

Navigating UT's transportation system

Whether you're living on campus at the University of Toledo or you're commuting every day, there are lots of ways to get around campus.

Diana Watts, the transit program director, said the transportation system is easy to use if students take the time to understand it.

"UT Transit Services is available to students, faculty and staff free of charge with a valid UT ID," Watts wrote in a previous interview. "All current schedules, maps and times of departures are on our website at <http://transit.utoledo.edu>. You can also call our office if you need more explanation."

For transportation on campus, Watts said there are two main buses, the Gold Loop and the Blue Loop, that circle campus most days of the week. They make loops in opposite directions all days of the school week from 7:30 a.m. until just after 10 p.m. They make stops at the busiest places on campus, including the Student Union, Engineering Campus and the West Ramp Parking Garage.

"Parking around the center of campus can be challenging, and I have seen students circle lots sometimes up to 15 minutes to try and find a parking spot, when they could have parked in Lot 25 or 20 and ride the shuttle into the center of campus quicker," Watts wrote.

Along with transportation on campus, the university has multiple opportunities for transportation off campus as well. There are routes to the Toledo Museum of Art and the Health Science Campus on weekdays.

"Many students are surprised to learn that our bus takes you

directly to the Toledo Art Museum, which has free admission,” Watts wrote. “The museum does charge for parking, but if you ride the shuttle, you have a nice afternoon of exploring one of the most amazing museums in the United States for free.”

There is also a stop to a Wal-Mart incorporated into the Health Science Campus route Monday through Friday starting at 5 p.m., allowing students to get the things they need that they cannot buy on campus.

Freshmen living on campus must park at Scott Park. There are a couple of options available to students looking to retrieve cars.

“Freshmen who are having to park on the Scott Park Campus can utilize our shuttle to obtain their vehicles Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. After-hours service to Scott Park is provided by Night Watch,” Watts wrote. “Freshmen can park on Main Campus on Friday night and return cars to Scott Park on Sunday evening, or the evening before the start of school when it concerns a break or holiday.”

Sound confusing? There’s an app for that. You can download what’s called “TransLoc Rider” or point your browser to utoledo.transloc.com and track your bus on its route, so you can plan your schedule.

Those who don’t own a smart device can find locator kiosks outside popular stops. Route schedules are available on the transit service page.

Why I chose a Living Learning Community

As a freshman in college, everything is new. You have to share a new room with a new person on a new campus with new professors and new peers.

Freshman year is truly just a mass amount of freshly freed adults, wandering aimlessly through the year and making mess after mess as they try to figure out, "What the hell am I supposed to do now?"

Most resident advisers will say the first step is to go out and be involved in the community, but reaching out and making friends with everyone is a lot harder than it's cracked up to be.

This can be especially true if it's one of your first times away from home, or if you and your roommate aren't the instant best friends all the chick-flicks said you'd be. This is why joining a Living Learning Community as a freshman is such a good idea.

As a freshman in 2014, I joined what was then called the Arts Living Learning Community. Housed in the 5th floor of Ottawa East residence hall, we got course credit both fall and spring semester for joining the "class."

Though to call it a class wouldn't really do the ALLC justice – we didn't take tests or learn anything really, we just hung out. As a communication major, I wasn't even sure I was going to be allowed to join, and almost didn't even try.

But I figure the college I was in is the college of College of Communication and the Arts, so they can't really tell me no, right? Well, they didn't, and as it turns out, anyone with any major could have joined.

All that was required was that you went to a weekly meeting and paid a small fee, which financed a huge number of trips during the year. The year I joined, we went to plays, saw movies, took trips to museums and even went to Chicago for a weekend trip.

I got to live on the same floor with people who had similar interests. We all became very good friends, and even almost three years later I'm still best friends with the people I met there.

The benefits of finding a Living Learning Community that fits your interests are substantial. As a freshman, you need to pounce on every opportunity to force yourself out of the personal bubble called your dorm room and socialize.

