Getting Started

[1] Howdy!

[3] Moving In

Settling In

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Helpful Hints

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The Office of New Student & Family Programs is excited to welcome you to Texas A&M University for the Fall 2015 semester! Now that it’s time for you to start your academic and personal journey, our office is dedicated to making the transition to Aggieland a success from the start. As part of the Aggie Spirit, Texas A&M takes pride in the support and encouragement our faculty and staff provide each student during his or her time here. There are many ways for you to customize your Aggie experience, such as academic mentorship and leadership opportunities, getting involved in campus organizations, attending Fightin’ Texas Aggie athletic events and participating in all of the unique traditions that make Aggieland so special!

Don’t forget that we are here to help every step of the way! If you have any questions, please contact us at 979-845-5826 or visit our website at studentlife.tamu.edu/nsfp. You can also find us in Cain Hall C-209.

The Aggie Orientation Leader Program (AOLP) hopes your New Student Conference was great and you’re excited to be loud and proud members of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Family! We look forward to seeing you on campus in the fall. Don’t forget to visit the New Aggie Facebook page for updates!

Be sure to attend Gig ‘Em Week: Aggieland’s Week of Welcome on August 23-30, 2015. It’s a great time to meet fellow Aggies, hang out with your Orientation Leaders, and participate in a variety of activities! Read more on page 4. We hope to see you there!
A Guide for Preparing to Live in Your New Home

It is almost time to move to your new home in Aggieland! This time can be stressful for many students, but with some preparation, you can be ready to enjoy your first year in no time!

Before you pack, do your research. If you are living on campus, know what can and can’t be brought with you and leave items not allowed at home. Remember you are going to be living in a smaller space than you may be used to and possibly sharing with a roommate, so be considerate of your space and bring only the essentials.

If you will have a roommate, sit down and have a conversation about responsibilities and needs. Talk about habits, pet peeves, financial situations, and cleanliness. Be honest! You are establishing an important relationship that will last through the year and maybe longer.

Be realistic when you budget for your expenses. Will you be eating on campus or will you make your own meals? How often will you use your car and will you have a safety fund for any unforeseen breakdowns? What will you need to pay for school-related expenses? Planning out the small details will save you time and money.

Once you arrive, take time to drive around and become familiar with your surroundings in College Station and on campus. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the transit system on campus so you know where the transit stops are located. Visit transit.tamu.edu for more information.

Finally, the Department of Residence Life and the Office of Adult, Graduate, and Off-Campus Student Services (AGOSS) are always available to offer more assistance and services to get you through the year.

Check out the next page for more information and resources!
### Helpful Items to Bring
- Alarm clock
- Batteries
- Bike with bike lock
- Calendar
- Camera
- Carpet or rug
- Cleaning supplies
- Coffee maker
- Computer/Laptop
- Crock pot
- Decorations
- Desk lamp
- Ethernet cable
- Flashlight
- First aid supplies
- Hangers
- Iron/Ironing board
- Laundry basket
- Mini stapler
- Microwave (max 700 watts)
- Photos of family and friends
- Planner
- Power strip with circuit breakers
- Rain boots
- Recycling bin
- Refrigerator (max 4.4 cubic feet)
- Reusable coffee mug
- Reusable water bottle
- Three-hole punch
- Toilet paper
- Toiletries
- Towels
- TV
- Scissors
- Sewing kit
- Umbrella
- Wastebasket

### Don’ts for On-Campus Living
- Air conditioning units (wall or room)
- Camping stoves
- Electric skillets
- Candles or devices with open flame
- Ceiling fans
- Electric power tools
- Gas power tools
- Griddles
- Grills (i.e. George Foreman type, charcoal, or propane)
- Halogen lamps
- Hot oil popcorn popper
- Hot plates
- Oven broilers
- Sandwich makers
- Space heaters
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Wireless router

### Resources
- Residence Hall FAQs
- Residence Life Living On-Campus Guides
- Off-Campus Student Resources
- Off-Campus Survival Guide

### To do before, during, and after your move
1. If you are living off campus, make a list of utilities that are and are not included in your rent, then budget those services accordingly. Also, call the utility companies to turn on services before you move-in.

