



Fitts Chat 4/28

(Apr 28 2016, 17:39:42 -05:00 CDT - Apr 28 2016, 19:01:02 -05:00 CDT)

Time	From -> To	Message
Apr 28, 17:39:42	TulaneAdmission -> Everyone	Good evening! We'll start at 6:00 central time.
Apr 28, 17:51:58	TulaneAdmission -> Everyone	You are welcome to start submitting questions now.
Apr 28, 17:59:40	President Fitts -> Everyone	Welcome to tonight's chat. I'm especially excited to welcome the future members of the class of 2020. For those of you still making up your mind before May 1st, I'm here to help. I'll start taking your questions now.
Apr 28, 18:00:53	RickyF -> President Fitts	How are orientation sessions looking? Are they full or is there still room? If I go to a later session, will I still get a good pick of classes?
	President Fitts -> RickyF	The sessions are starting to fill up, so I would recommend that you register soon. And we hold back seats in all classes to allow students attending later orientation sessions a good selection of courses.
Apr 28, 18:03:26	May -> President Fitts	As a Louisiana resident, the TOPs program was a large factor in considering a private university such as Tulane, but now that it's pending budget approval, how does Tulane compensate its students for this?
	President Fitts -> May	Tulane has always determined the maximum level of institutional aid for a student before considering any outside funded scholarship, such as TOPS, which is funded by the State of Louisiana. We are waiting to see the final decision by the Louisiana Legislature before making any final decision and we will be working with impacted students to find alternative resources.
Apr 28, 18:07:00	May -> President Fitts	How can you specifically assure us that our son will be safe during a hurricane calamity? Are there procedures in place for us to be able to communicate with him in the event that communications are down?
	President Fitts -> May	The University has a robust hurricane response plan, that we believe sets us apart as a national leader. Entering students are asked to provide their evacuation plans in the event of a hurricane. Should they not have their plans, the University transports students to Birmingham, Alabama through our collaboration with UAB. Our emergency website is housed on separate servers and will always be online during any emergency. The chance of a hurricane hitting New Orleans is no different than the risk of a natural disaster in thousands of other places in the United States, but because of events over a decade ago, the City and University are well-prepared and protected.
Apr 28, 18:08:36	cantw845/1 -> President Fitts	do you have any stats on this incoming class
	President Fitts -> cantw845/1	This incoming class is shaping up to be slightly larger than we've seen in years past due to an increase in our yield. We are also noticing that, academically, it has the potential to be our strongest class ever. It will continue to be one of the most geographically diverse classes in the country, and we are also noticing an increase in our international population as well as students of color.
Apr 28, 18:11:50	Kathleen_S -> President Fitts	Tulane has a reputation as a school where students work hard and play hard. How will you address parent's concerns that Tulane may be a "party school"?
	President Fitts -> Kathleen_S	Tulane has focused on the undergraduate student experience over the past 18 months. We are very excited to be rolling out new residential learning communities that connect faculty and students in our residence halls. Our Honors Program has increased the number of academic offerings for incoming students. Our location in New Orleans offers a rich variety of extracurricular and cultural experiences, which are critical to the overall undergraduate experience.
Apr 28, 18:14:09	Ryan_Fink -> President Fitts	Hello President Fitts! I am a transfer student entering as a junior in the fall. About how many transfer students does Tulane admit each year?
	President Fitts -> Ryan_Fink	The transfer deadline is this summer, so those numbers are still coming in, but we anticipate having roughly 150. We think transfer students are a wonderful addition to the Tulane community, with a broad range of prior experiences.
Apr 28, 18:14:51	May -> President Fitts	Can an incoming freshman still get into the honors program at this time?
	President Fitts -> May	At the end of the freshman year, based upon a student's GPA, students are invited to join the Honors Program. For incoming students, those decisions were made at the time of admission.
Apr 28, 18:18:25	Dennis -> President Fitts	Would you speak for a moment about what you think distinguishes your undergrad business school from others in the same general ranking and about the recently announced facility expansion?

