

Closing Time Transcript

Isabella

00:00:00 Hey guys. Welcome back to Campus Compass. Today, it's closing time.

Julie

00:00:54 Can you believe we are so close to only being a month out of classes?

Isabella

00:01:00 No, it's actually insane to me that we are winding down the school year already.

Julie

00:01:06 Yeah, so crazy. Only a couple of weeks left of classes and then finals week. And then after finals week, we're moving out for the summer.

Isabella

00:01:14 Yeah. But what? Something that I didn't know going into freshman year, at least, is that there's not a lot of preparation moving out. Like everyone talks about moving in and you have the Pinterest boards, you go shopping and you're so excited, but moving out takes just as much, sometimes even more work to plan out.

Julie

00:01:30 Yeah, it totally does. And a big portion of the moving out planning is for the move in process, it's like scheduled, like, okay, I'm going to move out at this time and at this slot, but for moving out, it's kind of a free for all.

Julie

00:01:43 Everybody kind of does their own thing. Whether it's waiting for their last final to get finished or waiting for their family to get into town. But yeah, when it comes to that, there's just so much planning that is involved with it.

Isabella

00:01:54 Yeah. And I know that if you live on campus, you probably had help moving in like they probably had someone sitting there waiting for your car to pull up. They had all the buckets ready and they walked you up to your room. It is such a well-oiled machine moving in, but as you stated, moving out is just a free for all. Like you're going to pack your car, or your parents are going to help you pack your car and you're going to go and your roommate might not leave for another week. You might have been gone a week already. Like there's no process to doing it whatsoever. So today we're going to talk about just some moving out tips, and some things you should probably think about to ensure that you have the smoothest move out possible.

Julie

00:02:32 Yes of course. So I think one thing to kind of mention in terms of timeline is, of course, that last week is finals week. And I do believe for the dorms you have to be out of the dorms by that weekend. So with that, not only is it finals week, but it's also graduation weekend. So not only are freshmen families coming into town, but it's also senior families coming into town to be able to celebrate these things. So with that, a lot of people are on the strip and a lot of people are on campus, which can obviously cause some traffic, but could also raise some hotel room prices as well.

Isabella

00:03:07 I think the first thing I would do first is just make a plan, talk to your family. Do you need help moving out? Are they able to come get you? Say your last finals on Tuesday. Are they able to come down Tuesday? Or do you need to stay till Thursday or Friday when they're able to get down? The first step, in my opinion, is always getting that plan because, as Julie just stated, with graduation, those hotel rates are going to go up.

Isabella

00:03:27 So then it's also the question of if your family is coming down. Do you need a hotel room? Do you have somewhere you can stay already?

Julie

00:03:33 Yes, 1,000%. And I think family is one thing. Like if you guys need to rent a car to be able to take your stuff, like I know my family, they typically rent a car just because it's a lot of stuff. And one of those things, too, that I do believe that the university mentions if you have leftover dorm stuff that you're thinking you kind of don't really want for next year. Well, most of the dorm stuff is typically in the lobby area. They have a space so that you can leave dormitory supplies, like baggage carts, or if you have carpets that you're not going to want, you can leave them and then other students can go ahead and grab them for next semester too.

Isabella

00:04:09 That's so awesome. I didn't even know that was a thing. We obviously have that. But then there's also huge dumpsters in the parking lot.

Isabella

00:04:18 So if there's things that you feel like can't be donated, maybe there is a carpet you're not going to use anymore, but you spilt something on it and no one's really going to want it. You can always throw that stuff away, so you don't have to take everything that you brought with you back home. There are ways to definitely minimize the amount of stuff you're moving.

Julie

00:04:34 Yeah, and I know a lot of people put stuff like that on Facebook Marketplace too. They're like, okay, I spent some money on this, but I kind of just don't have the space for it. Yeah, but another thing you can do too if you just don't have the space for things but you don't want to have to lug it all the way back home, is something I did is I split a storage unit with my roommates. So that was something like I only need my stuff to be here for a couple of months, and I don't want to have to, like, rent a whole other car or figure out another way to bring all this stuff back home if I'm going to be back soon anyways.

Julie

00:05:04 So another really great option is you can look into splitting a storage unit and kind of just housing your stuff. For example, I'm from Miami. Like I don't need my winter clothes down here for the summer or like I don't need some of my storage bins there. So that's a really great way to kind of just have your stuff, like in a secure way that, you know, it's only going to cost me a little bit every month. And I can easily go back to it whenever I come back.

Isabella

00:05:28 Yeah. I love the idea of a storage unit, and I know that we have plenty of options here in Tuscaloosa for storage units. How did you decide which one you wanted to use?

Julie

00:05:37 I think one of the things that we were looking into, and it was kind of easy, too, because there was like a small group of us, but we were able to get a big unit and then just split it evenly. But another thing we were looking into is that it wasn't horribly far from where I was going to be moving into in the fall. Depending on your scholarship, you will likely like off campus housing. So I'm thinking, is this going to be a ten minute job or is this like a 30 minute thing? Because I'm most likely going to be having to make multiple trips. Obviously I was looking for something that was cost efficient. I wasn't trying to, like, blow my bank trying to get somewhere to house my things. And then another thing, too, was making sure that it was air conditioned. Like a lot of my shelves and stuff, they were wooden, so I didn't want it to warp over the summer.

Isabella

00:06:20 Oh. That's smart. Yeah, I didn't think about that. Have you ever heard of stuff warping over the summer?

Julie

00:06:26 I think I have heard of, well, not of like a UA student, but I have heard of people putting things in storage units and then it not being exactly the way that they found it.