I spent too much time in a blanket fort watching "The L-Word" and "Bob's Burgers" on Netflix – being part of the ALLC was just the push I needed to join the land of the living.

This is also a great way to find groups of people to study with and create a group of your own for support in your classes, since you'll be surrounded with people who have the same or similar majors.

So if you do decide that your bed is just too cozy and it's just too cold to walk to class that day, you'll have someone to help you out.

Although the ALLC no longer exists at UT, there are still a bunch of other cool Living Learning Communities you can join on campus.

There's one for business students, for engineering students, medical students, honors students and many more.

If you don't feel like any of them fit you, there's also the First Year Experience community which is broader than the other communities and that every freshman who lives in Parks Tower is required to join.

Overall, joining a Living Learning Community as a freshman made my first year bearable, even enjoyable! It's not easy, being new, and sometimes it's more about surviving than "realizing the true freshman experience."

The ALLC pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me make lifelong friends. It's an experience everyone should have, and I encourage you to do it.

Take the leap

As I approach my final year at the University of Toledo, I find myself naturally reflective of my previous three years spent here. It is with zero uncertainty that I make this statement: Studying abroad was the best decision I made at UT.

While during my first year at college I matured greatly, it was not until I studied abroad that I actually felt like a full-fledged adult. I returned to the US feeling as though I was capable of anything.

I studied in Brighton, England, the fall semester of my sophomore year, which is rather early in the college career to study abroad, but my philosophy is that if you continue to put something off, it never gets done; hence why I pressure anyone with even the slightest desire of studying abroad to fill out the paperwork ASAP.

My biggest fear about studying abroad had nothing to do with stolen passports or hellish hostels, but rather the magnitude of the cost and how it could hinder me later in life. Evidently, my worry was fruitless as studying abroad can be even cheaper than attending UT depending on the country and program you choose.

However, if you decide to choose an expensive country – like I did – UT provides travel grants and scholarships to help lessen the cost. With the help of the Center for International Studies and Programs, I still paid way less for a semester abroad than my friends paid for a college two hours away.

Another lethal misconception that deters students from studying abroad is the idea that leaving their hometown and living on a college campus constitutes “getting away.”

If you’re a student who lives hours away, while it’s great you’ve gotten out of your hometown – if that was your aim – please, I beg you not to become stagnant. The world is massive and it’s waiting.

If you decide to study abroad I have two major words of advice: 1. Go alone 2. Go without expectations.

I love my friends dearly, but I know had they tagged along on my European adventure I wouldn’t have had such an opportunity for growth. Due to complacency, I wouldn’t have ventured as far out of comfort zone and met all the amazing people I met.

Before I left for England, I conjured expectations. Almost nothing happened like I pictured, yet somehow better. Though it’s hard – studying abroad or travel in general – I find is best when gone into blind.

I could rattle on about stories from nights in Brighton, London, Amsterdam, Paris, Budapest or Dublin, but surely it’s better if you create your own. This might be the best opportunity you get to make the world your playground.

Studying abroad isn’t for everyone and I am done shoving the idea down your throat. Regardless of whether or not you decide to do it, your time at college is going to pass by quickly. Take charge of it.

Mistakes not to make

Going off to college can create the best, and or worst, times of your life. It's filled with fun experiences, amazing people and, even better, lots of free food and t-shirts. There is so much excitement to be had, but it's hard to tell what not to do and what you should do. Here's a few tried-and-true tips from me, a senior who survived their freshman year with all limbs attached.

Living in the dorms is a college experience you shouldn't miss out on. Some students live in Toledo and living on campus doesn't make much financial sense for them. Being a commuter freshman year forces you to work much harder to become connected to the university. Living in the dorm gives you an automatic connection with your roommates – even if you don't become the best of friends – and an appreciation for UToledo itself every time you set foot outside of your dorm. Students who try to use the loophole of living within the 25-mile radius to live in an apartment off-campus with their friends miss out on meeting new people just by living with them. It's harder in President's and the Ottawa, but go out and meet people in your dorm. The suite style of dorms is hard to have an open doorway of living, but it's worth it to make more friends outside of your room. Go to those floor meetings and the events hosted by your RA. Make more friends.

