

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER 2025-2026

PATRIOT PULSE

THE HEART OF CAMPUS

**UT Tyler
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TALON STUDENT MEDIA

Welcome Patriots

THIS MAGAZINE IS FOR **YOU!**



FROM THE EDITOR

I was given a second chance when I came to UT Tyler. Not many people get second chances and I'm incredibly grateful for it. As the magazine editor, I've had the privilege of experiencing incredible opportunities, collaborated with talented individuals, and worked on projects that have made an impact here at UT Tyler.

Starting college can be exciting, overwhelming, or maybe a little bit of both. But no matter where you're coming from, UT Tyler is a place that gives you the space to learn, grow, and find your own path. This magazine is released annually to help students see what is happening on campus and get some insight about UT Tyler. I hope this edition makes your transition a little easier and helps you feel ready for this new chapter in your life.

Dylan Shacklett
Magazine Editor, Talon Student Media

Special Thanks To:

Nathan Witt, Karleigh Yancy, Amelia Matecek, Breanna Bolle, Larry Bonilla, Santiago Nuñez, Leigh Meyers, Paulina Mata, Bryan Nam, Danny Mogle, Beverley Golden and Dr. Julie Philley

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of Talon Student Media, UT Tyler, or any person affiliated with these organizations.

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7 Tips for Sustaining Yourself In College

By Orion Baker

Well, you're finally here at college, away from your parents and living on your own. But with it comes the reality of managing your time and, more importantly, your money. Here are seven tips to help you stay financially smart while enjoying your college experience here at UT Tyler!

1 Budget, Budget, Budget
Budgeting is one of the most important steps one should take when trying to be financially smart in general, not just in college. Build a plan around how you are going to spend your money and where it should go. Set aside money for groceries, school supplies, textbooks, savings, etc.

2 Start Smart Spending
Determine your wants and needs. These are either essentials you need or something you just want to have. Groceries? Need. The newest video game console? Want. Each purchase needs to be taken into consideration.

3 Finding Alternatives
Textbooks and supplies can be pricey, but there are cheaper options. Check out Amazon, Half-Price Books, Walmart, or dollar stores. On campus, the UC Bookstore offers new and used textbooks with payment plans, and the Muntz Library has free physical and digital textbooks available.

4 Meal Prepping and Food Spending
Fast food is tempting in college, but costs add up quickly. Meal prepping helps you save money, eat healthier, and stick to a routine. UT Tyler also offers affordable meal plans and free resources like the Patriot Pantry (Library 223), where students can get food and essentials at no cost.

5 Look for Part-Time Jobs On or Off Campus
Having a steady source of income in college is vital. Part-time jobs are offered on and off campus for students that can work with their schedules. Resources like Handshake can help students find jobs and internships for the short term and the long term.

6 Stay Consistent with Financial Goals
Following all of these previous tips and staying consistent with your goals is easily the most important tip to have. Start a savings account, practice good financial habits, do proper financial planning, etc. This is key for sustaining yourself not only in college but also in your life.

7 Visit the Center for Student Financial Wellness
Maybe you are still struggling to follow these tips or you're falling behind; well, UT Tyler has resources for you! On the third floor of the University Center at 3111A is home to the Center For Student Financial Wellness. It's important to schedule an appointment ahead of time so that you can meet with them. They can help guide you along the road to financial wellness.

Be a *REAL* Influencer



Be a voice for your peers, plan events, strengthen your leadership skills, and leave your mark on UT Tyler

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SCAN THE QR CODE HERE TO ACCESS THE SGA SENATOR INTEREST FORM AND EMBARK ON YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY TODAY!



New Student Survival Guide



Join an organization and obtain a leadership position to gain leadership experience, make connections and get involved on campus!



Attend events to meet people with similar interests and to create a life outside of your studies!



Cheer on our Patriots Athletic teams to feel more connected to UT Tyler and contribute to our school spirit!



Check Patriots Engage regularly to stay aware of what's happening on campus!

*Follow us on Instagram to keep to keep up with upcoming events and important updates!



uttylernsfp
uttylerpfp

Where Can I Find a Job as an Undergraduate?

By Larry Bonilla

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While we might be studying for degrees to get a job, many students still need to find substantial paying jobs during their four years in college. In between now and when you graduate, you need to begin finding some work, whether it is to jumpstart your career or to pay for essentials. Though, the job offers don't just fly up to you; you have to start somewhere, so that is why in this article I want to give beginner college students a guide on how to get a job as an undergraduate and what to look out for.

Before I mention anything, I should mention that there is an office in our university dedicated towards student career goals: The Office of Career Success. While the office is responsible for providing students a path for their larger career goals, the staff still offers excellent services for student job searching. They have a plethora of resources, workshops, and event opportunities for you to navigate.

If there is anything you take out from this article, it is that you must download the Handshake app. Handshake is a career platform app providing students opportunities to multiple different job postings. Additionally, career events and appointments with Career Success can be registered through the app. Through Handshake, students can find a variety of postings whether in the local area or on-campus. Most importantly, UT Tyler work-study postings are posted there. Most of the work is part-time, and usually, the work tends to be compatible with the student as they can work while doing their school work.