Apr 28, 18:18:23	President Fitts -> Dennis	First of all, we are very excited about the expansion which will begin this fall, and be available starting the academic 2017/2018 year. Our flexible academic programs allow students to complete double majors in other divisions of the University. This is not typical of most undergraduate business degrees. Not only is this extremely valuable educationally, but employers tell us this is the best preparation for a career in business.
Apr 28, 18:20:50	mariaolivia -> President Fitts	Coming from the northeast, what was your biggest adjustment? I am an incoming freshman from New York and trying to get a feel for what to expect.
	President Fitts -> mariaolivia	The culture of New Orleans is warm, engaging and friendly. The community is welcoming to all. The weather in June, July and August may be a little less welcoming, but that won't be an issue for incoming students. The weather you will experience is second to none. Being able to eat lunch outside in January will be a pleasant surprise.
Apr 28, 18:23:07	Kathy -> President Fitts	What are the top strategic priorities for the University in the coming year?
	President Fitts -> Kathy	Diversity. I'd like to see us continue to expand on the progress we have made in bringing diverse populations of people to our institution, and to improve support for these groups. A new building dedicated to academic advising and career services will open in December of 2017, and will provide the ability to guide our students with both their career and academic plans holistically.
Apr 28, 18:25:24	MSM -> President Fitts	I have been very impressed with Tulane's openness and availability concerning the previewing, application, and acceptance process. As the May 1st deadline approaches, how many prospective student's decision are still pending? Once the decision is made, how pressing and urgent are the next decisions -- housing, orientation dates, etc...?
	President Fitts -> MSM	It's a very small handful of students still making that decision in the coming days, and the majority of the class has taken shape. We encourage students to select orientations dates as soon as possible, as those sessions are starting to fill up. If students want to apply for one of our Residential Learning Communities, the deadline is May 15. With housing, there is no rush at this time. You will have until the end of June.
Apr 28, 18:26:46	cantw845/1 -> President Fitts	due to the increase in class size, will there be any housing issues for incoming students
	President Fitts -> cantw845/1	Housing and Residence Life works closely with Admission to monitor the incoming class and we do not anticipate any challenges at this time.
Apr 28, 18:28:07	Jeanne -> President Fitts	Could you please elaborate about the study abroad options, specifically on a pre-medical path?
	President Fitts -> Jeanne	We have over 100 different study abroad programs, spanning 80 countries. There are opportunities for all majors. Pre-med students can find options to manage the pre-med curriculum and the abroad experience. Roughly 40% of our students elect to study abroad as juniors. It's something we encourage our students to think about.
Apr 28, 18:29:54	plamp -> President Fitts	Can you tell us about the summer program before classes start?
	President Fitts -> plamp	I cannot say enough great things about our Explore Programs. It's a wonderful way to meet your classmates in a small group setting, while at the same time getting exposure to all the things that Tulane, New Orleans, and Louisiana have to offer. If you want to participate, you should register early, as spaces are limited. Information can be found on the orientation website.
Apr 28, 18:30:52	Natalie_Strauber -> President Fitts	President Fitts: What is your favorite thing to brag about Tulane? and what would be one thing you want to change?
	President Fitts -> Natalie_Strauber	The community culture and the special feel Tulanians have for each other and New Orleans. What would I change? The weather on move-in day.
Apr 28, 18:33:00	Keith -> President Fitts	What is your advice on how parents can be most helpful to their children during the college experience?
	President Fitts -> Keith	As the father of two daughters, I realize it's important to be a constant source of support but also to give them the space to solve their own problems. Tulane works with parents as partners in the educational endeavor and there are many opportunities for parents to get engaged with the University.
Apr 28, 18:34:35	Molly -> President Fitts	How can a student register for classes who can't attend an orientation session?
	President Fitts -> Molly	Students will be contacted by their Academic Advisor in early July. After having a phone appointment with their advisor, they will schedule their classes with guidance from their advisor.
	Jeanne -> President Fitts	Are there enough internship opportunities in the New Orleans area to accommodate the students?

