



Letter from Director:

For returning students, welcome back to UT Austin! We hope you had a wonderful summer! Welcome as well to those of you who are new to campus and to SSD. We have had a busy summer planning for the upcoming academic year and are looking forward to working with you.

We hope you find the 11th edition of our newsletter, the *Insider*, useful and informative. Included you will discover: important dates and deadlines, information regarding the University's new Q drop policy and course load reductions, workshop information, career placement and employment accommodation assistance, and more!

SSD continues to focus our attention on creating fun and exciting activities during October, Disability Awareness Month, which include an ice cream social, screening of *Music Within*, a co-sponsored event with Voices Against Violence and more! Be sure to check our Web site or your e-mail for details.

Once again, welcome back and best wishes for a successful semester!

Krista Schutz-Hampton, M.A.
Director, Services for Students with Disabilities

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UT Dates to Remember

August 20-21 Registration for the fall semester for new and readmitted students who have not yet registered. To complete registration, undergraduate students must pay tuition by 5:00 pm on August 25; graduate and law students must pay tuition by 5:00 pm on August 31.

August 21 (Friday) University residence halls open at 9:00 am.

August 23 (Sunday) Add/drop for the fall semester for students who registered and paid their tuition and fees by August 12.

August 24 (Monday) Registration for the fall semester for continuing students who have not yet registered. To complete registration, undergraduate students must pay tuition by 5:00 pm on August 25; graduate and law students must pay tuition by 5:00 pm on August 31.

University Health Services benefits become available to registered students.

August 25 (Tuesday) Add/drop for the fall semester for students who registered and paid their tuition by August 12.

Deadline for graduate students to be registered in absentia for the fall semester.

Tuition bills for undergraduate students who registered after July 17 are due by 5:00 pm.

August 26 (Wednesday) Classes begin.

International Education Fee Scholarship (IEFS) competition begins for the spring semester.

August 31 (Monday) Last day of the official add/drop period; after this date, changes in registration require the approval of the department chair and usually the student's dean. (See General Information, chapter 4, for details.)

Last day undergraduate students may register and pay tuition without the approval of the registrar.

Last day graduate students may register and pay tuition without the approval of the graduate dean.

Last day law students may register and pay tuition without the approval of the dean.

5:00 pm: Tuition payment deadline for graduate and law students. Tuition may be paid in full or in installments.

September 7 (Monday) Labor Day holiday.

****September 11** (Friday) Twelfth class day; this is the date the official enrollment count is taken. Last day an undergraduate student may add a class except for rare and extenuating circumstances.

Payment for added classes (add bill) due by 5:00 pm. Last day to drop a class for a possible refund. (See General Information, chapter 4, for details.)

Last day a graduate student or a law student may, with the required approvals, add a class.

****September 23** (Wednesday) Last day to drop a class without a possible academic penalty. (See General Information, chapter 4, for details.)

September 25 (Friday) Second tuition payment due for students who selected the three-payment plan.

- October 1** (Thursday) Application deadline for study abroad programs for the spring semester (exception BBA)
- October 12** (Monday) Last day to apply for a graduate degree.
- October 14** (Wednesday) Intrasemester reports due in the deans' offices.
- **October 21** (Wednesday) Last day an undergraduate student may, with the dean's approval, withdraw from the University or drop a class except for urgent and substantiated, nonacademic reasons.
 Last day a student may change registration in a class to or from the pass/fail or credit/no credit basis.
 Last day to apply for an undergraduate or a law degree.
 Last day an undergraduate student or a law student may register in absentia.
- **October 22-23, 26-28** (Thursday–Friday, Monday–Wednesday) Academic advising for continuing and readmitted students for the spring semester.
- October 23** (Friday) Final tuition payment due for students who selected the three-payment plan.
- **October 26** (Monday, 2:00-12:00) Priority registration
- October 26 - November 6** (Monday–Saturday, Sunday–Friday) Registration for the spring semester for continuing and readmitted students
- November 10** (Tuesday) Tuition bills for the spring semester distributed to students electronically. Notice is sent to the e-mail address on the student's record.
- **November 20** (Friday, 5:00PM) Course Load Reduction Deadline
- November 26-28** (Thursday–Saturday) Thanksgiving holidays.
- December 4** (Friday) Last class day.
 Last day to submit master's report, recital, thesis, doctoral dissertation, or treatise to the graduate dean.
 Last day a graduate student or a law student may, with the required approvals, drop a class or withdraw from the University.
- December 5** (Saturday) Reading day in the School of Law.
- December 5-6** (Saturday–Sunday) Fall graduation ceremonies in the colleges and schools.
- December 7-8, 13** (Monday–Tuesday, Sunday) No-class days except in the School of Law.
- December 7-12, 14-18** (Monday–Saturday, Monday–Friday) Fall semester final examinations in the School of Law.
- December 9-12, 14-15** (Wednesday–Saturday, Monday–Tuesday) Fall semester final examinations except in the School of Law.
- December 16** (Wednesday) University residence halls close at 9:00 am.
- December 18** (Friday) Commissioning of ROTC graduates.
- December 19** (Saturday) Official graduation date. (No public exercises.)