Outside of campus jobs and internships, there are still plenty of opportunities waiting for you. You can search for these in the Handshake app. In the Tyler area, there are always part-time job prospects perfect for college students from work as a barista to retail positions. Remember, your first part-time job doesn't have to align with your degree plan. At the beginning of your work history, focus on finding a paying job with flexibility in terms of your schedule. Many part-time jobs understand college life, so many jobs are willing to work with your schedule; though, it is worthwhile to ask your employers about flexibility beforehand.

Another option is freelance work or a side-hustle (ex. work as a freelance photographer, copywriter, or graphic designer). I have met many fellow students who have turned their interests into ways of earning quick money. Additionally, many students use freelance to advance their portfolios, showing their employers their level of initiative and work ethic.

No matter the work you find during your time in university, always make sure you set your priorities correctly. Many students tend to pile up more classes than possible for their work schedule, leaving them exhausted from their class work and job responsibilities. Remember to always align your priorities and coordinate them accordingly. Happy job hunting!

Show more



UT Tyler Office of Career Success

<https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/success-services/career-success/>

The UT Tyler Career Success office is dedicated to helping students achieve their professional goals through one-on-one support and skill-building resources. Whether you need help writing your resume, practicing for interviews, or exploring possible career paths, the office offers valuable tools, workshops, and personalized guidance to prepare you for the job market during college and after graduation.



Handshake

<https://joinhandshake.com/>

Handshake is UT Tyler's official career platform designed to help students and alumni discover job and internship opportunities both on and off campus. Through Handshake, users can explore a wide range of postings, sign up for career events, and schedule appointments with career advisors. The platform is also the go-to place for federal work-study listings and part-time jobs that fit well with student schedules.



Tools and Resources for Students

Written and Page Design By Amelia Matecek



Quizlet

If you need a study aid, Quizlet is super helpful through customizable flashcards, practice tests, and interactive games. It also features a wide range of subjects and ready-made sets!



Handshake

If you're needing to find an internship, a job, or just want to network with others, Handshake is perfect. Handshake seamlessly connects students with employers, career fairs, and campus events for opportunities for future careers and endeavors.



Canva

Canva can be perfect if you are needing to create professional-looking presentations, posters, infographics, and social media content without needing advanced design skills.



Microsoft OneNote

Microsoft OneNote is a flexible digital notebook that helps with sorting and organizing class notes, assignments, and research in one easily accessible place. Its ability to sync across devices, support handwritten and typed notes, and integrate with other Microsoft tools makes studying and collaboration more efficient!



Crash Course

With high-quality visuals and fast-paced breakdowns, Crash Course can be great for reviewing any topic! New content is constant, and with over 45 courses to date, studying is convenient and fun.



Audible

Taking study breaks is essential, and with Audible, you can have some to yourself with audiobooks! With a wide range of genres and narrators available, you can fully immerse yourself in a new title. Audible can be especially useful during commutes, workouts, and turning downtime into productive learning time.

From Page to Screen

By Paulina Mata

Page Design By Amelia Matecek



Cleverly cloaked with teenage antics and contemporary clichés, most viewers wouldn't realize the 90s rom-com was a modern adaptation of a 600-year-old play, but the movie stays fairly true to its source material, never straying too far from the plot and using most of the characters' original names or modernized versions. For "The Taming of the Shrew" fans (if they exist), "10 Things I Hate About You" can be a fun twist on their favorite play, littered with Shakespeare and literary references. For the casual viewer, the movie is a rambunctious yet typical coming-of-age romance, with the guarantee of having experienced Shakespeare's character driven plots.

Most parents probably didn't imagine getting flashbacks to their junior English class when taking their kids to see an animated movie about singing lions. But yes, even children's movies can have eerily similar plots to Shakespearean plays. "The Lion King" was not, however, based on "Hamlet," at least not at first. When the similarities to one of Shakespeare's most famous works was discovered during the movie's development, the directors ran with it and channeled their inner bard. "The Lion King" just goes to show the extent of Shakespeare's influence, as his ideas find their way in our culture and media centuries later.



If you ever want to recognize a Shakespeare play from a mile away, remember it probably consists of at least two—if not all—of the Three C's: confusion, cross-dressing, and (too many) characters. "She's the Man" happens to contain all three as it's based on "Twelfth Night." Again, the film stays faithful to the play's plot with references to the original source by using the same character names and making the love triangle (?) incredibly weird and confusing. Place-swapping, deception, and "gasp" betrayals are all the makings of a Shakespearean comedy and almost certainly where miscommunication tropes originated from.



As the most recent release in this list, "Anyone But You" was a revival for rom-coms in general. The genre peaked in the 90s and early 2000s and has since fallen off in quantity and quality. The film passes the perfect rom-com checklist: fake relationships, banter and dramatic confessions. Wait, that also aligns with Shakespeare's iconic tropes... Not only did the film gross over \$220 million worldwide, it's also the highest-grossing Shakespeare film adaptation. Perhaps the secret ingredient to a good rom-com is consulting Mr. Romance himself, Shakespeare.

