

Happy New Year! Welcome back to Baylor for a new semester. Below is your January To-Do list to help get your semester off to a great start. Remember the 5 P's – prior planning prevents poor performance, so be proactive from the very beginning in all your academic endeavors this semester.

Thanks and have a wonderful January. – Your Baylor Quality Service Team

January To-Do List:

- **Has your contact information changed? Update it in BearWeb.** – Baylor uses the personal contact information in BearWeb to reach you with important information. Keep your contact information up to date. **Please include your cell phone number if that's your main phone contact, also please make sure your home and local addresses are correct.** To update your personal information, log in to BearWeb (<http://bearweb.baylor.edu>) and choose “Personal information.”
- **File your FAFSA** – The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a government form you have to file or renew **every year** to be considered for need-based financial aid. Apply or reapply for financial aid for the 2008-2009 academic year as soon after January 1 as you can using your (and your parents' if applicable) prepared 2007 income tax return information. Priority consideration for aid is given to those students for whom Baylor has received FAFSA results by **March 1st**, so don't delay. For more information about FAFSA see this website: <http://www.baylor.edu/finaid/fafsainfo>. To file your FAFSA or renewal on-line use this website: www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- **Make any last changes to your Spring '08 schedule (Add-Drops)** – If you want to make changes to your Spring '08 schedule you still can, but you need to do so fairly quickly. Here are some things you need to know about add-drops:
 - Beginning **January 22nd**, all schedule changes must be made in the Registrar's Office, third floor Robinson Tower, Suite 370. You will be charged an add-drop fee of \$20. Be sure to bring your ID.
 - Be careful about dropping classes. Reducing your hours can affect your financial aid, your ability to stay in the residence hall, and lots of other things. This website has more information: <http://www.baylor.edu/advising/index.php?id=50796>
 - **January 23rd** is the last day you can register for or add classes.
 - Your basic tuition cost will stay the same as long as you stay within 12-18 hours, but different classes may have different fees. So, adding and dropping can affect your bill. The change will show up on your next monthly e-bill.
 - Information regarding refunds for dropping classes can be found at: <http://www.baylor.edu/cashiers/index.php?id=4996>
- **Change your meal plan** – If you want to reduce your meal plan, you need to do it during the first two weeks of class (last day – January 25th). To change, send an e-mail to the Cashier's Office: cashiers_office@baylor.edu. Here's the site for more information about

freshman meal plan options: www.baylor.edu/dining/freshmanmeals. **Meal plan FAQ's**
-- http://www.baylor.edu/cashiers/index.php?id=4569&action=qa&faq_prop=2029

- **Find out about study abroad opportunities** – Baylor offers a wide variety of study abroad programs. If you are thinking about participating in one of these programs this summer, you need to start making plans now. Here's how you can get more information:
 - **Study Abroad Information Sessions** - Starting **January 22nd**, every Monday and Tuesday at 4:00 in Poage Library Room 201 B.
 - For more information: www.baylor.edu/cie/studyabroadinfo
- **Take a library research workshop** – Do you have classes that will require library research this semester? If so, a library research workshop will help you learn efficient ways to find the books, articles, and electronic resources you need. Sign up at the Social Science & Humanities Reference Desk in person, or call 254-710-2122 or e-mail Janet_Sheets@baylor.edu. Here's the website for information about dates and times: http://www.baylor.edu/lib/index.php?id=28535&type=child&cat_id=443
- **Start planning what courses you'd like to take next summer and fall** - Current students register for summer and fall 2008 classes on assigned days in April so begin planning now to meet with your academic advisor(s) sometime before that. Be sure to check BearWeb to verify your major and to find your academic advising instructions and information. Your current assigned advising areas are listed under “Student and Financial Aid”, “Registration”, “Advisement Contact and Information.”

When you meet with your advisor, don't forget to discuss any coursework you plan to take away from Baylor next summer as transfer credit. Keep in mind that once you enter Baylor you may transfer in a total of only 15 hours of credit from other schools.

- **Sign up for tutoring** – Set up your tutoring schedule now before your semester gets too busy. Starting **January 21st** there will be free tutoring Monday-Thursday 1-9 pm, in the Tutoring Center, Room 074, ground level of the Sid Richardson Building. A wide variety of subjects are covered including math, sciences, several languages, religion, and business courses. To get more details and find out how to make an appointment visit the following website: www.baylor.edu/support_programs, call 254-710-8254, or e-mail: Matt_Vandagriff@baylor.edu
- **Visit Career Counseling in Sid Richardson, Room 132** – Need help with choosing a major? Contact Career Counseling at 254-710-8434 to schedule a FREE appointment. On-line appointment requests can be made at www.baylor.edu/careercounseling
- **Prepare for and attend one of the following Baylor Career Fairs** –
Tuesday, February 5th the annual STEM job fair will be held on the 5th floor of the Cashion Academic Center from Noon until 4:00 pm. This fair will bring thirty employers to campus to talk with students, majoring in the sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics, who are seeking either internships or full-time employment. For more information on the fair, please go to our web site: www.hireabear.com

Wednesday, February 13th Career Services will be sponsoring the Hire A Bear Job Fair, from Noon until 5:00 pm, in the Ferrell Center. There will be over sixty employers in attendance hoping to talk to students from ALL majors, not just business majors, who are seeking internships or full-time employment. For more information on this fair, please go to our web site: www.hireabear.com.

Wednesday, February 20th there will be an Education Job Fair held on the 5th floor of the Cashion Academic Center from 9:00 am until Noon. This fair is not just for education majors. Any student who is thinking of the possibility of teaching in Texas public school system can benefit by coming to this fair and talking to any or all of the 97 school districts who will be present. For more information on this fair, please go to our web site: www.hireabear.com.

Important January Dates:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1/1 -File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as you can! ▪ 1/23 – Last day to reduce or delete meal plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1/31 – January tuition installment due
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Around the Corner:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2/5 – Career Services’ STEM Job Fair. For information, visit www.hireabear.com ▪ 2/11 – Last day to drop a class without a grade assigned. After this date, classes dropped must be assigned a “DP” or “DF” by the instructor of record. Please visit this site before dropping: http://www.baylor.edu/advising/index.php?id=50796 ▪ 2/13 – Career Services’ Hire-A-Bear Job Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2/20 – Career Services’ Education Job Fair ▪ 3/1 – Priority date for consideration for financial aid. (FAFSA should be received by this date.) ▪ 3/18– Courses dropped after this date will be recorded as failed. Please visit this site before dropping: http://www.baylor.edu/advising/index.php?id=50796 ▪ 3/8-3/16 – Spring Break
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Tip of the month:

Plan for Success Today - Before you do another thing, sit down with a semester calendar and record every major test and assignment. Don't worry about daily reading or homework assignments. Concentrate on the big items. Why now, today even? As you go through this exercise you may see that on February 19th (for example) you have two major tests and a research paper due. Yikes! You realize immediately that you will need to start preparing for these things early on so that you don't find yourself, on Valentine's day, thinking, "How did this

happen?" Instead, if you get a head start, you will be thinking, "Wow, this is not so hard after all!" For a semester planner template and more helpful academic success tips, visit the Academic Support Programs web site at http://www.baylor.edu/support_programs/ or call 254-710-8212.