am-5pm
Sat 1pm-5pm
Sun 2pm-midnight
Library Circulation: (423) 425-4501
Library Reference: (423) 425-4510

For more information, please visit our website at www.lib.utc.edu.

UTC Online

<http://utconline.utc.edu>

You can log in to UTC Online through my mocsnets or directly at the link above. To learn how to use all of the functions in UTC Online, enroll in the self-paced Student UTC Online Training class on the main page after log in.