10 Student Orgs You Shouldn't Miss

By
Olivia Lott

Many organizations at UT Tyler are responsible for hosting events and creating a strong sense of community here on campus. Listed (below) are 10 organizations that you can join to meet new people in your community here at UT Tyler and, if by chance, none of these have caught your interest, there are over 200 other organizations to choose from on Patriot Engage. Whether you are looking to make friends, unwind after a long day of classes, or get involved in your community, there is always a space for you. **See page 13 to for orgaizations.**



Talon Student Media (TSM)

As the resident student media organization at UT Tyler, the Talon Student Media provides coverage of news and events on and around campus to inform students about what's happening around them. We do this by producing magazines like the creatively focused Inspired Minds and more informative Patriot Pulse. Keep an eye out for a TSM table or photobooth at major campus events. Anyone is welcome to join our staff at any time!



Student Government Association (SGA)

The Student Government Association is the perfect place for students to effect change quickly and effectively. They function similarly to a student council by employing students There are opportunities for students to bring suggestions forward at the weekly General Assembly and get involved in specific issues through their various committees. Annual student body elections are held to choose its officers and representatives for each academic year.



Patriot Programs

Patriot Programs exists to create meaningful experiences that enhance student life at UT Tyler. By organizing a wide range of social, cultural, intellectual, and recreational events, the group supports students' personal and academic success outside the classroom. Whether you're attending an event or helping plan one, Patriot Programs offers countless opportunities to get involved and connect with campus life.



First Generation Patriots

First Generation Patriots is dedicated to supporting students who are the first in their families to attend college. Through mentoring, resources, and social events, the group builds a supportive community where students can thrive academically and personally. If you're a first-gen student looking for connection and encouragement, this is your home base.



Creative Writing Club

Creative writing is a wonderful outlet to relieve stress, and sharing your writing is an even better way to meet people. If you like writing or just want to improve your skills in a fun way, the Creative Writing Club hosts monthly meetings, cafés, and workshops that create the perfect environment to do that and more!



Golf Club at UT Tyler

Whether you're new to golf or already an avid player, the Golf Club at UT Tyler welcomes all who want to enjoy the game in a fun and relaxed setting. The club hosts outings, practices, and occasional competitions, providing a great way to meet fellow golf enthusiasts while enjoying the outdoors.



Patriot Platter Culinary Arts Club

For those who love to cook, eat, or explore new flavors, the Patriot Platter Culinary Arts Club offers a delicious way to get involved on campus. From themed cooking events to culinary showcases, the club brings together food enthusiasts of all skill levels. Join to refine your culinary skills, or just enjoy great food with fellow Patriots.



Rolling Patriots Guild

The Rolling Patriots Guild is the go-to organization for tabletop gaming enthusiasts at UT Tyler. Whether you're into Dungeons & Dragons, board games, or just looking to connect with fellow nerds, this club offers a fun and welcoming space to roll dice, share stories, and build adventures together. All experience levels are welcome, just bring your imagination!



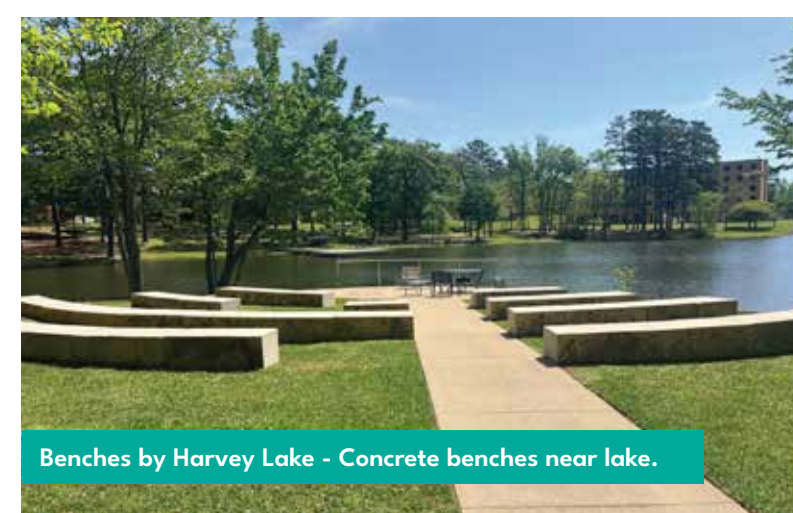
National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS)

The UT Tyler chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success offers students a structured path to personal growth, goal achievement, and leadership development. Through events, speaker broadcasts, and peer networking, NSLS helps students unlock their potential and gain skills that carry beyond the classroom. Induction requires a short application process, but the payoff is well worth it.

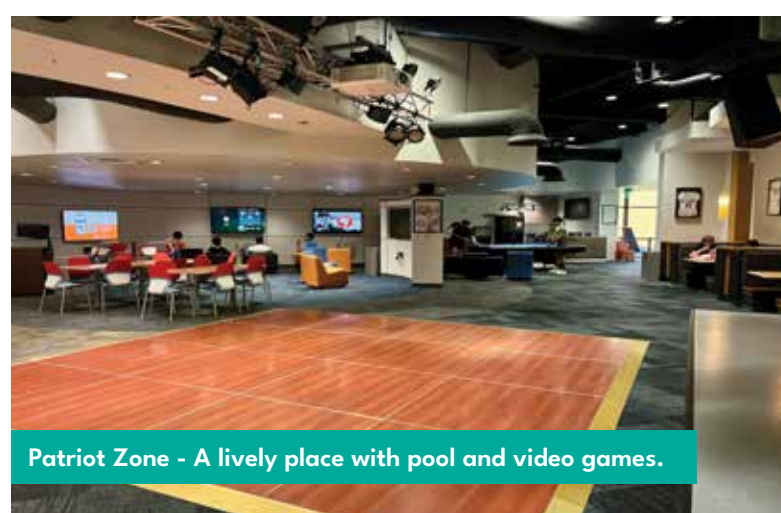


Circle K International (CKI)

As a collegiate branch of the Kiwanis International service network, Circle K International at UT Tyler focuses on developing leadership through service. Members engage in volunteer opportunities both on and off campus, all while building friendships and giving back to the community. Join CKI if you're looking for meaningful service projects and a chance to make a positive impact.