Going out and having fun is an important facet of college life. But don't forget as to why you are here. You're here at college to go to school and learn. Also, you pay for each and every one of your classes. Don't waste your time and money by not studying enough and not learning while you're there. Remember earning a tough degree requires a lot of tough work. You can have a great time and get good grades, but don't do

things that you'll regret. Go to class and learn something. Don't get arrested, take drugs, or do anything that will interfere with your ability to succeed. You have the potential to do great things with your life. Don't mess it up with something that made one night in college "awesome."

This next tip seems trivial, but for many is pretty intimidating and can be the worst thing on the planet. Talk to the people you sit next to in class. Get their phone numbers. Add them as friends on Facebook. What?! You want many me to make friends?! Yes! When it becomes that time for an exam review or homework assignment you missed because you weren't there, it makes a difference to have a friend in your class. They can fill you in and provide a much needed ally for group projects.

Don't take that 8 am or even 9 am lecture. Nothing is worth trekking across campus in two feet of snow in the middle of December. The first time you fall down crossing the ice covered railroad tracks is just as bad as the fourth time. Also, if you shower in the morning, welcome to icicle hair.

One of the most common things I hear when people tell me about why they dropped out of UT or switched to another college is that they didn't connect with Toledo. I can't believe them. There is so much to do here. I would know; I've lived here for three years already. Toledo is more than the UT campus. As a freshman, make a friend who is a commuter or keeps their car near campus. On Fridays when most students don't have class, don't just go to the mall. Drive downtown. Visit the shops and pretentious coffee places. Go to a Mud Hens or Walleye game. Get pancakes from Uncle John's Pancake House. Go for a bike ride in Wildwoods Metropark. If you don't know what's out there, it'll make it harder to want to stay. I love Toledo, the Glass City. Be proud of where you go to school. By connecting with your city, you can find fun, happiness, and even a future place to live.

The best part about college is finding yourself. Take that class on social justice, photography, international business, or story writing just because you want to. Go to poetry night, frat parties, dance marathons, and that lame movie your RA is setting up for your dorm floor. It took me a little bit to find out who I wanted to be at college. I became more confident in my abilities and who I am as a person. I'm not the same Emily that entered college and that is the best part about college. Growing up is very important and you get that by falling down and picking yourself back up. Now is the time to decide what you like without the judgemental eyes of your parents and best friends from high school. Go join the science club even if you're majoring in English. Who cares? No one, because everyone is finding him or herself, just like you.

No one will ever have the exact same college experience as you. Many of us go through similar situations, but only you can work your way through it. Going to college is a life-changing moment, but it is just that: a moment in your life. You can pick and choose what you do while you're here, but you have to choose how this time defines you.

[A guide to Greek Life at UT](#)

For some college students, being involved in Greek Life is a major part of their identities. Others wonder what going Greek really means.

For third-year political science and German major, Alex DiBell, it means making lifelong friendships, serving the community and exceeding academically.

"I could literally go on for hours as to how the fraternities have benefited me and impacted me not in just my college experience but my personal development as well," DiBell said.

Dibell is the president of the Inter-Fraternity Council and has been a member of Phi Gamma Delta, aka FIJI, since his freshman year.

Through FIJI, DiBell has participated in service events like Rocketthon and Relay for Life. The fraternity also hosts its own philanthropy dinners raising money for the Children's Miracle Network.

"We cherish brotherhood and try to invite as many people into that brotherhood," DiBell said.

FIJI uses its five core values: friendship, knowledge, service, morality and excellence to make a greater impact on the Toledo community.

