Answers to FishBowl Questions -- March 7, 2020 PRO Day

Basic Advice

1. When is spring break at S&T?
   a. The registrar’s website gives you the academic calendar for this year and the coming year which will tell you when the breaks are: https://registrar.mst.edu/calendars/. Generally spring break starts around the fourth week of March.

2. Time management tips
   a. Google Calendar is a LIFESAVER. Make sure to put all of your classes, meetings, and study time into there. You can color code everything, set reminders, and can access it on your phone, laptop, and anywhere else that has internet

3. What is the biggest shock when transitioning from high school to college?
   a. For me, the biggest shock was the difference in your schedule. In high school, you have a set schedule every day. Class from maybe 8am to 3 pm, then practice, maybe a meeting or two, dinner, bed (whatever your schedule may be). In college, you’re not going to have the same classes everyday, and sometimes, you may only have a class every other week. It really is up to you to know your class schedule, know your breaks between classes (so you can be productive and not lose an hour of work time here and there), eat lunch, schedule meetings, etc. This isn’t something that’s hard to do, it’s just very different from high school, and takes some time to get used to. -Amber

4. What is the most difficult part of college at S&T?
   a. Personally, time management is the most difficult part of college. Be sure to prioritize your studies, but also remember to give yourself a break every once in a while! -Kara

5. What year of college was the hardest for you personally?
   a. My sophomore year was the hardest for me, specifically the first semester, just because the newness of college had mostly worn off and I was in many hard classes at one time. I ended up making some positive changes after that semester and things have gone much better since!

6. What are some secret S&T tips?
   a. I don’t know if it’s a secret, but my biggest tip would be to put effort into doing your homework and making sure you understand it. They way when it’s time for the test, you can just review everything and you’re not scrambling to learn everything for the first time! -Stacy

7. Are there any co-op opportunities with SpaceX or NASA?
a. SpaceX, NASA, and a lot of other employers actively pursue S&T students! Of my friends who were able to work at those places, they all got the opportunity from design team experience or research.

8. On average, how many hours of sleep do you get a night?
   a. I get 7-8 hours of sleep every night, which is the recommended amount of hours you need to be well-rested. Remember, your health comes first! -Kara

9. Are there walk-ons for sports teams? How do we get in contact with the coaches?
   a. I always recommend going to their page on the S&T website and finding the coaches email. When I joined my athletics team, we were encouraged to reach out to the coach via email to get more information about the team, when tryouts were, etc.

10. Are departmental scholarships easy to get? How do I get them?
    a. Some scholarships automatically consider you and you do not have to take further actions, and other scholarships require you to put in the effort to complete their applications. Check out https://mst.academicworks.com/ for scholarship opportunities! Be sure to set up your profile before you start applying for scholarships. -Kara

Greek Life

1. What are the benefits of joining a fraternity/sorority?
   a. Connections & networking. Despite only making up about 23% of the student population, Greek-affiliated students land over 40% of the coops and internships. And, depending on the house you select, costs could be lower as well.

2. What do I have to do to join a fraternity?
   a. Hopefully you connected with the fraternity representatives at the Resource Fair. If not, reach out to the houses: involvement.mst.edu/fraternityandsororitylife/greekfraternities/

3. Are sorority/fraternity houses close to campus? Is it walkable?
   a. A vast majority of the Greek Houses are really close to campus! I allow for the same amount of walking time as I did when I lived in Thomas Jefferson (TJ). According to my close friends, the ones that are further away from campus have people traveling to and from campus via car or bike at almost all times of the day, and they never had to worry about walking to class (especially in bad weather)

Extra Curricular

1. Who do I talk to if I want to play in a band?
   a. You can find more about our bands and orchestras here: https://alp.mst.edu/music/ -Stacy
2. What clubs are the best to get involved with?
   a. It depends on what you are interested in! There are so many different ways to get involved on campus and meet new people. The first Friday of each semester there is an event called Minerama where you can check out all of the different clubs! You can find more about getting involved here: https://involvement.mst.edu/.