SSD Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 15 & Wednesday, September 23, 3:30-5 PM

Location: SSB 4.212

Time Management Workshop

Time management strategies and brainstorming with other students to help with areas of difficulty. Share what has worked for you and how to build on those successes. Contact Stephani Wolfe at swolfe@austin.utexas.edu for questions.

Wednesday, September 16th

Lime Corporate Recruitment Event for Students with Disabilities

Location: The Texas Union, Santa Rita Suite, Room 3.502

Time: Registration 5:30 pm; Panel Discussion and Networking 6 – 8 pm

*Meet recruiters and executives from Lime's partners - **Bank of America Merrill Lynch, PepsiCo, Target, Goldman Sachs and Google** - who are seeking to hire students with disabilities for a variety of internship and full time positions.*

For more information on Lime: www.limeconnect.com

October is Disability Awareness Month (DAM)! Be on the lookout for more events presented by SSD throughout the month.

Thursday, October 1st (Location and time TBD)

Ice Cream Social

Celebrate a new academic year with SSD and Amy's ice cream! Open to all UT students, staff, and faculty.

Thursday, October 15th (Location and time TBD)

Movie screening, *Music Within*

The true story of Richard Pimentel, a brilliant public speaker with a troubled past, who returns from Vietnam severely hearing -impaired and finds a new purpose in his landmark efforts on the behalf of Americans with disabilities. Starring Ron Livingston

October 19-23, (Location and events TBD)

Campus Fusion

Campus Fusion is the culmination of the "Week of Dialogue," a collaborative vision built by the Multicultural Information Center and Student Government at The University of Texas at Austin. Through different programs during the "Week of Dialogue," we recognize the importance of talking about diversity issues, and we end the week with a celebration of the variety of cultures and ethnicities present on this campus.

Wednesday, October 21st (Locations and times TBD)

Disability Mentoring Day

Disability Mentoring Day promotes career development for students and jobseekers with disabilities through job shadowing and hands-on career exploration. With leadership, coordination and resource materials from AAPD, local communities around the country organize their own activities to bring students and employers together for informational sessions about career opportunities and one-on-one mentoring with volunteers at public and private places of employment. For more information please contact Christy Shindell at Christy.shindell@austin.utexas.edu

Last week in October (Date and location TBD)

Voices Against Violence Theatre for Dialogue

The VAV Theatre for Dialogue program uses trained Peer Theatre Educators to present realistic scenarios demonstrating situations of relationship violence, sexual violence and stalking. This performance will highlight unique dynamics that may be part of relationship violence when an individual has a disability. For more information about VAV Theatre for Dialogue visit their website http://cmhc.utexas.edu/vav_peertheatre.html

New SSD Staff

SSD welcomes a new coordinator to the team. Christy Shindell, M.Ed., joined the Services for Students with Disabilities staff as disability services coordinator in March. She received her bachelor's degree from the College of Human Sciences at Texas Tech University. She then earned her Masters degree in Higher education, Student Affairs: also from Texas Tech. Her background includes seven years of student disability services experience and academic advising. A native of Austin, she is happy to be "back home" and is looking forward to serving the students of UT. Christy will be working with students with low vision and blindness, mobility, and medical disabilities.



Course Load Reductions

The new Q drop policy

With the start of a new academic year there is a new group of students coming onto the UT campus. For all new students, as well as returning students, it is important to be aware of the policies associated with dropping a class. We will highlight some of the key items to be aware of but the full policy can be found online at <
<http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi08-09/ch04/gi08.ch04b.html#dropping-a-class-rules-for-undergraduate-students>>

All University students are able to drop a class up until mid-semester, however, in the 2007 legislative session section 51.907 of the Texas Education code was passed stating that all undergraduate students who began attending a state University in fall 2007 or later may drop **NO MORE THAN 6 CLASSES** for academic reasons throughout their entire undergraduate career.

Exception to the new Q drop policy were allowed including if classes were dropped for any of the following reasons:

1. *A severe illness or other debilitating condition*
2. Student is responsible for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person.
3. The death of a student's close family member.
4. The active duty service as a member of the Texas National Guard or the armed forces of the United States of either the student or a close family member
5. A change of the student's work schedule that is beyond the control of the student and that affects the student's ability to complete the course

Students registered with SSD may be able to seek a course load reduction through SSD and have the Q drop protected, and not count towards the 6 allowed, if the reason for the drop fits the first criteria listed above. In order to seek a course load reduction through SSD and have a Q drop be protected students must complete the Course Load Reduction application which can be found online at

http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/crsload_medwithdraw.php

Depending upon the time in the semester in which a student wants to drop a class will impact what procedures they need to follow. Deciding on a manageable number of hours BEFORE the semester starts is always the easiest course of action. However, if a student realizes after the semester has started that they have too much on their plate here are important dates to keep in mind:

**PRIOR TO SEMESTER THROUGH THE 12th CLASS DAY
(September 11th)**

If you are registered with SSD and know that you will be taking fewer hours than full-time status (12 hours undergraduate or 9 hours graduate), notify your SSD coordinator that you need a Course Load Reduction letter. Your administrator will need the number of hours you are registered for and the name of your academic college. NOTE: Financial aid often requests course load reduction letters for the semester at the end of the preceding semester so that financial aid awards are processed accurately.