When it comes to recruitment, DiBell advises individuals to shift their focus from impressing fraternity members to instead focus on being themselves.

"There is a fraternity that is right for you but don't try to sell yourself as something you're not," DiBell said. "There is a place for everybody."

With 30 organizations available to University of Toledo students, individuals have the opportunity to explore fraternities and sororities whose goals and values align best with theirs.

"Being Greek may not be for everyone but you wouldn't know if it's for you or not if you don't try," third-year psychology major Rachel Whitman said.

Whitman has been a part of Delta Pi Epsilon for two years.

"I fell in love with the sisterhood, the service and their

dedication to their philanthropy,” Whitman said.

Whitman said Delta Pi hosts different events helping members bond and improve themselves through serving the campus.

Although the recruitment process can be overwhelming at times, according to Whitman, it helps potential members find a chapter they can call their home.

“Each sorority has its own personality. What I love about ours is that we’re very inclusive,” Whitman said.

She added they don’t care about physical characteristics or different opinions. You are valued for being a person.

Third-year biology pre-med major Chloe Wagenhauser has been a member of Chi Omega for a year now and believes it has allowed her to form new bonds and get more involved in the university.

“I’ve just met a ton of girls who support me in whatever I do and if there’s anything going on in my life or if I need someone there, I know I have like 60 other girls who would be right there to help me if I ever needed anything,” Wagenhauser said.

She says Chi Omega is a diverse group of women who are all caring, funny and well-rounded individuals.

“You see all these movies with people who party who are in Greek Life and it’s so much more than that,” Wagenhauser said.

Going Greek is not necessarily about joining social organizations. There are also professional and service fraternities available at UT.

P4 pharmacy major Ami Mehta is a part of the professional pharmacy fraternity, Lambda Kappa Sigma, which aims to provide women with lifelong opportunities in pharmacy through personal growth and professional development.

“I felt like I made friends that were really true and still talk to them. They became like mentors as well,” Mehta said.

Mehta said she seeks advice from her other friends since they are all on the same pathway.

“Greek Life often carries a lot of stigmas and stereotypes and I would just encourage people that are hesitant or confused about Greek Life to come out and give Greek Life a chance,” DiBell said.

Students interested in learning about what different fraternities and sororities have to offer can visit OrgSync.

[Living with a roommate... for the first time](#)

Moving to college can be quite an adjustment, especially if you plan on living in a dorm. The biggest part of moving to college is deciding who you are going to live with. Some students may plan to live with someone they grew up with or a friend from high school. Some students even meet their roommates through the dorm’s Facebook page.

The rest of us fill out a random roommate form and hope for the best.

I was one of many who sent in that roommate matching form with my fingers crossed, hoping the system would work its magic. I chose to live in the Honor’s Academic Village so I shared a bedroom with one girl and a bathroom with her and two girls that lived on the other side.

When we were emailed each other’s names, the first thing we

did is stalk each other on any and all social media. After that step was complete, we started a group chat in which we determined who was going to bring certain items we would all be sharing (i.e. toilet paper, shower curtains, bathroom cleaner).

It's really nice to distribute all these things evenly so no one gets stuck buying it all. In addition, it's a good idea to buy extras of these things (if you can afford it) because when you run out a few months into the year, chances are everyone's broke and doesn't want to buy more.

My roommates and I also talked a little bit about ourselves and the things we enjoyed doing, just so we all had a pretty good idea of what we were getting ourselves into.

Sharing a room will take some getting used to because you both probably have very different schedules. I would wake up in the morning and try to be as quiet as I could be so I didn't wake my roommate and she did the same.

My roommates and I didn't set too many rules. There was a general understanding that we all needed to be respectful of one another's space and sleeping schedule. Although, looking back, there probably should have been some sort of rule set for who takes out the trash!

In the end, living in close proximity with your roommates forces you to become close and very comfortable with one another. We would get dinner and lunch together often, watch *The Bachelor* every Monday night and go on little excursions around Toledo when we were bored.