2. Fill out your room condition checklist or apartment condition checklist before you move anything into your room. This form determines if you will be charged upon moving out. Write down anything that is scratched, scuffed, damaged, or missing so you are not held responsible.

3. Create a roommate contract. This will ease any tension you and your roommate(s) may face during the year. For a sample roommate contract, visit the Adult, Graduate, and Off-Campus Student Services site.
Each year, thousands of new and returning students participate in the Gig ‘Em Week tradition. There are numerous opportunities to meet people in the Aggie family, make friends, explore Texas A&M, and receive valuable information. Gig ‘Em Week begins on Sunday, August 23, 2015 and continues through Sunday, August 30, 2015.

**Gig ‘Em Week Signature Events**

**Tuesday, August 25**
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  Aggie Fest (Simpson Drill Field)
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  GatheRing & Yell Practice (Alumni Center)

**Wednesday, August 26**
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  Ice Cream Carnival (Simpson Drill Field)
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  Library Open House (Evans Library Lobby)
6:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  Movie & Party on the Plaza (Rudder Plaza)

**Thursday, August 27**
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  Student Activities Block Party (Koldus Plaza)
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  DMS Welcome Social (MSC 2400)

**Friday, August 28**
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  ATC Backyard Bash (Spence Park)

**Sunday, August 30**
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  Undergraduate Convocation (Reed Arena)

New this year!
Download the **Gig ‘Em Week App** to keep up to date with events, updates, and ways to get involved!

Check out the **Gig ‘Em Week website** for a full schedule!
Undergraduate Convocation is the official beginning of a new student’s entry into Texas A&M University’s Community of Learners and Scholars. The ceremony is designed to establish an academic connection between new undergraduate students and Texas A&M University. Undergraduate Convocation fulfills this purpose by ceremoniously recognizing each new student for having accepted the offer to join the Texas A&M University’s Community of Learners and Scholars. The program communicates to students their roles both as people who learn from others and as people who contribute to the vitality of the university. The Convocation also communicates the role of faculty members as scholars, teachers, and fellow members of the community through a keynote address by a selected member of the undergraduate teaching faculty. In full academic regalia, faculty from each academic department, the University President, Vice-Presidents, and Provost will represent the university’s involvement and commitment to the new members of the Texas A&M Community of Learners and Scholars.

Undergraduate Convocation is held in Reed Arena to provide you with the opportunity to begin your college career in the same significant, positive manner in which you will complete your college career. Your family is invited to attend Undergraduate Convocation and celebrate your entry into Texas A&M University. Seating is available for your family and friends in designated sections. Signs and ushers in Reed Arena will provide you and your family with directions. In recognition of the formal nature of Undergraduate Convocation, you are asked to wear business casual attire.

For more information, visit the Undergraduate Convocation website.
Things to know before your first Fightin’ Texas Aggie Football game:

1. For your first Texas A&M football game at Kyle Field, be sure to check out the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band and the Corps step-off! Kick-off for the first home game against Ball State is on Saturday, September 12 at 6:00pm. Step-off will begin around 4:30pm! If you want to catch the largest military-style marching band in the world and watch the Corps of Cadets march-in, then you’ll need to be in your seat at Kyle Field early!

2. Be aware that you sit on your numbered seat on your designated row, but STAND on the row in FRONT of you.

3. Freshmen will most likely be seated on the third deck, so be prepared for the hike to the top. Your ticket will designate a section, row, and seat number. Once you are on the correct deck, be ready to show your ticket again as you leave the concourse and enter the stadium seating area in your designated section.

4. Food vendors will be set up just outside of The Zone Plaza of Kyle Field. The Zone Plaza is the area just outside of the north end of the stadium.

5. There are certain parking areas reserved for home football games and you MUST move your car from these parking areas the night before the game. Vehicles remaining in these areas will be ticketed and towed at YOUR expense. For a list of reserved areas and other game day parking information, be sure to visit transport.tamu.edu.