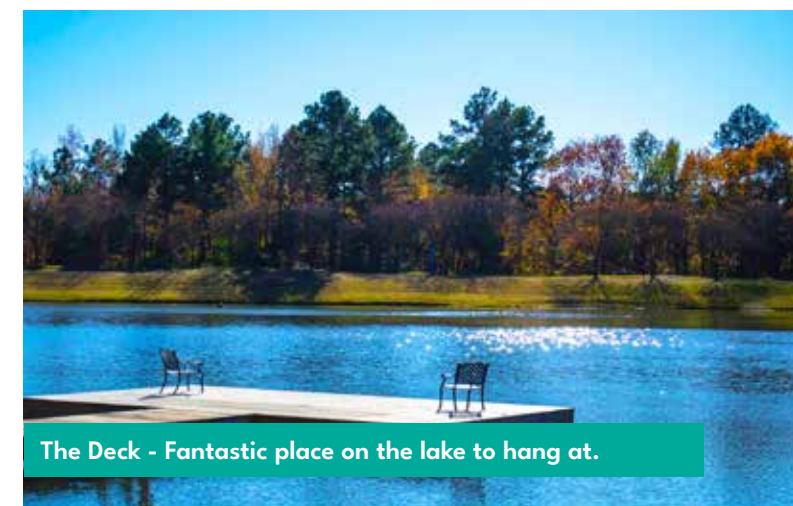
Benches by Harvey Lake - Concrete benches near lake.



Patriot Zone - A lively place with pool and video games.

Top Places To Chill

By Paul Carrington Jr.



The Deck - Fantastic place on the lake to hang at.



Harvey Deck - Nice seating and a view of the lakes.



Pharmacy Patio - Nice place to hang out in the sun.



3rd Floor Study Area - Nice quiet place to study.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!



Scan Here For More Info!

Homecoming

Homecoming is a week full of events and opportunities for students to experience our campus traditions. Traditions you can enjoy during this week include our BBQ Kick-Off, the annual Fireworks Show over Harvey Lake, and our MET Gala, where we announce Mr. & Miss UT Tyler. Be sure to check out the UT Tyler website for the full schedule!



Swoopsation

If you're new to UT Tyler and want to know how to get involved, Swoopsation is the perfect event for you! Swoop Station is a large showcase event during our welcome week, Patriot Palooza, where you can meet our student orgs and departments here on campus.



Chili Cook-Off

Being a 20 year long tradition, the Chili Cook-Off is always an anticipated event during our Patriot Days festival. Student organizations and campus departments sign up to compete for the Chuck Wagon Trophy. If you're not competing, we still invite you and your friends to come hang out and try some of the amazing chili!



Tailgates

Bring your school spirit to the tailgates before our athletic games happening throughout the school year. Enjoy food, activities, and get into the school spirit before attending the games to cheer on our student-athletes. For more information about tailgating, please see the Handbook of Operating Procedures 5.14.1.



Patriot Palooza

Patriot Palooza is UT Tyler's Welcome Week! There are many events to attend during the first week of our Fall and Spring semesters. At these events, we welcome new and returning faces with free swag, activities, and food! Be sure to check social media to stay up to date with everything that is happening!



Contact us at getconnected@uttyler.edu

Fill your Memories

Build relationships, enhance your career readiness, and strengthen your resume!

Join a student organization today!

CHECK THEM OUT!



Every college student should know the president of their university. In case you don't get the opportunity to sit down for coffee talk with Dr. Philley, here's how ours went:

What inspired you to pursue a career in higher education?

I knew I wanted to have a career in health care since I was in high school. I majored in nursing as an undergraduate and realized I wanted to understand more about why things were happening to patients. I thought about being a nurse practitioner but eventually realized I wanted to go to medical school, so I went for it.

Now that you've been president of UT Tyler for almost a year, what has been the most rewarding part of the experience?

Being around students – hands down. I've enjoyed meeting and learning more about our students. They are incredible.

How can students make the most of their time at UT Tyler?

Get involved! There is a lot to do on campus and getting involved is a great way to meet people and make connections.

Do you have a favorite spot on campus?

I love walking around Harvey Lake.

What is one piece of advice you would give to new students as they begin their college journey?

Don't skip any steps. Enjoy every minute of the experience. I think we often worry about what the end will look like — what kind of career, what kind of opportunities, what will happen in our personal lives — that we forget the most important thing we can do is to be the best we can be every day.

What is a favorite movie/TV show?

I know I'm dating myself, but I still like "Wheel of Fortune." I'm quite good at it.

How has UT Tyler grown or changed in recent years, and what are your hopes for its future?