Also, your roommates are there to see all your mental breakdowns, low points and any other troubles you may encounter while you're there and if they're anything like mine, they'll help you through them all.

Having random roommates was the best choice I made, not only

because I lived with some incredible girls, but because I made forever friends thanks to the magical matching form.

Parking woes

Walk up to any student on the University of Toledo's campus and you can start a conversation with just one word: parking. Anyone and everyone has an opinion about parking passes, lots and the difficulty of finding a decent spot. Ask them if they've ever received a parking violation and you'll never hear the end of it. Parking is a major sore spot among UT's student population, but not without reason.

I've incurred 15 tickets over the course of one semester at UT and let's not even talk about the semesters prior to that. You are already wearing a mortgage around your neck with all the loans you've already taken out. Welcome to the "I am going to be paying off debt for the next 22 years" club. No one wants to pay even more for parking in the wrong location, whether on accident or knowingly.

In my opinion, unless you're a freshman commuter, having a parking car during your first year of college is completely pointless. Your car can only be parked at Scott Park, which is a good walking distance away. Students can ride the bus to Scott Park to pick up their car, but even then, you can't park on Main Campus (unless it's the weekend). Scott Park is securely guarded, but unless you drive home often enough for you to need a car, paying for a \$100 parking pass isn't worth it.

One thing I'm happy my tuition pays for is UT's transportation services. It has saved me in the harshest of weathers. UT's buses run Blue and Gold routes on campus, but they also make

runs to Scott Park, Walmart, Franklin Park Mall and several apartment complexes. Downloading the app on your phone and figuring out the bus routes will save you from parking hassles. Take it from someone with first-hand experience.

After your freshman year, the commuter life gets a little easier. Parking permits cost \$125, unfortunately. That's just for one semester – don't be like me and think that will cover the entire year. Make sure you're ready to fork up another \$125 for every semester here, even during the summer if you'll be taking classes then. Once, I received a ticket for "Failure to register vehicle" because I thought that I was all set after purchasing the first pass and boy, was I wrong.

UT has a very special system for telling you where you can park. Pay close attention to the letter you are assigned after purchasing your pass. The letter dictates where you can and can't park. "F" is for freshman residential, "K" is for freshman commuters, "D" is for upper class residential, and "C" is for upper class commuter. Administrators, faculty, and other special exceptions can be issued an "A" pass, which is for parking in all lots on campus.

As you navigate your way around campus, you will notice the letters connected to the light posts in parking lots. A handy tip I learned is that yellow parking spots are for A passes and white lines are for everybody else. If you park in a parking lot where your pass isn't allowed, you are in danger of getting a ticket.

If you really don't like following the rules, you be a rebel like myself who parks anywhere because I hate walking long distances. Unfortunately, due to this lethargic attitude, I've received several parking violations, including ones that say "Failure to observe posted parking restrictions" for \$30 and "Failure to register vehicle" for \$50. Parking violations will be sent to your UT email address.

Lucky for you and I, UT allows us to appeal out tickets. The appealing process had become my best friend. When you get a ticket, a reminder will come to your email and near the end is the option to appeal. Whether you feel like the ticket was unjust or you just can't deal with paying for all these tickets, appealing is the way to go.

After all, who wants to pay \$80 to UT when you can appeal a ticket and use that money to treat yourself to mani-pedi and still have some left over to go to Auntie Ann's and get an almond crunch pretzel with cream cheese on the side.

Parking on campus can suck at times, but if you know how to navigate it the right way, you hopefully won't end up like me with 15 tickets in my second year and more to come in the future.

[Avoiding the tickets](#)

To avoid being ticketed at the University of Toledo, it is essential for all first-year commuters to know where to park, when to purchase parking passes and how to nab a decent parking spot before class.

