Experience Life as a Lumberjack

Prospective students and parents are invited to campus Nov. 15 for Showcase Saturday, an introduction to Stephen F. Austin State University. Registration begins at 10:15 a.m. at the Baker Pattillo Student Center.

The program showcases representatives from multiple SFA departments presenting information relevant to life as a Lumberjack, such as financial aid, residence life, academic departments and the Student Activities Association.

Parents are encouraged to attend with their student. Call (936) 468-2504 for more details.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

It is important for students to apply for scholarships every year. Scholarships can help reduce student loan debt and make the college experience more enjoyable. SFA's scholarship application opened on Sept. 1 and is available until Feb. 1. Students do not need to be fully admitted to apply; however, they will need a mySFA account.

To apply for SFA scholarships, students must log in via mySFA. Then, go to the myServices tab, scroll down and click on Apply for Scholarships.

Students are encouraged to apply for private scholarships, which are scholarships not provided by SFA. These scholarships can be from a local high school, church, PTO or community groups, such as the Rotary or Lions Clubs. Another helpful website for applications is www.fastweb.com. The key is to apply early and for multiple scholarships.

One note of warning: Don't pay for scholarship applications. Legitimate scholarship applications are free to complete.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attending the college classes students register for seems like a no-brainer. However, some college freshmen have a difficult time getting to class. In the past, the policies for attendance have varied based on the school or class professor. The Federal Department of Education has taken the guesswork out by implementing a new national attendance policy. The new policy will impact financial aid awarded to students based on their attendance in each of their classes.

Attendance can be defined by physical attendance or participation in a class-related activity, such as submission of an assignment, examination or participation in group or online discussions. If the student is deemed, "not in attendance" his/her financial aid can be reduced per class that he/she failed to attend. Attending classes always has been important, but it also is now mandatory for financial assistance.

COUNSELOR CORNER

Necole Beason is an SFA financial aid counselor with 19 years experience. Beason and her husband of 15 years, Sylvester, have two children, Thomas and Aaliyah. Beason's tips for incoming freshmen: Apply early! Apply for financial aid as soon as possible after Jan. 1 of every year. There are multiple types of aid available, and applying early is key to receiving the best financial aid offers from the student's schools of choice.

Reminder: Counselor Workshop at SFA
9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Oct. 1 • counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org