3. What design teams are you involved in and can you be in more than one?
   a. You can be involved in more than one design team! Design teams ask that you do all that you can do, but not to overload yourself with whatever you decide to do. Most of the people I’ve talked to generally find that they enjoy one design team more than another, and end up focusing on their favorite one. But it’s always good to try out more than one option to find which one will become your home!

4. How are the intramural teams? (specifically pickleball and bowling?)
   a. Apparently no one on our team has played intramural pickleball or bowling. But you can email studrec@mst.edu or call (573) 341-4226 to get information about intramurals.

5. Does campus have tennis courts to play on?
   a. There are tennis courts located just next to The Centre (2453, 1200 Holloway St, Rolla, MO 65401). While these aren’t university owned, the public is allowed to play on them for free (unless Rolla High School reserved the courts for their tennis practice/matches).

Rolla

1. What is the best place for pizza close to campus?
   a. IMOS! They have price pizza on Monday.
   b. Domino’s, they usually have good deals and are delicious! -Abbie

Housing

1. How many credit hours do you need to live off campus?
   a. 60 credits. But there is a list of other ways to move off campus.
   b. You can find more information about the requirements to move off campus here: https://reslife.mst.edu/media/studentsupport/reslife/documents/2018documents/exemption%20form.pdf#200220010700

Make sure to check out the link for the full details but a crude summary is: you are required to live on campus for your first two years (4 semesters) but you can apply to be excused from this rule and allowed to move off campus after your first year if you: have completed a total of 32 credit hours by the end of your first year AND have a 3.5 or higher GPA AND are actively involved in a student organization. -Stacy
1. What is your favorite part about S&T?
   a. The community, it is always easy to find your home here, whether that be in greek life, through and RSO, or people living on your floor in your residential hall. -Abbie

2. What is the coolest thing you have done at S&T?
   a. I was able to get involved with undergraduate research as a freshman. I emailed someone who was working on an area that really interested me, sent them my resume, and then I got to be on the research team! As part of this team, I was elected to an administrative board of a world-renowned professional society. I was paid to travel the world and represent this society! This includes Italy, New Zealand, and Croatia.

3. What are the details of the Missouri S&T Honors Program?
   a. Details for the Honors Program can be found here: https://academicsupport.mst.edu/honors/. Essentially what it boils down to is your first year you will attend various evening sessions to inform you about campus resources and opportunities, then your second through fourth year you will have to take four honors classes (which consists with meeting with the professor at the start of the semester to decide on an additional project to do for honors credit, so for speech class it could be an extra speech, another common one for a lot of classes is a research paper in a relevant topic; note that this project will contribute to your grade in the class), and then in addition during your fourth year you will have to do 3 credit hours of undergraduate research and complete an honors thesis. Note many people make it all the way through the honors program so it is a great way to distinguish yourself.

4. Is it hard to get a job on campus?
   a. No! There are always places on campus looking for student workers! It's good to ask at the place you are wanting to work if there are any student positions that you could apply to. -Abbie

5. What is your favorite building on campus? Best spot for studying? Best spot for relaxing?
   a. My favorite building on campus has to be the library. It has different locations depending on how you want to study. For example, if you want to study in a quiet room to yourself, you can reserve a room on the top floor, which is also a quiet floor. If you want to study in a group, floors one and two have plenty of tables and rooms available. Also if you are a coffee person, there is a Starbucks conveniently located in the library! The best spot for relaxing for me would probably be the Havener center. They have a lot of food and snack options, along with a rec room with a pool table and ping pong. There are also lots of comfy chairs! - Sarah
6. What do students do for fun other than clubs/organizations?
   a. In my opinion, the best thing to do for fun is to hang out with friends...and there’s a good chance you met those friends through a club or organization, so it’s important to get involved! There’s lots of good hiking near Rolla if you’re outdoorsy, there’s free movie nights put on by SUB, there’s Fugitive Beach nearby to go swimming in the summer, and your residence hall or Greek house will have common areas that you can go to study with friends or just hang out together. -Stacy

