Welcome to the Aggie Family! We are excited to welcome you at your New Student Conference and look forward to assisting you during your first year at Texas A&M University. We encourage you to make the most of your experience by participating to the fullest extent in all of the conference programs this January. These programs provide greater awareness of the University’s academic requirements and resources as well as an opportunity to meet new and current Aggies.

The Now that You’re Admitted Booklet you received (available online at newaggie.tamu.edu) will provide you with important information and help prepare you for your transition to Aggieland. Take the time to browse through both of these before coming to your New Student Conference.

New Student & Family Programs is with you every step of the way to ensure your success as a student. If you have any questions please feel free to call our office at (979) 845-5826, visit our website at newaggie.tamu.edu, or email us at nsfp.tamu.edu
We hope you are excited to come to Aggieland for your New Student Conference (NSC)! Here are a few things you should take care of before your NSC. For more information on completing these items, visit newaggie.tamu.edu and scroll to the bottom of the page for a linked checklist:

- Register your family.
- Verify your conference date and print your NSC confirmation letter.
- Know what to expect by checking out the sample NSC schedules.
- Arrange for lodging during the conference.
- Print off your NSC checklist for a packing list.
- Print off a campus map.
- All incoming freshmen need to take the math placement exam.
- Verify that you meet the Texas Success Initiative requirement or make plans to do so.
- Provide evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis or meet certain criteria for declining the vaccination.
- Complete the Lab Safety Acknowledgement.
- Make plans for parking on campus.

TEC 51.9192 requires all students under age 22 entering an institution of higher education to provide current proof of vaccination against bacterial meningitis (an immunization given within 5 years of the date of intended enrollment) or meet certain requirements for declining such a vaccination. Newly admitted students who have not provided documentation of vaccination have a meningitis deficiency hold placed on their account. The hold will be removed once the appropriate immunization documentation has been provided to Texas A&M. The meningitis deficiency hold will prevent you from checking in to your New Student Conference and registering for classes, so it is imperative you fulfill this requirement prior to arriving at your NSC. For more information, please visit: http://admissions.tamu.edu/meningitis.

To determine if you have satisfied the evidence of vaccination requirement for bacterial meningitis, go to the Applicant Information System website, applicant.tamu.edu, and ensure that a check mark is present on the Bacterial Meningitis checklist item found under the “Additional credentials required prior to Enrollment/Registration” section.

What to expect at your New Student Conference

**Day One:** Your New Student Conference officially begins on Day 1 with Check-In, at which you will receive new student orientation materials, clear any registration blocks you may have, and take a campus tour. You will also have the opportunity to purchase an official class t-shirt. The mandatory morning sessions will be kicked off with an energizing Welcome Session, followed by Joining a Community of Scholars which will highlight the academic expectations and core values of Texas A&M. Campus Services will follow giving you an opportunity to learn more about the optional services the university provides such as Dining Plans, Sports Passes, Transportation and other helpful services that make your time here in Aggieland more enjoyable. Next, Keys to Financial Matters and Resources will discuss tuition and fees, financial resources, and deadlines. After these sessions, you will make your way to the Student Luncheon and Panel. Network with other Aggies and Orientation Leaders, learn about student resources, and participate in a Yell Practice. A panel of students will also host a Q&A session to answer any questions you may have. Please RSVP in advance at newaggie.tamu.edu/studentluncheon. The first session of the afternoon is Campus SAVE Training. This mandatory session focuses on Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and reviews students' rights and available resources. Next, you attend the Academic Meeting. This session is the most important meeting of Day One as it introduces you to the academic requirements, policies and procedures. Your first day will conclude with either Off-Campus Student Services or Corps Orientation & Registration. These sessions will offer information about housing situations, needs of adult students, and important Corps information. Be sure to attend the Corps of Cadets Registration and Orientation session if you intend to join the Corps of Cadets.

**Day Two:** Your second day begins with your Mandatory College Meeting and Academic Advisement. During this time, you will meet with your Academic Advisor to create your schedule and register for courses and optional services. We ask that you be prepared to remain on campus until 6 p.m., if necessary, to complete registration. Shuttles to West Campus and Orientation Leaders will be available to guide you to your appropriate college meeting location.

For a detailed listing of the New Student Conference programs, please visit newaggie.tamu.edu.
Scholarships & Financial Aid offers many financial solutions to help students pay for their college education. We recommend completing or renewing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year by our March 15 priority date. The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov and must be renewed annually. Once you complete this application, Scholarships & Financial Aid may determine your eligibility to receive grants, loans, and work-study. For more information about these programs, please visit financialaid.tamu.edu. Once you have applied for financial aid, you may monitor your record at howdy.tamu.edu by going to the My Finances tab then to the Scholarships & Financial Aid portal. You can check your status, accept or decline aid, obtain and complete forms, and calculate your loan payment. If you have any questions about scholarships and financial aid, you may also call (979) 845-3236.

Scholarships
You may apply for a number of scholarships online at scholarships.tamu.edu. Also, contact your college/department for scholarships related to your major. If you are the recipient of any type of award, typically scholarships or corporate sponsorships, from a source other than Texas A&M University, you must report it to Scholarships & Financial Aid as soon as possible. To report an award from an outside source, please complete the Student Data Form in the Scholarships & Financial Aid Portal.

Money Wise Aggie Program
The Money Wise Aggie, Texas A&M’s personal finance advising and educational program, is designed to help students make smart personal finance decisions while pursuing their academic degrees and to lay a foundation for financial success throughout life. The Money Wise Aggie is a FREE service to students that provides personal advising and/or presentations in areas such as budgeting, credit cards and credit scores, financial challenges after college, and debt reduction strategies. For more information, please visit moneywise.tamu.edu.

