

# Welcome to Michigan Tech!

My name is Andrea Taglione, and I am a fifth year student at Michigan Tech, working toward dual degrees in Exercise Science and Biological Sciences. I went to high school in Houghton and have commuted to campus for the last four years. Being a commuter student in college is, in some respects, different from the experience of students who live in the residence halls. Likewise, the Orientation experience can be a little different for the commuter student. Many of you may have grown up in the area and have been to campus for various events. Like me, some of you may even have parents who work at Michigan Tech. Some commuter students feel that, since they know the area and are familiar with campus, Orientation has little to offer them. However, Orientation contains tons of important information about Michigan Tech that you couldn't know just by being familiar with the area. You'll meet your academic advisor and learn about graduation requirements and registering for classes. You'll also have the chance to meet other incoming students, including a group of ten to twenty students who will be in several of your classes, and you'll hear important tips about college life, strategies for success, and Michigan Tech policies. Orientation is packed with important information for all incoming students, and it's a ton of fun! I can honestly say that Orientation was one of my favorite weeks of Michigan Tech life.

As a commuter student, there will also be programming and features of Orientation that were designed just for you. Each first-year commuter student will receive five free meals from the Michigan Tech dining halls to be used during Orientation as a way to become familiar with the dining halls and to eat with the new friends you'll make. You'll also attend a session that was developed for you to learn about safety on campus and important tips for commuter students. Finally, you'll have the opportunity to attend a campus tour which highlights areas that are especially useful to commuter students. After the tour you'll have a free lunch in Wadsworth Hall's Campus Café where you'll be able to hang out with other commuter students and get to know your commuter mentors. Commuter mentors are other students who will be available throughout the year to answer questions for you and to plan special commuter student events.

The biggest piece of advice that I can offer to commuter students is to spend time on campus! This means both during Orientation and during the school year. Between classes, study in the library or in one of the many study lounges across campus. Bring your meals to campus with you or plan to purchase them here. Join student organizations, attend Michigan Tech events, or get an on-campus job. Spending time on campus will allow you to really become a part of the Michigan Tech community and experience what life at Michigan Tech is all about. My second piece of advice: try to meet as many new people as you can. Michigan Tech's student, staff, and faculty population is incredibly diverse; people here come from all different backgrounds. There may be many people from your high school who will also be attending Michigan Tech, but expand your social circle to include people that you didn't know before enrolling here. College is such a great opportunity to get to know people from all over the state, country, and world! Finally, don't be afraid of the residence halls. All of the halls have dining halls for which you can purchase meal plans, and Wadsworth hall also contains the Campus Café. The residence halls are also a great place for group meetings or to work on a project for class. There are several areas of the residence halls that are open to all students.

Your time at Michigan Tech will be filled with learning, fun, and memories. Make the extra effort to get involved and to meet new people, and your experience here will far exceed your expectations. You are now a student at a great University that has so much to offer. Embrace yourself in the culture here, experience campus, and you will learn that Michigan Tech has a community all of its own. Be a Husky!

See you at Orientation,

