



Volume 1, Issue

Past Freshmen Letters to Incoming Students

Special points of interest:

- Financial Aid issues and advice
- Experiences differ
- Fire alarms!
- Wishes for success
- Getting motivated
- Preparation for life
- Preregistration
- Love TSU
- Friendliness
- Advice from a transfer student

Welcome to the FIRST issue of *Tiger Echoes: Past Freshmen Letters to Incoming Students*. Students enrolled in UNIV1000 Freshman Orientation were asked to write a letter to you, the incoming freshman student, with the purpose of providing you “insider information.”

The majority of these letters are from those who have just completed their first semester of college. A few other letters are written by students who had not previously completed UNIV1000.

Letters are unedited and give very specific advice on study, play, residence hall life, and a number of other suggestions for making your first semester, first year, a successful year!

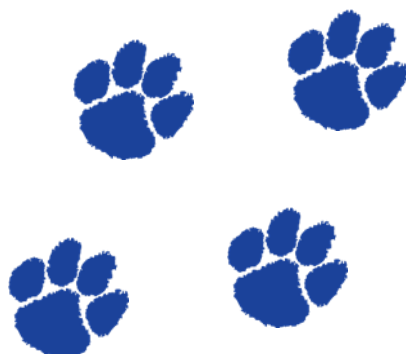
Although the names of letter writers have been omitted for this issue, their sentiments are from the heart.



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Current Freshman -



You will have the opportunity to share your experience with the next generation Freshman class in Issue 2 *Tiger Echoes!*



TSU is a Good Choice

Dear Future TSU Freshman,

First, I would like to applaud you for choosing this illustrious institution over many others. In one year at TSU I've really come around to liking my new school. Your Freshman year is going to be your easiest and your most enjoyable. Most of your classes will be General Education classes, so you won't be tested too much. I would suggest that you get the highest GPA you possibly can so that when you enroll in higher level courses you can afford to get a "C" or "B" without it having a significant impact on your grade point average. Another big part of your Freshman year is participating in community service activities. You are required to have 8 hours of community service, and it is really beneficial because some jobs and internships require you to have community service. With all this in mind, you are still here to have fun. There are a multitude of clubs to get involved in along with different activities, parties, and other things to do. Once you find a balance between fun and academics, you will enjoy your time at TSU.



..... Advice for you—start early

Hello my name is XXXX. I'm a Tennessee State University student who majored in Health Sciences, with a concentration in Physical Sciences. I'm a transfer sophomore from St. Louis, MO. My advice to you is to start early. If you don't do anything else start early. This is with advisement sessions, the financial aid process, and anything else that asks you to turn in documents or paperwork. This is because TSU has a tendency to take forever to complete any that has a "process". So whatever you do start early. There are two professors and one nurse that really helped me with my experience here at Tennessee State. Professor Morgan Ginther, Professor Valerie Brock, and Nurse Chandler are people I suggest you get to know or at least introduce yourself to. Ginther teaches public speaking and is in the communications department, and is an excellent woman. I love her so much, and she doesn't even know it. She's very understanding and has really taught me something about public speaking. So get her!!! Brock is a woman in the HIMA department and if you are going to be taking Medical Terminology she the only person I would suggest. She sees the potential in her students and pushes them to places they'd never think they'd go; as far as thinking and the different assignments. She makes the class go through case studies, different hospital scenarios. So if you're trying to do anything in the medical field this course and instructor are essential! Nurse Chandler helped me a lot. I can't really say what she did, just go introduce yourself lol. It's this place on campus called the one stop shop, if you have any issues you're supposed to go to this center and communicate your problem, and they are supposed to send you to the most helpful place they know; that was helpful. I don't really have that much advice, this was my first semester here. I hope your experience at TSU is the best!

Dear Future Student,

Welcome to Tennessee State University! I'm just writing this letter to inform you on some things about your first year. Hopefully this will show you what you should expect out of your first year and also help you.

Sorry for rudeness my name is And I am from Detroit MI. I came to Tennessee State University because this was my dream school. My favorite aunt went here and I just always wanted to follow after her footsteps. But when I got her, it was not what I expected at all. I thought that the older students would be rude and arrogant but whenever I was lost, they didn't mind answering a question or taking me where I needed to go. College is way different from high school, because in high school, students are so cruel, and judgmental. Here you can be who you want and no one will care.

When you get here a smart thing that you would want to do is schedule your classes where you take 15 or more hours a semester. Yes, I know you don't want to take all these classes your first year, but it's very helpful. Taking more than 15 credits will help you in the long run because there's a possible chance you can graduate early but taking 15 credit hours will help you graduate on time. It is very important also that you pay attention and attend class because these teachers are not going to make you do anything. It's no more phone calls home, it's all on you. It will always be a party, you will meet people from all over the country, you may make new friends even have life time friendships, but don't let them or the parties get in the way of your studies.

“College is way different from high school, because in high school, students are so cruel, and judgmental.”

Always be careful while on campus and always be aware, Tennessee State can be a dangerous place at times. There have been people that have died, been shot, and have gotten robbed on campus. My advice to you is, never go anywhere alone, especially at night.

Well, that's all I have for you. I can't say too much because we are probably two totally different people, and you have to go about your college experience on your own. I hope you take this letter under consideration. Hopefully we will meet some time down the line.

Choose classes early!

Dear Freshman:

My advice to you is to choose your classes early, so you can pick the classes you like and the professors you want. Also, try to put all of your classes in 2 days minimum—3 days maximum, so you have time to finish all the assignments for all classes. Use your time wisely because this is the most important thing.