At the beginning of every semester, each student who plans to have a car on campus should purchase a parking permit, the current cost of which is \$125 per semester for commuters and \$100 for freshman residential. You can purchase your parking pass by going to the MyUT portal and visiting the correct tab.

UT offers many parking lots and garages available to students. Once registered for a parking permit, students are assigned a permit type. While there may be many parking spots available, students can only park in lots where their permit type is

allowed.

Student parking permits are based on earned credit hours, on- or off-campus residency and program types. What parking permit type a student has can be accessed from the student's account on the MyUT portal under the student tab.

The most typical types of permit amongst students include C, D, F, and K. Both C and D are obtained by upperclassmen and F and K are assigned to freshmen. F permits are for residential students and K permits are assigned to commuting students. Residential freshman are currently only allowed to park on the Scott Park campus, which is a gated and secured lot accessible by walking or UT bus transportation.

On UT's main campus, freshman commuters may park in the following parking lots:

Parking lot 2, which is in front of the east ramp.

The east ramp

Parking lot 3, 4 and 5: all located next to Savage Arena

Parking lot 8 (behind Carter Hall)

Rocket Hall

Parking lot 20, located south of Palmer Hall

Parking lot 18, which is located behind the Rec Center.

If a friend or parent is visiting for the day, guest permits are available for them to purchase on UT's website. Guest permits are \$3 per day and is the equivalent of a C permit, meaning the guest may park in any unrestricted lot. A weekend visitor will not require a guest pass because there is no enforcement for parking violations on the weekend.

UT's parking policy states that Main Campus commuter student parking spaces are indicated by white lines painted directly on the parking surface and between the hours of 4 p.m. and 7 a.m., commuter students may park in any approved faculty/staff (yellow-line) space.

For additional information concerning UT's parking system,

student and parents may visit www.utoledo.edu/parking-services or call the Main Campus Transportation Center at (419) 530-4100.

Off the beaten track

While they may not get the publicity of varsity sports, club sports at the University of Toledo are still a big part of the campus's fabric. UT offers 22 club sports: eight offered for men, five for women and nine co-ed.

"I think that having club sports gives students opportunities to disconnect with the everyday college struggles," UT men's club volleyball president Keiichi Koshino said. "They're able to enjoy a sport they love. Not only that but it gives students a sense of belonging and friendship that last throughout college and perhaps even longer".

The men's sports include baseball, bowling, lacrosse, soccer, ultimate frisbee, volleyball and wrestling. The women's sports include bowling, lacrosse, soccer, ultimate frisbee and volleyball.

The co-ed sports include cross country and track, fencing, quidditch, rowing, sailing, swimming, table tennis, tennis and water polo.

The clubs compete against other universities, compete in a conference and practice several times a week. Anybody can join a club, giving students a unique opportunity to enhance their college experience.

Each club is given roughly a \$60,000 budget to pay for travel costs, gear, etc. Most of the payments come from the players

through dues and fundraising.

Clubs provide students a break from the rigors of class and studying to represent UT on various playing fields.

One of the older clubs on campus is men's hockey. The hockey club was established in 1966, won their conference nine times, advanced to regionals three times and won a national championship in 1992.

The Rockets compete in the American Collegiate Hockey Association. Their conference is called the Tri-State Collegiate Hockey League.

This conference includes the University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Ohio University, University of Pittsburgh, West Virginia University and Wright State University.

A newer club, established in 2016, is the men's volleyball team. The team travels across the Midwest to compete in weekend-long tournaments against other universities of the same size.

"When I first came to college, I was very eager to play competitive volleyball at the collegiate level," Koshino said, "I went to the Rec center to ask about men's club volleyball and they said it didn't exist. They then asked if I would be interested in starting and I denied it at first. It wasn't until I started playing competitively at the rec when I started to wonder if I could start the program here at UT."

During their first year in existence, the Rockets started off slow in their going 1-13. They improved vastly in year two with a 7-7 record and placed third in the silver bracket at the Division IAAA National Championships in Kansas City, Missouri.