Isabella

00:06:34 Goodness, that's so true. Another option, I'll say kind of getting off of that note, if you don't want to put it in a storage unit, maybe for that reason, or maybe it's just accessibility reasons. I've had people put stuff in my room. My roommate's little was going back up for the summer and had some things that she didn't need to take home, like her big nightstand and whatnot. So since I left for the summer and I knew I wasn't coming back at all during those three months, she just put it in my room and they were obviously kind of in my walking path, but it didn't really bother me at all because I wasn't there. So if there's someone that you know that has a house, an apartment, some free space that you could put some stuff in, that's always an option as well.

Julie

00:07:12 Yes. That is so incredibly helpful to just have somewhere to house your stuff. And you're like, okay, this is gonna be good. I don't have to worry about it

Isabella

00:07:19 I will say that I feel like freshman year move out is probably the biggest move out you're going to have. Yeah, because you kind of have to live in those dorms your first year. And then going forward, I, at least, have stayed in the same apartment the rest of my years. I know many people who have done the same. Even if you move another 1 or 2 times, it's usually not as dramatic. The first time was always the hardest. I feel like, maybe your senior year will be the hardest. I haven't gotten there yet, but I feel like freshman year was definitely, like, life changing for me, just the amount of chaos. And I know that I drove myself back home with all of my stuff. So trying to play the game of tetris to get everything to fit was definitely crazy.

Julie

00:08:03 Exactly. And I think with it kind of being like getting close to the end of the year, too. I think we would also love to highlight the amazing things that you can do.

Julie

00:08:12 Like it is your last month as a freshman at UA, Isabella, do you want to share some of the awesome things that students can still do?

Isabella

00:08:19 And honestly, I will say my freshman year I did not explore Tuscaloosa nearly at all. And that's something I regret. So if you're a freshman and your last month, go explore Tuscaloosa. And one of the best things, one of my favorite things is going to the farmers market down by the Riverwalk. That's something I didn't go to until my junior year with my dad, and it's so great. They have some good food, and they have pretty flowers. It's a great way to get out and see the community of Tuscaloosa that we don't always see in the college town part.

Julie

00:08:48 Yes, the farmer's market is so awesome. That's truly one of my favorites, like local things that we have in town. The farmer's market is a great way to support local small businesses, but it's also a great way to kind of get a feel for the community.

Julie

00:08:59 And the farmer's market is every Saturday from 7 to 12, I believe. And then literally right across the street is the Tuscaloosa Public Library, which is also super awesome. And it's about a mile. It's literally just straight down Jack Warner, I think if you're looking to go on a walk. It's a nice little walk over there, and I would definitely check that out.

Isabella

00:09:20 Yeah, absolutely. One thing that I've had a lot of fun doing in my later years, after my freshman year, was just going to different local restaurants. I love going to Taco Mama. I love Mugshots and some burgers. Jalapenos have great Mexican food. Juli, do you have any favorite local spots?

Julie

00:09:36 I went to Jack Brown's yesterday, so.

Isabella

00:09:38 Oh. So good, so good. That's my favorite barbecue. That and Dreamland is really good.

Julie

00:09:44 It is really good. And I would say to like, especially since there's a month left, I've tried to get in some southern cooking, especially if you're not from the south. I know it'll be like, well, I'm just gonna be gone for the summer, but just try to soak it up until you're back for your sophomore year.

Julie

00:09:58 I would also say to you are most likely still living in the dorms, and there are some times that I wish I had taken advantage of that more often. Like going to some spring sporting events, going to baseball games and softball games.

Isabella

00:10:11 It's so much easier when you can walk there.

Julie

00:10:13 Yes. Or like taking the bus.

Isabella

00:10:14 Yes.

Julie

00:10:15 Because I especially like a lot of the off campus housing options, the Crimson Ride that runs during the week, but it doesn't run during the weekends. So if you don't have a car, then you are most likely just at your house for the weekends, which is great, but you might miss out on some really great sporting events as well.

Isabella

00:10:30 Yeah, that's something that's really fun that we can do here at UA is being able to really engage in athletics. One more thing I'm going to throw in there is go to the pool. We have a fabulous, fabulous pool here at UA. I'm not sure when it will open. I only went once at the very beginning of my freshman year, but it's great.

Isabella

00:10:46 We also have an indoor aquatic center if you want to get some lap swimming in. Does Tuscaloosa have a community pool? Do you know?

Julie

00:10:55 I know that UA has a community pool on campus.

Isabella

00:11:00 Yes. Down by the rec, right?

Julie

00:11:02 Yes, down by the rec. And, like across the street from the softball stadium, we have the aquatic facility, which has an indoor and outdoor section.

Isabella

00:11:09 Yes, yes it does.

Julie

00:11:10 And for the community pool one, I believe that that's free to students, but they even have a slide and everything too.

Isabella 00:11:16

Yeah, like a lazy river.

Julie

00:11:17 Yeah. So if you were looking to, like, have a little hangout with your friends, that's a great way to get some sun while it's still sunny out. And then also just hang around campus, too.

Isabella

00:11:26 Yeah, definitely take all those last moments of your freshman year. Really taking it all in, spending the time with your friends that you probably won't see for a couple months.

Isabella

00:11:34 It's bittersweet in a way. I know I always love going home, but I always miss my friends back here. So really, really take in the last moments of your freshman year

Julie

00:11:41 Yes, totally. And with that, we wish you guys an absolutely great rest of your month. Until next time.

Isabella

00:11:47 Bye.