Sincerely,

Second Semester Freshman Student

Letter to Incoming Freshmen

To all incoming freshmen I hope you all enjoy your first year of college. My advice would be just to focus. TSU is a party school and it will make it hard to focus. There will be parties every night of the week, but there will also be homework due. It is up to you whether you are going to party or finish your work. Most people seem to party before finishing their work and end up letting their grades drop. Which is a big cause of students becoming on academic probation. You will need to study as much as possible also. This is really one of the most important years pertaining to your GPA. This could be the make of your GPA or the fall of it. It is so easy to lose focus. So just make sure you all are maintaining and focusing on your work. Strive to do better. There is no reason to come to college playing around and failing. If you are going to fail and play around you might as well stay at home. So just really try to become a better person and grow up a little and focus on your work.

Helpful Tips for Living in Dorms

Dear Incoming Freshmen,

Everyone's experience here at Tennessee State University will be different but I'm going to enlighten you on some of the tips I would find helpful if someone had told me at the beginning of my journey here. First off, you're going to feel out of place and a little weird when you first get here but that's completely normal. It's definitely going to feel different staying anywhere but home but you'll eventually get used to it so my first piece of advice is to make sure your room feels as much like home as possible, make it comfortable for you. Secondly, financial aid. Don't let financial aid give you the run around like they're going to try and do everybody freshmen week, you're going to have to look pass the long line and multiple hours waiting and take care of your business. It's going to be way easier if you get everything done ahead of time so you can actually enjoy everything that comes with freshman week for example all the activities that are going to be set up for you guys! Moving on...since you're freshmen you'll most likely be staying in Wilson (or Watson if you're a boy) but I can only really give my personal insight on Wilson, sorry boys....but be prepared for possible fire alarm evacuations at all different times of the night, semi-clean bathrooms, and loud girls. Oh and friendly tip the third shower on the fourth floor in the pink bathroom is by far the hottest and cleanest shower I've found thus far—you're welcome! Another tip is to conserve you DB that money can go fast if you spend recklessly and with the way the café food is set up you'll be starving for sure without it unless you Rudolph or downtown campus they're food is always on point but don't worry too much because I've found it impossible to use 300 meals which is the required meal plan for freshmen and I leave every semester with 200 meals left so you'll be fine, but I would suggest grocery shopping. Lastly, I suggest that you go to a website called "Rate My Professors" it basically gives feedback on professors and can help you decide whether you should or shouldn't take a certain professor. Other than those few key points I advise you to just make the best out of your experience and your freshmen year. Go out, get involved, and have fun!



Appreciate and the Good and Bad Times

GOOD TIMES
BECOME GOOD
MEMORIES;
BAD TIMES
BECOME GOOD
LESSONS.
KUSHANOW.COM

Dear College Freshmen,

I was only a freshmen 3 years ago, yet that seems like such a different era. Such a different me. If you're reading this, I hope you're a college freshman, and to be honest, I hope you're having a rough time. Let me clarify: I only hope you're having a rough time so you can appreciate all the lovely times. I hope you miss your mom and your dad and your annoying older sister who hogs the TV. It will make you want to squeeze them even tighter the next time you see them. I hope you struggle at first with your classes — that way you'll learn a solid study and work ethic before the crap hits the fan junior year. I hope you make some really cruddy friends at first. You know, the ones that convince you to go out on a school night that ends with you puking in the bushes in front of your dorm. The ones that convince you dipping is cool and it takes you on try to find out is so NOT. BEWARE OF FINANCIAL AID AND HOUSING AT TSU!!!

I hope you have some nights you regret. Some nights you wish you could forget. That way, you have room for all the wonderful ones. Part hard but most of all go to class, because you came to college to graduate; not to mention fried chicken/fish day in the café is the best. I want you to get very involved in campus activities, and organizations FOR THE RIGHT REASONS. I want you to be aware that sometimes life happens to you, but sometimes the most panicked moments of my college experience have been the ones that feel the most genuine. Most of us don't know what the hell we are going to do with our lives. You'll probably change your major once...or four times, like me. You'll probably fall in love and out of it. You'll probably throw up in a friend's car after a crazy Halloween house party and eat a whole Knock-Out-Wingz in one night. You're going to scream, cry, laugh and pull your hair out. You may even be like me and have a nervous breakdown in the pod one day over your biology final. My point being, I want you to experience all the bad as well as the good. I want you to remember your freshman self and see how much you grow.

Plan Ahead!

Dear Freshman.

College is a new experience, and I know it can be quite hard to find where you belong as far as school. It will be very challenging and sometimes makes you want to dropout, but don't do it. The best thing is to hang in there and try to do the best you can in school. You have to think about it, being in college is either going to make or break you, it all depends on you. You have to be able to decipher whether the choices you make will benefit you in the end, making the right decision will always put you on the right path. Going through college prepares you for life and everything with having a career. I suggest in order not to fall behind in school is to stay organized and be aware of time. Time is the most important factor in college, you have to learn how to keep up and manage your time better. I know you probably think it would be easy, but it's not easy to a lot of people. You will find yourself wrapped up in so many assignments at one time that you lose track of what you have to do as far as class. I think the best way to solve this problem is to get a planner and write out everything you have to do with the priority things first. I found this to be a good tool for me when I began to lack up or fall behind in my studies. Anyone can make it to college, but the ones that stay consistent will be the only ones that will stay.