I knew UT Tyler before it was a four-year university. It has changed so much and all for the better. My hope is that we can focus on our most important asset – our students. UT Tyler offers so much and making sure it is a great college experience is the most important part of what we do.

What is one thing you think makes UT Tyler stand out from other universities?

We offer almost all degrees in the heart of East Texas. We stand out by loving our students and providing excellence in teaching in all that we do.

Do you have a favorite tradition or event at UT Tyler?

I had a blast at midnight breakfast!

If you could give your college-age self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Get to know people with different viewpoints. You may not agree but hearing new ideas helps you better understand yourself. And have fun!

UT Tyler Bucket List

10 Things To Do Before Graduation

By Orion Baker



Get Involved On Campus

Join a club/organization, attend events, and just have a good time. You aren't here to just be an academic weapon and graduate, live and enjoy yourself.



Watch A Show In The Cowan Center

Whether it be a Broadway show or a musical performance, see what our creative Patriots are doing. Plus, students get in free, just bring your student ID.



Attend A Sports Game

Whether it be a volleyball, baseball, basketball, soccer, or any sports game, attend. It is a great way to build school spirit and community and cheer for our Patriots.



Join An Intramural Sport

Are you already on a sports team, or just want to have fun? Well, joining an intramural sport is a great way to stay competitive and have fun. Try your best!



Attend A Tailgate For A Game

Recently started here at UT Tyler, tailgates are essentially a pre-game for any sporting event. Enjoy some food, play some little games (maybe win a prize), and get ready to cheer on our Patriots.



Dress Up For Halloween On Campus

When the spooky season rolls around, grab a costume and get festive.



Pull An All-Nighter

Pull an all-nighter. An all-nighter is a rite of passage for every college student, no matter your major. Do it alone or preferably with friends.



Attend Midnight Breakfast

Twice a year, the Student Government Association hosts this event. From 10 p.m. to midnight in the UC, breakfast is held, alongside many campus organizations holding fun events.



Pursue/Get An Internship

Internships are valuable as they give you real hands-on experience in whatever field you are trying to get into. Once you become a junior or senior, ask your advisor about them and look into



Finally, GRADUATE

While it's important to have fun during your time at college, academics are just as, if not, more important. Study hard, pass your classes, and graduate.

YOUR RESUME WILL THANK YOU!

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Patriot Volleyball

By Dylan Shacklett Photo Credit: uttylerpatriots

The UT Tyler volleyball team had another great season in Fall 2024, finishing with an 18-9 record and going 14-2 in Lone Star Conference play. If you've been keeping up, this isn't anything new, the Patriots have been killing it lately, and this year marked their fourth straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Led by head coach Lyndsay Mashe, who's been with the program for nine seasons now, the team has built a reputation for being consistent and tough to beat. Coach Mashe has racked up 145 wins at UT Tyler, and the Patriots have become a serious force in Division II volleyball.

They wrapped up the season as the No. 7 seed in the South Central Region, going up against a familiar opponent in the first round, West Texas A&M. It was the fourth straight year the two teams met in the playoffs, adding another chapter to a growing postseason rivalry.

If you've seen them play at the Herrington Patriot Center, you know they don't mess around on their home court. The Patriots have gone 25-3 at home over the last three seasons, and the energy from the home crowd clearly plays a role.

Looking back, 2024 was another strong season for UT Tyler volleyball. With a team that knows how to compete and Coach Mashe continuing to guide the program, the Patriots are in a great spot to keep building on what they've started.

2024 Season Stats
Overall Record: 18-9
Conference Record: 14-2
Kills per Set: 13.75
Hitting Percentage: .231
Assists per Set: 12.99
Service Aces per Set: 1.48
Digs per Set: 16.03
Blocks per Set: 1.73

Intramural Sports

Page Design By Amelia Matecek

UT Tyler intramural sports provides competitive opportunities in individual, dual and team sports to Patriot students, faculty, staff and alumni. Scan the QR code below to see the full schedule for the intramural sports listed below.



Dodgeball



Spikeball



Tennis



3-On-3 Basketball



Giant Pong



Cornhole



Softball League



No Limit Poker



Flag Football



Volleyball



Indoor Soccer



Table Tennis



Zombie Run



Jingle Jog

101 ESPORTS

By Dylan Shacklett

The eSports program at UT Tyler is proving that serious gaming and student leadership can go hand in hand. Since launching in 2020, the program has grown steadily and now features competitive teams for a variety of popular titles, including Valorant, Overwatch 2, Rocket League, League of Legends, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, and more. These teams regularly train, compete in tournaments, and represent UT Tyler in collegiate eSports leagues across the country.

