



Graduate Column

PREVIEW

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES



New Online System...PAWS!



The College of New Jersey is in the process of switching online systems in order to provide students with a faster and more comprehensive system to meet ALL of their TCNJ registration, academic, and student financial needs. The Office of Graduate Studies would like to preview an upcoming article from the Spring 2009 issue of the Graduate Column so graduate students are prepared and ready to logon to the new online system, PAWS!

PAWS stands for the Primary Academic Web Services and will be used to replace TESS beginning with the Fall 2009 semester. PAWS has new capabilities that allow students to complete most of their tasks from one site location. PAWS will have an online “shopping cart” where students will be able to store intended classes before the upcoming registration. Once their registration opens, students can submit their “shopping cart” of courses for the upcoming semester. Another feature is the financial aid “to do” list, where students are able to access incomplete portions of their loans or financial payment forms without having to call campus offices. Students will be able to use Self Service to attend to their financial to do list. Students will also be able to view their academic advisor’s information online. PAWS is capable of determining if a student is on track to graduate by running a “degree audit” to make sure the required courses have been fulfilled. Finally, PAWS, will have a “what if” function that will show a student the courses needed if he or she is intending to switch majors or concentration tracks. All of these capabilities will be readily available 24/7 for Fall 2009!

In the meantime, certain features of PAWS will be released in February and March, including student and personal information, Self Service features, and Registration functions. With the Self Service capabilities available beginning February 23rd, students will be able to view:

- Personal information
- Course catalogue
- Advisor’s information
- Financial Aid Fall 2009 “to do’s”
- Course history and grades

Beginning in March, PAWS will release the Fall 2009 course schedule for the Fall registration window, which opens March 31st.

Where might you find PAWS? A new **myTCNJ** Portal has been created and serves as a gateway into most of the online systems. The **myTCNJ** will be found on the home page, and a URL link will be emailed to students. It is strongly suggested that students add this new page to their Favorites. By using the **myTCNJ** page, students can access all of the important TCNJ online systems. With one login, username and password, students are able to access Zimbra email and calendar system, SOCS, Career Services, and PAWS. Students will be able to use drag and drop features to make this page look however they would like! Also featured on this **myTCNJ** page will be a link to the PAWS project website, connecting students to “How To” documents, tutorials, as well as most commonly asked questions. All of these helpful sources will be available at the end of February so students can become acclimated to the new system.

Students should keep a look out for upcoming emails from the PAWS Team by February 23rd. The first email contains information about the new system, its capabilities, and a time line of released features throughout the spring. The second email will provide the URL link to **myTCNJ** where students will be able to logon and access PAWS.

TESS will still be used for billing and financial processes, academic transcript requests, and add/ drop classes throughout the spring and summer sessions. Beginning July 1st, PAWS will be the primary online system for students to obtain and view their academic and financial information all in one place!

Things to Remember:

- * To log into PAWS and myTCNJ, you will use your same username and password as you are currently using for email. **NO NEED FOR A NEW LOGIN!**
- * You will be receiving an email closer to February 23rd with the URL to myTCNJ.
- * March 31st fall registration window using PAWS.