What to bring:
- Ticket
- Valid TAMU Student ID
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- 12th Man Towel
- Large Bottle of Water
- Rain Gear (NO umbrellas in Kyle Field)
- Cash for Snacks/Drinks
- Wear your Favorite Aggie shirt!
- Fightin’ Texas Aggie Spirit

2015 Football Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>vs. Arizona State</td>
<td>NRG Stadium (Houston, TX)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>vs. Ball State</td>
<td>Kyle Field (College Station)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>vs. Nevada</td>
<td>Kyle Field (College Station)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>vs. Arkansas</td>
<td>Arlington, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>vs. Mississippi State</td>
<td>Kyle Field (College Station)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>vs. Alabama</td>
<td>Kyle Field (College Station)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>vs. Ole Miss</td>
<td>Oxford, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>vs. South Carolina</td>
<td>Kyle Field (College Station)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>vs. Auburn</td>
<td>Kyle Field (College Station)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>vs. Western Carolina</td>
<td>Kyle Field (College Station)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>vs. Vanderbilt</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>vs. LSU</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
You’ll change your mind a lot during this first year at A&M, so be open to new ideas and new people. Do something that is going to challenge you in some way! Going outside of your comfort zone will allow you to pursue different opportunities that you never knew existed. Finding something you are really passionate about will help shape your college career and possibly even what you do after you graduate.

-Shelby Todd, Class of 2016

When living on-campus, be sure to abide by all residence hall rules. I recommend contacting your roommate to see who’s bringing what so that the room does not get too cluttered. Shower shoes and a shower caddy are vital along with extra towels because sometimes the laundry rooms are full. For laundry, I find it best to do laundry late at night or early mornings on weekends.

-Rashard Harris, Class of 2017

Getting involved on campus can be terrifying because you are constantly worried that the group you really want in will reject you. The truth is the group you are meant to be in will accept you and love you. Keep applying, interviewing, and trying! My best advice is to visit MSC Open House the week after school starts and go to information meetings for organizations. You might be surprised by how much is offered!

-Shelby Salmons, Class of 2016

Best study tip: Actually study! Plan study time throughout the week for the best results.

Say “Howdy!”

Try out the bus system!
It is super helpful with getting around campus.

Download the TAMU Mobile App to have most of the information you need in one place.

Always go to class!

It is wise to start off with the smallest meal plan. You can always add more if you need them.

Have fun!
### Fall 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Last day to register for fall semester classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Undergraduate Convocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>First day of fall semester classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Last day for adding/dropping courses for the fall semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12-1</td>
<td>Registration for 2016 spring semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>Bonfire 1999 Remembrance Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Last day for all students to drop courses with no penalty (Q-drop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>Reading day, no classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26-27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Redefined day, students attend their Friday classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Redefined day, students attend their Thursday classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Last day of classes for fall semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>Reading day, no classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11-17</td>
<td>Fall semester final examinations for all students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Does not apply to programs offered by the College of Nursing.*
19 Things To Do as a New Aggie

- Participate in Gig ‘Em Week Activities
- Attend Undergraduate Convocation on August 30, 2015 at 2:30 pm
- Attend the Maroon Out Games
  - Football vs. Alabama (10/17)
  - Soccer vs. Ole Miss (10/25)
  - Volleyball vs. Georgia (11/8)
- Visit the Bonfire Memorial
- Participate in Midnight Yell
- Take a picture with Reveille
- Participate in Big Event on April 2, 2016
- Get involved in the community
  (Stop by the Leadership and Service Center for ideas)
- Visit MSC Fall Open House on September 6, 2015 from 1-5pm
- Support A&M’s 20 varsity sports teams by attending 5 different athletic events
- Visit the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum
- Enjoy some time outdoors at Lake Bryan
- Visit First Friday in Downtown Bryan
- Participate in Muster on April 21, 2016
- Participate in Gig ‘Em Week Activities
- Take a weekend trip to Austin, Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, or San Antonio
- Visit First Friday in Downtown Bryan
- Participate in Gig ‘Em Week Activities
- Order your Aggie Ring after completing 90 hours of coursework

Have a great year, Ags! Thanks & Gig ‘Em!

As you check off your Aggie Bucket List, don’t forget to share your memories on the NSFP social media sites! Post pictures, comments, and follow all of our sites to connect with your family of Aggies.