

SMU

MUSTANG ACADEMIC BRIDGE PROGRAM

MUSTANG BRIDGE NEWS!

Important Dates

- **October 20: Bridge goes to State Fair of Texas**
- **October 15-16, Monday-Tuesday: Fall Break**
- **October 18: SMU vs Houston**
- **October 26-27: Homecoming**
- **October 29: Spring Enrollment begins**
- **November 2: Last Day to drop a class**
- **November 8: Bridge Monthly Dinner**

To DROP OR NOT TO DROP???

As the drop date quickly approaches, it is time to evaluate your success in your classes. Are you doing as well as you would like to? Or is the class more difficult than you bargained? Here are a few things to consider before dropping any class.

Have you talked to your professor?

Before deciding to drop any class, be sure to address your concerns with your professor. You never know how a professor may be able to help.

How will this affect your plan to graduate?

Always discuss plans to drop classes with your advisor. You do not want to drop a class that is necessary for you to graduate, if you do not have to. If this is a prerequisite class, consider how dropping this class will affect your ability to take other classes on time.



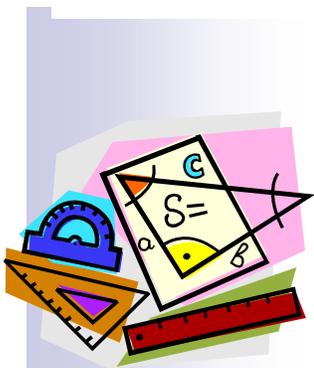
If you drop a class, you will receive a W (withdraw) on your transcript.

Though receiving a W is not the worst thing, having too many withdraws on your transcript could impact opportunities to get into Graduate School. Grad Schools and employers like to know that you are able to withstand rigorous courses.

How will dropping a class affect your financial aid?

Many scholarships and financial aid funds require that you must be a full time student (12hrs or more) and complete a certain amount of hours per academic year in order to remain eligible for these funds. Before dropping a class, consult your financial aid advisor.

It is important that carefully evaluate your need to drop a class. Never use drops as a way out of doing work. Now that you are in college, you have to get used to doing rigorous work. Learning at the college level can be tough, but you can do it! Make sure that you are using the resources that have been provided to you by the Bridge Program, your professor, and the A-LEC.



Dealing with Test Anxiety



*“Humor is the great thing,
the saving thing. The
minute it crops up, all our
irritation and resentments
slip away, and a sunny spirit
takes their place
-Mark Twain*

Test preparation to reduce anxiety:

- Approach the exam with confidence
- Be prepared!
- Allow yourself plenty of time
- Avoid thinking you need to cram just before
- Get a good night's sleep
- Don't go to the exam with an empty stomach. Take a small snack, or some other nourishment

During the test:

- Read the directions carefully
- Budget your test taking time
- Change positions to help you relax
- If you go blank, skip the question and go on
- If you're taking an essay test and you go blank on the whole test, pick a question and start writing. It may trigger the answer in your mind.
- Don't panic when students start handing in their papers. There's no reward for finishing first!

Campus Resources!

SMU has so many resources available to students. Are you using them appropriately? Sometimes Club Fondy is not always the best study environment! Consider these alternatives

Dallas Hall Lawn

Scholars Den—Clements Hall basement

Cox School of Business

Hamon Arts Library: Study Room

Hughes Trigg at night

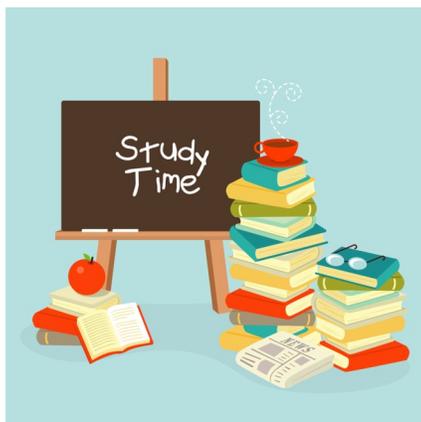
- Café 100
- The Varsity

East/ West Stacks of Fondren

Bridwell Basement

***Math Help Sessions are help in Clements Hall room 225 Monday–Thursday from 4:30– 7:30**

***Make sure that you are attending the Bridge Weekly Review Sessions!**



"BRAGGING RIGHTS"

Mustang Academic Bridge Program would like to congratulate these students on all of their accomplishment for the month of August and September

**Maria Candido—
U '11, Lyle
Ambassador**

Veronica Virgin – Community Council,
First Floor President

**Ashley Flores—
Executive
Board Member
for SHPE**

Alex Small— Mock Trial

**Jayne Miller
– Hilltop
Scholars
Program**

Ryan Stoker- U '11, Mock Trial

Lauren Mensing – Second Floor
Representative for Boaz

**Rosa Castillo –
Dedman College
Ambassador;
Moore Community
Council Treasurer**

Have you accomplished something great this month? Have you been elected to an executive position or chosen to be apart of an organization? Made an A on a test? Or do you just have a quote or a poem you would like to share with fellow Bridge students? If so please email femiller@smu.edu!

NOTES FROM MR. TILLMAN

Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

A friend forwarded this to me as “Words of Wisdom” of which they are only if you know how to interpret and internalize them. The essence of these words of wisdom is to always remain present in who you are, of where you are and in what you are doing. Remain aware of your actions and of those around you and remember the impressions you create today are the ones that will be remembered years from now. You have one life and, sadly, there are not any dress rehearsals. You may get a few “do-overs” but not many. Every day is live! Live them all to the fullest but keep in mind the importance and difference between reputation and integrity. Reputation is based upon external acknowledgement or perception. Integrity is based upon internal values and principles. I can slander you and ruin your reputation, but I cannot do anything to compromise your integrity.

Mr. Anthony Tillman
Assistant Provost

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Mustang Bridge Student of the Month

“I think Marcus Hayes has been 'outstanding.' He has impressed me with his maturity and the balance he maintains. His avid studying and dedication to his school work is very admirable. Not only does he value his studies, but he still makes time in his schedule to go to the gym. Keep up the good work Marcus!”

-Alexius Castilleja– Peer Counselor