Coursework

1. What is the best way to study when you are not used to studying?
   a. Set up designated times where you will study throughout the week, so don’t plan anything else for that time, and try to make it an hour or 2 everyday if you are trying to get into the habit of studying. During your study time try to figure out what works best for you, it could be you just need to re-read the notes and do the example problems again, or maybe you need to look to an outside source for tips and tricks. Basically just do anything that involves the material that you are trying to learn, that way you are reinforcing the concepts. -Abbie

2. How hard is it to maintain the 3.5 GPA requirement for Honors Academy?
   a. I would say that really depends on the person, but for reference, the GPA requirement to retain merit based scholarships used to be 3.25 and was recently changed to 3.0. However, don’t let that scare you. If you apply yourself and ask for help when you need it (and take advantage of resources like LEAD, the Student Success Center, and professor’s office hours), you can achieve whatever GPA you set your mind to. -Stacy

3. How do we transfer in dual credit?
   a. You should always double check the course equivalency database on the website to make sure your courses transfer in, but once you have done that, you should have your other university/school have your transcripts sent over to S&T’s registrar’s office

4. How many hours a week do you spend studying?
   a.

5. What is the most difficult part of college at S&T?
   a. I think the most difficult part of being a student at S&T is the work/life balance. As students, it’s very easy to get caught up in your classes because they have such a large impact on your future. You want to do well, and you want to succeed, especially when you’re passionate about what you’re studying. This sometimes makes it hard to rationalize joining that one “fun” club or going out with friends. However, because S&T is such a small community, everyone realizes the predicament that you face as a student, which makes it a lot easier. Lifts a little bit of the weight off. -Amber
6. What was the hardest gen ed class you have taken at S&T?
   a. It’s hard to say what’s a gen ed and what’s not, but I would probably say that the hardest for me was economics because it’s a new topic that I’d never taken a course in before. -Stacy

7. How hard is calculus?
   a. Depends. I thought Calc I was pretty tough. Although, I never studied as much as I should have. Calc II was really challenging but cool because problems felt like undoing a giant puzzle. Calc III was easy to visualize because it’s in 3-dimensions (hence Calc THREE).
   b. I actually thought that Calc III was the hardest, which goes to show that it really does depend on the person. But just like any class, if you apply yourself and ask for help when you need it, you will be just fine. -Stacy

8. What is your favorite class?
   a. My favorite class that I’ve taken so far was probably my Human Factors class. It was really interesting to learn the science behind everyday things that annoy us because they’re poorly designed (for example, doors that are push when they look like a pull). That’s just me, though! There’s something at S&T for everyone, you just have to find what you’re passionate about! -Stacy

9. What did you think was the most interesting field when you started studying here?
   a. I came in as an Engineering Management major and I still am an Engineering Management major! However, a lot of people do change their major after coming to campus. I would say to get involved when you come to campus and ask a lot of questions. Through that process, it should become pretty clear what the right field of study is for you. -Stacy

10. What is the average size of a class about secondary education?
    a. Most of my education classes have been in the 15-25ish range. Lots of personalized attention, if you need it, and you get to know the other students well!

11. What graduate degrees are offered for computer science majors? How is the 4 + 1 program for computer science and engineering?
    a. You can find more information about graduate degrees in computer science here: https://cs.mst.edu/programs/graduate/ -Stacy

12. What should we do if we want to change majors or are unsure of our chosen major?
    a. I changed my major and at first I was so unsure of how that would affect my college career. My best advice is to talk to everyone you can and get different points of view. Talk to your advisor about your interests and they can help you see if you are on the right path. Also talk to your friends and see what kinds of majors they are in and what their paths are like. Find the path that you see yourself being happy on, and then take the appropriate steps. If you do decide to change your major, your advisor can help you through that process. -Abbie
13. Are there resources that teach you how to use Joe’sss?
   a. Your advisor can help you out with Joe’SS if you have any questions! Or you can always ask a friend! Almost any upperclassmen will know how to help you.
   -Stacy