**13th CLASS DAY THROUGH MIDSEMESTER
(September 12th – October 21st)**

Students will need to complete the course load reduction application (link provided on previous page), and follow the procedures for dropping a course in your particular college. You will be subject to any rules and consequences as determined by your college and financial aid (if applicable).

**MIDSEMESTER – 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO LAST CLASS DAY
(October 22nd – November 20th)**

In addition to the application and requirements listed above students will need to provide *ADDITIONAL* documentation offering justification for why the application was not submitted prior to the University drop deadline (October 21st)

After November 20th, students may pursue the option of an incomplete, which is agreed upon by each individual instructor, or apply for a retroactive medical withdrawal.

For more information about medical withdrawals and course load reductions, see:
http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/crsload_medwithdraw.php

SSD Achievements and Announcements

2009 Commencement Captioned

For the first time in UT history, the 2009 Commencement ceremony was captioned. Captioning was available on the large screen and several smaller side screens, making the ceremony accessible to not only the deaf and hard of hearing community, but to all spectators. Having the ceremony captioned was a process that took nearly five years. SSD's Assistant Director of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Lauren Kinast, was instrumental in assisting the University through the process of captioning such a large-scale event. Kinast worked diligently with UT officials to explain the benefits of captioning, which not only accommodates people in the deaf and hard of hearing community, but any spectator who may need or wish to follow captioning during the ceremony. Many used the service simply because of their distance from the main stage. SSD is proud to be on the cutting edge of accessibility at UT and this monumental event shows that the University is dedicated to creating an atmosphere where universal design is considered a valuable aspect in planning events and access is provided to all.

FALL 2009 WALK IN SCHEDULE

MONDAY: Rachel Tarp
TUESDAY: Christy Shindell
WEDNESDAY: Lauren Kinast
THURSDAY: Stephani Wolfe
FRIDAY: rotates

FREE RFDB (Recordings For the Deaf and Blind) MEMBERSHIP!

Ever wonder how you can listen to your textbooks in an audio version? RFBD has a special offer to students with learning, visual, or physical disabilities for a free membership. See the website below for details.

<http://www.rfbd.org/promotions.htm>

Did you know?

If you are a student who is employed by the University, you may be eligible for accommodations in the workplace?

Equal Opportunity Services (EOS), an office within the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, works with all individuals with disabilities who are employed by the University to ensure equal access and opportunity on the job. You can contact EOS by calling 512-471-6259. More information can be obtained at their Web site: <http://www.utexas.edu/eos/index.html>

President Obama's Proclamation Celebrating the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*

A PROCLAMATION

Today we celebrate the 19th anniversary of the enactment of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Signed into law on July 26, 1990, this landmark legislation established a clear mandate against discrimination on the basis of disability so that people with disabilities would have an equal opportunity to achieve the American Dream.

Our Nation is once again poised to make history for people with disabilities. I am proud to announce that the United States will sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on December 13, 2006. The Convention is the first new human rights convention of the 21st century adopted by the United Nations, and it represents a paradigm shift in protecting the human rights of 650 million people with disabilities worldwide. We proudly join the international community in further advancing the rights of people with disabilities.

As we reflect upon the past and look toward a brighter future, we recognize that our country has made great progress. More than ever before, Americans with disabilities enjoy greater access to technology and economic self-sufficiency. More communities are accessible, more children with disabilities learn alongside their peers, and more employers recognize the capabilities of people with disabilities.

Despite these achievements, much work remains to be done. People with disabilities far too often lack the choice to live in communities of their choosing; their unemployment rate is much higher than those without disabilities; they are much likelier to live in poverty; health care is out of reach for too many; and too many children with disabilities are denied a world-class education.

My Administration has met these challenges head-on. We have launched the "Year of Community Living" to help people with disabilities live wherever they choose. We have nearly doubled the funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. I was proud to sign the groundbreaking Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act and the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act, which provides health insurance to millions of additional children. I also lifted the ban on stem cell more research. These measures demonstrate our commitment to leveling the playing field for every

person with a disability. My Administration will not rest on these accomplishments, and we will continue to focus on improving the lives of people with disabilities. I encourage States, localities, and communities across the country to cultivate an environment in which the 54 million Americans living with a disability are valued and respected.

Americans have repeatedly affirmed the importance of protecting the human rights and dignity of every member of this great country. Through the steps we have taken, we will continue to build on the ADA and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to promoting, protecting, and ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2009, as the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I call on Americans across our country to celebrate the progress we have made in protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities and to recognize the step forward we make with the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Inspired by the advances of the last 19 years, let us commit to greater achievements in the years ahead.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA