



Spring 2016: gearing up for a new semester



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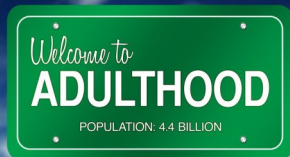
Back to 15 weeks of sleepless nights and long hours in the library...but it doesn't have to be that way, does it? With the start of the new semester, students need to take this opportunity to prioritize their tasks in order to cruise through the semester. Discard the destructive habits!

- 1 Goal setting is an important factor of being successful.
2 Time management strategies are important to balance a healthy study and work schedule...
3 Bring your math and writing questions and concerns to the Math & Writing Center (202MB)!
4 Enhance your note-taking skills for learning effectiveness during class lectures and reading assignments.
5 Maintain a healthy diet to ensure your body has all the proper nutrients to give you energy to study and work.
6 Join a student club to learn new skills, meet other students, and have fun.

- 8 Prepare for class—review notes from previous lessons and homework. Put together a list of questions or ideas that you did not understand from the reading assignment to ask of the instructor during the next class.
9 Improve your reading skills by checking out the Center for Student Success's workshop on reading strategies! Learn about strategies that can help you understand what you are reading!
10 Improve your test-taking skills!
11 Meet your instructor during office hours in case you may need a little help!
12 Need some personal support? Learn more about how Counseling Services maybe able to assist!
13 Learn about library resources and how to utilize our library to conduct research, write papers, and most importantly, to avoid plagiarism!
14 Make note of deadlines!
15 Don't be afraid to ask for help!

7 Get a good night's rest!

COUNSELING: TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD



Becoming an adult is a transition fraught with challenges. It can be a source of inspiration and excitement.. It is a time when young people are concerned about their independence and the

choices/decision they are now making on their own: behavioral, financial, relational, educational, etc. Transition may occur at a fast or slow pace, depending on the life

goals one sets and the level of commitment to those goals. The transition is largely ameliorated by life events such as engaging in a full-time study, starting a full-time job, engaging in long-term unions or marriage, or becoming a parent. Yet becoming an adult is not always an easy task, and during this period young people face many challenges which may be better addressed with the support of a counselor. You can learn more about the Counseling Services at AUA by visiting <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/counseling-services/>.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

"I don't dance" is often how many students react to the idea of joining the Armenian National Dance and Music (ANDM) Club says Talin Saghdasaryan a first year, computational sciences student. Originally from Lebanon, Talin has been living in Armenia for nearly 7 years. Talin and her friends established the ANDM in the hopes of inspiring her peers to love the Armenian culture: a love they had known from their days at Ayb High School. Within a short period of time, 25 students joined the club. Talin says, "Once you start dancing you don't stop!" They put together a student club application in October 2015. Their club had its debut at the International Education Week Crossroads Concert in November 2015. One of the challenges for ANDM is making sure the choreography is correct and consistent among the group. She says that club members enjoy participating in the club's activities but she finds herself trying to encourage the group to be attentive to the details too. Throughout the process, Talin says her leadership skills have been developing. "At first, some of the upperclassmen think, she's only a first year student...over time, they start to respect you for what you are doing." For further information, please be sure to visit the Center for Student Success's website to learn more about these clubs: <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/undergraduate-student-clubs-information/>.



MILITARY SERVICE: PREPARING FOR DUTY

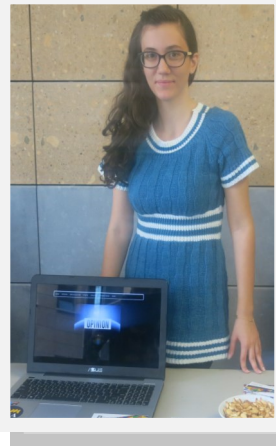
Narek Chomoyan, a first year computational sciences undergraduate student returned to AUA after serving his two year military service. Narek was stationed in Sisian and at times also on the border of Armenia. While serving in the Armed Forces, Narek learned survival and leadership skills. Mr. Chomoyan was appointed as Major Sergeant which required him to be responsible for a small group of men. At first, Narek says he wasn't sure how to lead the group but he learned over time how to handle situations. "Every decision you make can affect everyone. You start to learn to think about other people's problems in the army...in a way, we became a family even though we come from different cities, habits and traditions." Narek says his army experienced helped him learn how to give advice to his peers, "I don't force them. I listen and then offer suggestions to the right direction." Beginning this spring 2016 semester, Narek is happy to be back at AUA but also says a lot has changed within two years. With his military service component completed, Narek feels free to focus on his studies and future. "My biggest dream is to study at California Polytechnic State University." Once he finishes his undergraduate studies, Narek says he intends to form a programming start-up company.



Narek Chomoyan, 1st year computational sciences



STUDENT SUCCESS



Merry Artinian is a first year English & Communications student. Originally born in Syria, Merry grew up in Syria where she was accustomed to her friends calling her “Merry Christmas”. Little did she know, this nickname would be carried into her AUA experience where her favorite instructor Danny Fittante took roll call and instantly rekindled her childhood past. Merry described Fittante’s class as her favorite from her first semester. Outside of the classroom, Merry joined The Bridge—the independent undergraduate student newspaper. Her responsibilities include preparing articles and overseeing social media. Members of the club say she is the fastest to report information. One of the benefits of being a member of The Bridge is that she has the opportunity to meet new people. While conducting interviews, she enjoys meeting different people and as a result, feels a stronger connection to the AUA campus. Artinian says she is planning to choose the journalism track. In addition to The Bridge, Merry participated as a country presenter for International Education Week where she presented information about her home country. When asked what she hopes to accomplish in the Spring 2016 semester, Merry noted she plans to (1) be more active in class discussions—as this helps her learn more information and (2) to also play a bigger part in student life - where she can

gain experience meeting and working with different people.

WRITING CONSULTANT’S BLOG

Writing: not as simple as you think

Writing is a never-ending challenge that is hard especially for those just starting. The first step is realizing the importance of writing. It is essential for a student to possess proper writing skills, despite their major program, as it is a fundamental skill and the framework of our day-to-day communica-

tion. Whether you are writing a report, an essay or filing an application, the writing skills you acquire can be your ticket to great academic achievement and future development as excellent writing reflects on your ability to demonstrate your intellectual flexibility and “ripeness.” Do not miss your opportunity; start improving now!



Alisa Melkonyan, Writing Consultant

MATH CONSULTANT’S BLOG

Math is not as hard, as you think


Most students hate math or fear it thinking that it is really hard. However, in most of the cases the problem is only in our mindset. Our world is full of interesting facts and problems. Math is here to help to understand them. Have you ever encountered the Eulerian path problem? You are given a graph and need to find out whether construct a path which visits each edge exactly once. At first you will think that it is really hard to solve it, especially when the graph is big enough. However, as in most cases, the solution is easier than it seems. You just need to make sure that every vertex in your graph has even degree, if so then the answer is Yes! As a math consultant I would advise you to not fear any kind of math problem. You just need will, positive thinking, hard work and consistency to overcome it. In any case, if you are still unable to deal with it, come to our office, and we will help you.



Sipan Muradyan, Math Consultant

Calendar of Upcoming Workshops

- #30 Counseling Services: Setting Goals Wednesday, January 27th, 4:00-5:30pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
- #31 Time Management Wednesday, February 3rd, 4:00-5:00pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
- #32 Citing Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism Tuesday, February 9th, 4:00-5:30pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
- #33 How to Use Microsoft Excel Wednesday, February 10th, 4:30pm-5:30pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
- #34 Building Strong Introductions Monday, February 15th, 4:00-5:30pm, Center for Student Success Lounge
- #35 Reading for Understanding Thursday, February 25th, 4:30-6:00pm, Center for Student Success Lounge



**Current Students:
Don't forget, the deadline to
apply for tuition assistance
is March 2, 2016!**

Mission Statement

The Center for Student Success is a learning environment that extends outside of the classroom and aims to promote student achievement of academic goals while enrolled at AUA. Through a holistic approach to education, the Center provides a unique range of support programs including math and writing consultations, academic support services, disabilities services and workshops to enhance overall personal and academic development in a welcoming space. The Center encourages AUA students to challenge and support one another, to accept responsibility and to collaborate in serving the best interests of all students.

Center for Student Success

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