Short-term and Emergency Tuition & Fees Loans
We offer short-term loans of up to $1,500 to Texas A&M University students who are enrolled at least half-time. Loans for tuition and fees are also available for undergraduate and graduate students. For more information regarding these loans, please visit us online at sfaid.tamu.edu/stlapp.

Direct Deposit
All students are required to set up a direct deposit funding account on the Howdy Portal in order to process potential refunds. You will need your bank account number and bank routing number in order to set up direct deposit.

How to setup direct deposit:
1. Have your bank routing number and your bank account number handy and go to "Howdy" and click on the "My Finances" tab.
2. Go to Refunds and click on the "Set Up My Direct Deposit Information".
3. Follow the instructions on the Wells Fargo disbursement services site. Your bank information can be found at the bottom of your checks or you can get it from your bank. Be sure to use a check and not a deposit slip to get this information.
Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC), a collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, has a mission to help all Aggies enhance their academic performance. The Center’s holistic approach helps students identify roadblocks to academic success and ensures that all students have access to comprehensive resources. ASC programs include Academic Coaching, Supplemental Instruction (SI), drop-in tutoring, Transfer Student Programs, and a variety of courses and workshops designed to help students be more successful. To learn more stop by Rudder Tower (9th & 10th Floor) or check their website: successcenter.tamu.edu.

Transportation

The ability to park on campus is another great service provided to you as a student. It is important to remember that all vehicles parked on the Texas A&M University Campus are required to have a parking permit, unless they are parked in a pay to park visitor area. Once you have accepted your offer of admission and registered for a New Student Conference, you will be able to purchase a parking permit which will be valid through August 2015. If you would like to purchase a permit, log in to your account on the Transportation Services web site at transport.tamu.edu/account and click Purchase Permit. The costs of the permits vary and are designated on a lot specific basis. For more information go to transport.tamu.edu.

Dining

Dine on Campus

We are happy that you have chosen Texas A&M to feed your mind – now Texas A&M University Dining wants to help you nourish your body! Dining on campus is an essential part of the Aggie experience, and with more than forty options you’re sure to find something to suit your appetite. The diverse family of expert chefs and registered dieticians bring fun and healthy dining to campus. We practice a commitment to building strong bodies, sharp minds, and establishing the foundation for a longer, healthier life. We call this Eat. Learn. Live.

Variety and Convenience

Dining options are conveniently located near residence halls and classrooms, and everywhere in between. From food courts and snack bars to coffee shops and buffet-style dining centers, dining proudly offers the A&M community a range of choices including home style meals, tossed to order salads, pizza and pasta bars, made to order delis, international fare, and so much more.

Value and Flexibility

Students dining on campus are encouraged to purchase a meal plan for increased value. For a complete listing of meal plan options available, please visit dining.tamu.edu. In addition to meal plans, all dining locations accept cash and major debit and credit cards. Meal plans can be used anywhere on campus and provide savings with just a swipe!

Here for YOU!

University Dining is here to meet the needs of our students. They offer health and nutrition information, organic and vegetarian options, and gluten-free selections; the staff dietician is also available for one on one consultations. Dining recognizes the importance of your satisfaction, and take pride in exceeding your expectations. Should you need to contact a member of their team for any reason, please do not hesitate to do so; call (979) 845-3005 or visit dining.tamu.edu.
GET INVOLVED

Athletics
By purchasing the Spring Sports Option you gain admission to Texas A&M athletic events including Aggie basketball, baseball, softball, indoor track, and tennis. Admission to sporting events other than football are sold on a first-come, first-serve general admission basis. If you elect to purchase a sports option for the spring, you will use your Student ID to gain admission into sporting events. To add the sports option and for more detailed information please visit mysportspass.tamu.edu.

Corps of Cadets
The Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets is in its 138th year of training leaders within the framework of a military organization. The over 2,400-member Corps provides a balanced and structured lifestyle that helps cadets achieve academic excellence, providing cadets the opportunity to master management and organizational skills and become leaders—now and throughout their lives and careers. The Corps of Cadets has a purpose to develop well-educated leaders of character who are academically successful, embody the values of Honor, Integrity, Discipline and Selfless Service, are highly sought-after, and are fully prepared for the global leadership challenges of the 21st Century. The Corps remains one of the largest uniformed bodies of students in the nation, consistently producing more officers for the Armed Forces each year than any other school in the country, outside the service academies. With Army, Air Force, and Navy/Marine ROTC instruction available, Texas A&M is one of the few schools to offer military commissions in all branches of service. Though nearly half of the students in the Corps are preparing for a military career, participation in the Corps does not carry any military obligation. Cadets may also obtain an Academic Certificate in Leadership Studies through the Hollingsworth Leadership Excellence Program, which is included as part of their official university transcript. For more information please go to corps.tamu.edu or call 800-TAMU-AGS.

MSC Open House
Interested in joining an organization? Visit MSC Open House on Sunday, January 25 from 1-4 p.m. at the Memorial Student Center to learn about different opportunities to get involved with student organizations! Visit mscopenhouse.tamu.edu for more information.

Howdy Camp
Howdy Camp is an optional student-run orientation program offered to all students admitted in the spring semester. It’s designed to help you transition into the Aggie family, learn about the University’s many traditions, help you meet new friends, and have a lot of FUN! This year Howdy Camp will be held January 10-12, 2015. For more information and to register, visit atc.tamu.edu or call (979) 862-1785.