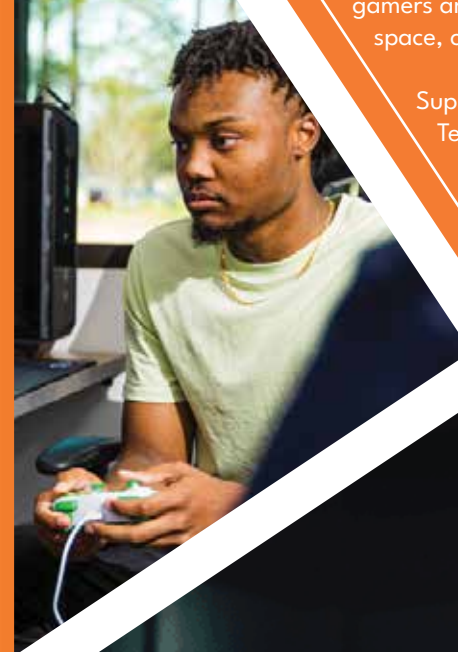
Matches and practices are held in the university's eSports Lab, located in the Soules College of Business. This dedicated space is equipped with high-performance gaming PCs that provide players with the tools they need to perform at a high level. The lab is also open to all students during weekdays, offering a welcoming environment for both casual gamers and competitive players. Since its opening, over 500 students have utilized the space, contributing to a vibrant and growing community of gamers on campus.

Supporting the competitive side of the program is the eSports Collegiate Management Team (ECMT), a student-led group responsible for managing logistics, organizing events, and coordinating with players and university staff. Each game title has its own student director, who oversees the team's development and helps ensure smooth day-to-day operations. This unique structure not only keeps the program running efficiently but also gives students the opportunity to build real-world leadership and communication skills.

In just a few years, UT Tyler eSports has already made a name for itself. In 2023, the teams celebrated a major milestone with a national tournament win, an achievement that shows both the talent and dedication of the players. The university marked the occasion with its first jersey reveal ceremony on National Video Game Day, showcasing its ongoing commitment to supporting eSports as an important part of student life.

The program's impact extends beyond campus, too. It continues to engage with the wider East Texas community through outreach events and partnerships. One recent highlight was a high school eSports tournament co-hosted with Etex Communications. The event drew over 70 participants and introduced many younger students to the opportunities available in collegiate-level gaming.

With a mix of competition, leadership, and community outreach, UT Tyler eSports is offering students more than just a chance to play, it's a chance to build something meaningful.



The History of Swoop

By Dylan Shacklett



In 1975, UT Tyler set out to establish a strong school identity. A mascot advisory committee, led by Dr. Tom G. Turns, was formed to find a unifying symbol. The committee chose the Patriots, a name that tied into the country's 200-year celebration in 1976 while symbolizing school pride and dedication. The choice set UT Tyler apart from other Texas universities and represented students and faculty who were passionate about their institution. With the Board of Regents' approval, the Patriots officially became the university's identity.

Origin of the Patriots 1975-1980

As UT Tyler's athletic programs grew, there was even discussion about replacing Swoop with an entirely new mascot. However, after careful consideration and feedback from students and alumni, the university decided to keep Swoop. In 2011, Swoop's design was updated to reflect a stronger and more athletic presence, making sure he remained a fitting symbol for UT Tyler's growing sports culture. This version had a sleeker appearance with a fiercer expression, aligning more with the competitive nature of college sports. It became a central figure in sports marketing, merchandise, and university branding.



Modern Swoop 2019-2024

In 2019, Swoop was redesigned again to reflect the university's growing athletic presence and school spirit. This version was meant to be both fierce and inviting, embodying UT Tyler's energy while still being approachable for students and fans. Though this version of Swoop helped strengthen school spirit, some students and fans felt that it was too friendly for a mascot representing a competitive athletic program. This version remained a key part of university events, cheering on athletic teams and engaging with the UT Tyler community until 2024, when another redesign was introduced.



In 1980, the Student Life Advisory Committee (SLAC) decided the university needed a mascot. They launched a contest, inviting students, faculty, and staff to submit designs for what the Patriot should look like. Over five months, the committee reviewed 101 different mascot ideas. Winston Green, an informational writer in the Public Information Office, submitted the winning design, an eagle carrying an American flag. To make the mascot more unique to Texas, the American flag was swapped for the Texas flag. The name "Pat" was chosen because it played off "Patriot" and was gender-neutral. For over 20 years, Pat represented the university in printed materials and promotions, though it wasn't the kind of mascot that roamed campus rallying school spirit. As the university grew, so did the need for a mascot that could actively engage with students and create more of a school spirit.

Pat the Eagle 1980-2003

By 2003, UT Tyler wanted a mascot that wasn't just a logo but a real presence at events. That's when Swoop was born. While still an eagle, this new version had a more animated and friendly design, making it approachable for students and fans. The goal was to create a character that could engage with the crowd at athletic games and student events, bringing more energy to campus life. Unlike Pat, Swoop could be seen at games, pep rallies, and other university events, helping to build a stronger sense of school pride.



First Swoop 2003-2011



Swoops New Look 2024-Present

Before the start of the fall 2024 semester, UT Tyler unveiled a newly redesigned Swoop with a bolder, fiercer look. University officials received feedback that the previous version, introduced in 2019, was too friendly for an athletic mascot. In response, the new design embraces a more intense and competitive expression, aligning more closely with the spirit of UT Tyler's athletic programs. With this latest redesign, Swoop continues to evolve alongside the university, keeping its role as a powerful symbol of school spirit.

For more information about UT Tyler, check out the archives at the library or UT Tyler Scholar. scholarworks.uttyler.edu





Tyler Alley

By Macy Maxwell

As Hunter Nash walks through the Art Alley in downtown Tyler, his eyes wander over the many beautiful murals plastered on a long wall. In his 20 years of life, this is the most art the Tyler Junior College student has ever seen at one place.