Apr 28, 18:36:11	President Fitts -> Jeanne	Their are numerous internship opportunities in the City, and our Career Services Center helps connect students with them. I have not heard of students who wanted to not being able to get internships in New Orleans. Because Tulane is the premier higher education institution in town, our students are in high demand.
Apr 28, 18:37:17	kareem -> President Fitts	Can students apply for financial aid in subsequent years?
	President Fitts -> kareem	Students must apply annually for all federal and institutional need-based scholarship consideration. Generally, if a family's financial situation remains constant throughout a student's undergraduate career, their award will also remain constant.
Apr 28, 18:37:58	kareem -> President Fitts	If i don't like a major i picked, when and how can i change that major?
	President Fitts -> kareem	Students change their majors regularly. The process is easy and starts with a conversation with their Academic Advisor who can guide them.
Apr 28, 18:38:58	joelreiter -> President Fitts	Hello President Fitts! Is it common for Freshmen and sophomores to engage in research or is research mainly a focus for upperclassmen only?
	President Fitts -> joelreiter	Yes. It is common for freshman and sophomore students to engage in research with faculty. In fact, our summer research program is primarily geared to students between freshman and sophomore years to offer them an interesting research experience.
Apr 28, 18:40:16	lams -> President Fitts	What is the average percent of premed Tulane undergraduate students that get into top medical schools?
	President Fitts -> lams	Our acceptance rate into medical school is 40% above the national average. For students above a 3.3 GPA and a compatible MCAT score, the percentage is about 80%. We have an office that focuses on advising students thinking about medical school.
Apr 28, 18:40:59	Jon -> President Fitts	When does the academic year typically end?
	President Fitts -> Jon	The last day of classes was Tuesday, and our students are currently hunkered down in final exam study mode. The last final exam is May 7, with commencement on the 14th.
Apr 28, 18:41:43	MSM -> President Fitts	Is there more information detailing the Residential Learning Communities?
	President Fitts -> MSM	There sure is. Check out Tulaneresidentiallearning.com .
Apr 28, 18:42:59	cantw845/1 -> President Fitts	I am getting the impression move-in day is controlled chaos! Do parents stick around for it?
	President Fitts -> cantw845/1	I have witnessed move-in day at a number of universities that could be described as chaos, but I have never seen a better organized move-in experience than Tulane. Parents typically stay through convocation on Saturday and then fly home on Sunday.
Apr 28, 18:44:00	Cindy -> President Fitts	What percentage of employers are from California and what other states are there a large percentage of employers recruiting from?
	President Fitts -> Cindy	Because so many of our students travel so far to attend Tulane, many travel very far when they graduate. As such, there is a very broad range of employers coming from around the world to recruit our students. We particularly see a large influx of recruiters from California, New York, Chicago, D.C., and Texas.
Apr 28, 18:45:20	aarono -> President Fitts	Any general recommendations for an incoming undecided freshman?
	President Fitts -> aarono	Assuming you are talking about your program of study, one of the great strengths of Tulane is that we allow students to find their preference one they're here. There's no pressure to declare a major in the freshman year. We have a robust advising system that helps students find their passion.
Apr 28, 18:48:02	Henry -> President Fitts	What do you believe is the most important thing that a Tulane education brings to the table?
	President Fitts -> Henry	I think it's a mix of strong academics and developing the whole person. Tulane has an extraordinary academic program, which is distinctive in its cross-disciplinary opportunities, including arts and sciences and professional education. Tulane's commitment to community engagement helps develop leaders with emotional intelligence and a sense of the broader community in which they live.
Apr 28, 18:50:15	aarono -> President Fitts	Hi, I have been reading that there has been some robberies close to campus. How tide is the security in the campus and is there any secondary level of security after the layer of campus security?
	President Fitts -> aarono	Tulane's beautiful campus is as safe as any other urban university in the United States. Tulane University Police Department not only patrols the campus, but also the surrounding neighborhoods.

Apr 28, 18:51:57	joelreiter -> President Fitts	If you were a student trying to pick a school, what would make you pick Tulane?
	President Fitts -> joelreiter	Tulane's broad-based undergraduate experience engages students both academically, extracurricularly and culturally like no other institution I know of.
Apr 28, 18:52:53	May -> President Fitts	Would a student's scholarship be able to carry over another year if he decides to partake of the +1 program?
	President Fitts -> May	No. For the +1 year, the student is considered a graduate student and will pay a discounted tuition.
Apr 28, 18:54:20	Ale_G. -> President Fitts	When can incoming freshmen begin seeking on-campus employment?
	President Fitts -> Ale_G.	Students are encouraged to start exploring job opportunity listings on the Student Employment Office's website during the summer. Also, there is a robust job fair during the first week of classes, where various departments across campus are seeking students for employment. We encourage freshmen to think carefully about the number of hours they are working as they navigate college for the first time.
Apr 28, 18:56:39	jaredb -> President Fitts	I hear a lot about how strong Tulane's research opportunities and programs are. What makes it stand out from other universities?
	President Fitts -> jaredb	Tulane is unique in being a major research university of intimate size. Unlike liberal arts colleges, we have an active higher research faculty that welcomes undergraduates to engage in research. On the other hand, gargantuan research universities with thousands of graduate students offer fewer opportunities for undergraduate research. Tulane University is really the perfect size to provide these opportunities to our undergraduate students.
Apr 28, 18:57:47	May -> President Fitts	How has the Tides course been beneficial as a requirement to incoming freshmen?
	President Fitts -> May	The TIDES class provides an opportunity for our freshmen students to engage in a discussion-based class with faculty. These classes are often reported by students to among their favorite freshman experiences. The range of course offerings is diverse and there should be something of interest to everyone.
Apr 28, 18:59:04	Kathleen_S -> President Fitts	Any advice to calm the butterflies of students (and their parents) traveling far from home to a different climate and culture?
	President Fitts -> Kathleen_S	The Tulane community is welcoming and supportive to new students. Our average freshman is going to be traveling over 950 miles away from their home, so you won't be alone. That is one of the great bonds that ties Tulane's students together and one of the great attractions of your undergraduate experience.
Apr 28, 19:01:02	President Fitts -> Everyone	Thank you so much for your questions tonight. I look forward to seeing you over the summer at New Student Orientation and during our smoothly efficient move-in. By the way, I hope you caught that Tulane/LSU baseball game this week. We swept the Tigers this season! Roll Wave, and welcome Class of 2020!