"Our goal has always been to give students the opportunity to

compete in collegiate volleyball,” Koshino said. “With that being said, our goal is to expand our program and to compete better.”

Club sports are an important part to UT’s campus with giving students opportunities to continue their passions through sports. With driven students leading the charge, UT’s sports clubs’ should have success for years to come.

Fall sports take the field

The University of Toledo has one of the strongest fan bases in the MAC and fall sports are the perfect way to welcome all fans new and old back into the Rocket family. As students return to the classrooms, fall sports will also be starting up. With so many sports and events for students to attend, there will never be a shortage of athletic competition at the University of Toledo.



Football

The always popular Toledo Rockets football team will be returning to the Glass Bowl August 31 to open their 2017 season. The midnight gold and blue will be facing Elon University, a matchup that the Rockets are hoping will give a good start to the teams 2017 season. The Rockets lost a lot of great talent in last year's senior class, but with quarterback Logan Woodside and an arsenal of explosive receivers returning, expect the Rockets to be a team focused on their strong offense, with intense, high-scoring games.

Soccer

University of Toledo soccer finished last season 8-10-1 (MAC 3-7-1) and will be looking to improve upon that in the 2017 season. This season the team will be adding some fresh faces, as the team welcomes nine new signees and Rachelle Topolewski, a transfer from St. Louis University.

"We are very excited to announce this 2017 class," said head coach TJ Buchholz to UTRockets. "This is our staff's first true recruiting class and it's a class that meets a variety of needs for our soccer program. We feel strongly about all the players committing to us today and a special thanks goes to assistant coach Jessica Nei for her outstanding work as the recruiting coordinator for the program."

The soccer season will open the fall season August 18 against Detroit Mercy University.



Volleyball

Last year's women's volleyball season saw success for the Rockets, making it to MAC Tournament quarter-finals and leading their conference with 10 academic all MAC selections. This season the Rockets will look to have an even greater season, and are primed to do so. The Rockets are adding four new members in Caleigh Bahorst, Rhyen Neal, Chloe Kleespies and Emma Swope to their incoming recruiting class.

"We feel that when you combine Caleigh and Rhyen with our fall signees, Chloe and Emma, we will have a recruiting class that can make a difference right away," said volleyball head coach Greg Smith.

The Rocket volleyball season will start off August 25 at the Fort Wayne Invitational.

Golf

Although the men's golf team is currently in search of their new head coach, the team will be looking to improve upon their spring season in the fall. The Rockets finished the fall MAC championship in eighth place with a score of 45 over par 1,197. The women's golf team finished their MAC championship in 5th place and made some moves in the off season

The 2017 Rocket athletic season will be an exciting and busy one. Every team should be competitive and every team should have great crowds cheering them on at all of their home events. Grab some friends and head to the Glass Bowl to watch the Rockets score or go to Savage arena to watch some aces. Whatever your competition preference, UT will have something for you. Go Rockets!

7 things to look forward to atUT

The Big Event

UT students come together each year to thank the Toledo community in this one big day of service. Participants show their support by volunteering to clean up the neighborhoods surrounding campus. Projects include yard work, window washing, painting and much more.

Homecoming

Homecoming is UT's longest standing tradition and has taken place every fall since 1923. This annual event is marked by an entire week of activities such as the pre-game pep-rally, concerts, bonfires, a parade and, of course, the football game. The purpose of Homecoming week is to bring students, alumni and community members together to celebrate the Gold and Blue and what it really means to be a Rocket.

The Battle of I-75

The University of Toledo vs. Bowling Green State University. This may be one of the greatest rivalries in all of collegiate athletics. For almost a century, the two have battled it out on the football field in hopes of victory, a trophy and

bragging rights. Come out this fall and support your Rockets as they take on the Falcons and fight for an eight-year winning streak!