A few murals catch his eye — like the silly little armadillo with angel wings and the cute puppy faces among a background of flowers. But the one that truly strikes him is an array of delicate flowers on a deep blue background that reminds him of his childhood living on a farm.

He keeps walking and then slowly turns around and returns to sit in front of the flowers. He has found a perfect background for pictures

In a corner of this mural is the name Cora Weisenberger and @lovecoratattoos.

THE ARTIST

Cora, a woman with vibrant purple hair and tattoos, is the smiling face that fills the screen when one plugs @lovecoratattoos into Instagram. She owns and works at a tattoo shop in Lindale called Under the Magnolia. She has been adding beautiful art pieces to people's skin for nearly 10 years now but has been artistically active for about 24 years.

"I've always been creative, but I didn't take an art class until high school," Cora says. "Once I did, I was naturally good at it and it was an outlet for me. A way to space out and relax." Cora has done a multitude of tattoo designs. Her favorites are geometric shapes and florals. She can't pick just one favorite tattoo out of the thousands she has done.

"I like all different ones for different reasons," Cora continues. "Some can be funny and cute, or some can mean a lot to someone which means a lot to me, or a tattoo can make someone feel confident in their own skin."

She finds joy bringing happiness to others with her work.

"My hands are literally on them, so what they're feeling I'm feeling" she says. "A tattoo is them getting my artwork on

them forever."

Her work in Art Alley is her first mural.

"I had never done (a painting on) a wall before and had only done canvas or wood, so it was super challenging," she says. "But even with the challenges presented with a new type of canvas, I'm super happy with the outcome!" Watch Hunter Nash as he visits Art Alley in Tyler for the first time.

PHOTO HOT SPOT

On this day, Laney Heron, 23, of Henderson, has come to Art Alley, located just west of the downtown square to do a photo shoot.

"When I think of something that isn't crazy far (away from Henderson), but still has beautiful enough of a background, the Art Alley always comes to mind," she says.

Hunter Nash points to a mural of an armadillo with wings in Art Alley, a block-long wall with 43 murals located just off the downtown Tyler square. Art Alley has become a destination for art lovers and visitors.

Photographers often come to Art Alley to shoot clients because of the variety of themes and colors the murals offer.

With 43 hand painted murals by 40-plus artists, Art Alley has something for everyone's taste. Murals depict everything from abstract colorful crosses to skinny black devils.

Karen Maxwell and her daughter Kylee Maxwell of Chapel Hill also like coming to Art Alley to take photos.

"When my daughter said she wanted birthday pictures before going to lunch in Tyler, the Art Alley immediately stuck out to me," Karen says. "My oldest daughter also had her senior prom pictures taken here, so, it has a bit of specialness to me."

DESTINATION

A few years ago, the city of Tyler transformed what was a boring alleyway into a place for local artists to showcase their talent and to create a "destination outdoor space," Tyler Main Street Director, Amber Varona, says. The wall has since become an attraction in Tyler.

"It has been featured in many publications, commercials, music videos, and photos," she shares. The murals will be changed every two to three years providing residents and visitors a reason to keep coming back. "Art can transform and connect the community to a space, and Art Alley is proof of that," Varona says.



Who Are We?

Patriot Programs, or P2, is UT Tyler’s Student Campus Activities Board, focused on creating enriching experiences for students. Through leadership opportunities and a welcoming community, P2 encourages personal growth and exploration of new interests, preparing students for successful futures.

Why Should You Join?

Join P2, where exciting events and leadership opportunities await! Whether you’re craving unforgettable experiences or seeking to develop essential skills for the future, P2 has something for you. Connect with a community of like-minded individuals, explore new interests, and leave your legacy on campus!

How to Join?

- 1. Join P2 on Patriots Engage
- 2. Join P2 General Member group chat to stay informed.
- 3. Follow Patriot Productions and Campus Activities on Instagram.
- 4. Attend monthly Patriot Production meetings.



Past P2 Events

- Bingo
- Paint & Sip
- Dodgeball
- Silent Disco
- Video Game Tournaments
- Nerd Night
- Sunset Picnics
- Many more!!

Scan For More Info!



Weekend Breaks
The Best Spots to Recharge

By Ellie Vallery

Thrifting

Tyler is a hotspot for thrifting. Thrifting is a great outlet to improve your style and give back to your community. Hangers of Hope sells clothing, decorations, books, appliances, and furniture. Goodwill is the common thrift store in every small town, including Tyler. With two locations, Goodwill offers a variety of clothing options. Goodwill supports residents in need through each purchase. Velvet Vintage is the thrift for every vintage lover. It has clothes and various items ranging from the 50s to Y2K. Velvet Vintage keeps it quirky through bright colors and one-of-a-kind items. Located in downtown Tyler, it remains a staple thrift in the community.



Tyler Rose Garden

Tyler is known for its roses. Tyler Rose Garden is a picturesque space in our city. There are several walking paths in and near the garden. The roses are in bloom from April-October. Taking a walk and smelling the roses is the perfect weekend reset. Admission is free 7 days a week.

The Foundry Coffee House

Located in downtown Tyler, The Foundry Coffee House is a local favorite. UT Tyler students visit the shop to study, get coffee, and meet with friends. The Foundry has a relaxed and lively atmosphere. It is recommended to sit in the front study area because of the natural lighting. Students typically gather in that room for a few hours to do homework. The Foundry also offers outdoor seating near its garden. Above the coffee shop is Bethel Bible Church, which runs the business. The Foundry hosts an art gallery that rotates artists regularly.



Tyler State Park

Tyler State Park is a great way to immerse yourself in the outdoors. East Texas is known for its lush forests and scenic landscapes. The park is known for its clear waters and towering pines. Tyler State Park offers activities including hiking, paddleboarding, swimming, kayaking, camping and fishing. A day pass costs \$6 per person. Tyler State Park has campsites, hiking trails, several docks for small boating and picnic spots. It serves as a great place to spend your Saturday getting that summer tan or running on the trails. A picnic in Tyler State Park is bound to end with Instagram-worthy photos.

Tastes of Tyler

By Dylan Shacklett

Some of the best parts of living in Tyler don't come from a chain, they're cooked up in local kitchens all over town. Whether you're grabbing something quick or planning a nicer dinner out, this list breaks it down by price so you can find something that fits your budget and your cravings.

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Prime 102

This one's for when you want to dress up a little and go all-in on a great steak dinner. It's classy without being stuffy, and the food is seriously worth it, whether you're celebrating a birthday or just finished finals.

Bernard Mediterranean Restaurant

A quiet spot tucked away from the usual bustle, Bernard's feels like a hidden gem. The menu leans Mediterranean, lots of lamb, seafood, and fresh herbs. It's ideal for a slower, more intimate dinner where you want to take your time.

Ill Palms

If you're looking to impress (or just splurge on yourself), Ill Palms is modern, stylish, and serves beautifully plated dishes that actually taste as good as they look. Definitely on the higher end, but the quality backs it up.



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Stanley's Famous Pit Bar-B-Q

Stanley's is a Tyler staple. It's a mix of old-school BBQ charm and live music energy. The brisket melts in your mouth, the sandwiches are stacked high, and the vibe is exactly what you want on a chill weekend night.

Villa Montez

If you're looking for somewhere a little more special (but still affordable), Villa Montez is it. Set inside a restored old mansion, the menu mixes Latin-inspired dishes with comfort favorites. Great date night spot or a cool place to bring visiting family.

FD's Grillhouse

FD's is dependable in the best way. The kind of place where everything on the menu is solid, steaks, shrimp, burgers. It has a slightly upscale look without the price tag, making it a solid "treat yourself" pick for students.



\$

Jucy's Hamburgers

This is the kind of burger place you keep going back to. Locals swear by it, and once you try a cheeseburger with their crispy fries, you'll get why. It's fast, filling, and feels like a reward after a long day of classes.

Daniel Boone's Grill & Tavern

A cozy, no-frills diner with seriously hearty Southern food. Think chicken-fried steak, pancakes bigger than your plate, and sweet tea that tastes like home. Great for brunch with friends when you want something warm and satisfying.

Papacita's Mexican Restaurant

Papacita's is a go-to for casual Tex-Mex that doesn't feel like fast food. The chips come out warm, the portions are generous, and the atmosphere is relaxed but lively, perfect for a spontaneous dinner after a study session.



First Year and Transfer Student Experience

Monthly events for freshman or transfer students, free of charge!

FYE & Transfer Events!

New Student Convocation 8/22

First Friday 8/29

Scan the QR code for more event information and dates



Parent and Family Programs

"Keeping parents and families connected from orientation to graduation"

- Family Association memberships
- Full time support for parents of UT Tyler students
- Pregnant and parenting student support
- Family Day
- Family Weekend
- Signature yearly events

*Follow us on Instagram to keep to keep up with upcoming events and important updates!



4 AFFORDABLE PLACES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

By Bryant Dukes

Page Design By Bryan Nam

Being a college student at UT Tyler means finding ways to enjoy your time here in Tyler and relieve your stress from college work. Doing that without burning a hole in your pocket can be tricky. This list provides fantastic options for you to check out!



1 TIMES SQUARE GRAND SLAM

A popular entertainment venue that offers a movie theater and various activities like bowling and arcade games. The prices can vary depending on the activities you choose. Typically, tickets for movies range around \$10 to \$12, while bowling prices are usually charged per game, often around \$3 to \$9 per person plus shoe rental fees.



2 GREEN ACRES BOWL

A nostalgic and convenient bowling alley with an arcade and a bar. Prices range from \$18 to \$35 an hour per lane. All games are priced per person per game, and they are subject to change depending on the time and day.



3 UT TYLER COWAN CENTER

One of the best venues in Tyler to see concerts and shows by local and traveling performers. UT Tyler students get in for free if you have your student ID.



4 CALDWELL ZOO

The zoo is a great place to visit if you're looking for an affordable way to enjoy nature. The Caldwell Zoo shows animals from all over the globe. Its reasonably priced admission fees can be budget-friendly for college students. According to its website, ticket prices are \$22.49 per person ranging from 13 to 54 years old. It often offers discounts for students with a school ID. There might be special pricing on certain days or for certain events.

MEET THE GREEKS

**EIGHT CHAPTERS.
FOUR COUNCILS.**

ONE COMMUNITY.



UTTyler

**GREEK
AFFAIRS**

UTTYLER.EDU/GREEKLIFE