Student Appreciation Day

Student Appreciation Day may be one of the biggest days for food and fun. You'll have to wait all year for it, but I assure you it is totally worth the wait! Food trucks, popcorn, free Toledo gear, puppies, inflatables, games, music and more will fill Centennial Mall just before summer break. This is one fun-filled day you won't want to miss!

Songfest

Sororities, fraternities and co-ed student organizations face-off in an epic battle of song and dance at this annual event. Students strut their stuff with costumes and props as they compete for the top spot. But it's not just about winning. This competition is one of UT's oldest philanthropic events. Songfest raises funds for a different charity or cause each year. It's acca-amazing!

Student Org Fair

From horseback-riding to quidditch to knitting, there's something for everyone to try or get involved in. The annual Student Organization fair is held the first week of classes and is a great way to get connected. Academic, athletic, Greek and religious organizations will have informational tables set up outside in Centennial Mall. Meet people who have the same interests and passions as yourself and make some new friends along the way.

RockeTHON

Get ready for a 13-hour dance marathon for the kids! This annual event takes place each spring and helps raise funds for Mercy Children's Hospital. Since 2001, students, faculty, family and friends have danced their way to raising almost one million dollars to support research and technology for the kids at Mercy.

Freshman commuter survival guide

After being stuck in high school for four long years, many students dream of an opportunity to assert their independence and start fresh in the next chapter of their lives. Often, this desire leads to moving into a dorm room at a university.

An on-campus residency offers several unique opportunities, such as living within walking distance to (most) classes, being able to go “home” and relax or nap during break periods and being able to see friends with just the turn of a doorknob.

As UT’s packed parking lots show, however, many students have made the choice to commute to campus.

For me, deciding to commute was a no-brainer. I live only 30 minutes away, so it just wasn’t practical in my personal situation to spend thousands on living with a stranger in a room smaller than the one I have at home.

Commuter students definitely live a different college experience than those who live on campus, so if you’re thinking about becoming a commuter at UT, here are a few tips to make your freshman year a success.

1.) Get to campus early, especially on the first day of classes. As you’ll surely find out, parking is competitive, and nobody wants to be stuck on the fifth floor of the East Ramp Parking Garage. Plus, showing up early will ensure that you’re on time for class.

2.) Be prepared to walk. Lots that freshmen are permitted to

park in are often the farthest from campus buildings, so keep that in mind. Also, if there's even a chance of rain, bring an umbrella. Better yet, just keep one in your backpack.

3.) Embrace the "K" Pass. Sure, we'd all love to have an "A" pass and be able to park in faculty lots, but the five minutes of walking that parking somewhere you're not supposed to saves you isn't worth the hassle from parking enforcement. Besides, walking across campus every day makes putting on the freshman 15 just a little less likely.

4.) Locate the lot that's closest to your last class of the day. If, like me, you'd rather have a longer walk prior to your first class so you can make a fast getaway at the end of the day, consider where you'll be when you're ready to leave. Getting home to your couch just two minutes sooner makes a world of difference.

5.) Find a place on campus that is your home-away-from-home. Just because you don't have a dorm room doesn't mean you shouldn't have a place to go when there's a lull in your schedule. Some visit the commuter lounge. Others drop by the library. I go to The Independent Collegian office. Pinpoint somewhere where you're comfortable and enjoy your time on campus.

6.) Enjoy your commute! I often find that the time I spend driving to campus is some of the only time I get completely to myself in the course of a day, and I honestly believe it's crucial in maintaining my sanity. Some days I crank up my music and sing my heart out, while on other days I sort through the daily mess of thoughts that occupy my brain. Don't worry, I focus on driving and stuff, too. As a commuter, you're bound to spend at least some of your time stuck in a car, so make the best of it.

Follow these guidelines and your first semester as a college commuter is sure to be a breeze. Well, probably. I'm a

sophomore, not an expert.

Good luck, and happy parking!