NEW STUDENT CONFERENCE INFORMATION
January 12-13, 2016

Howdy and welcome to the Aggie family! Texas A&M University connects you with students, staff and faculty from diverse backgrounds, cultures and countries. You will unite with them in the rewarding pursuits of knowledge and learning. We encourage you to take full advantage of all the academic programs, student life services and extracurricular activities Texas A&M University has to offer.

The key component of the orientation process is your New Student Conference (NSC) which all new students are required to attend. The conference is a collaborative effort among colleges, divisions and departments of the University community and is designed to assist you with your transition to Texas A&M University. Specific objectives of the New Student Conference are to provide:

- Information concerning the University’s academic requirements, policies and procedures -- including course selection and registration.
- Awareness of the University’s services for academic support, career guidance, housing, on campus dining and financial assistance.
- Information concerning personal safety and security on campus.
- Understanding of the broad range of student activities and leadership opportunities on campus.

Conference staff and Orientation Leaders will be available throughout your conference. Please take advantage of the opportunity to ask them any questions you may have. Your best opportunity for success will come through combining careful planning, informed decision-making and timely use of services and resources with your dedication and commitment to the ultimate goal—academic success!

Message to Family Members
Texas A&M University believes the college experience represents a collaboration involving the student, the family of the student and the University. While the New Student Conference is mandatory only for students, we invite family members to attend and participate in a variety of sessions and services specifically designed for family members. Accompanying your student to the New Student Conference provides you with valuable information to support your student’s transition into the Texas A&M University community. By participating, you will become informed about the University’s academic programs, policies, facilities and services.

Each adult family member (18 and over) who wishes to attend must register online and pay the $25 conference charge. The conference registration charge covers materials for the conference, one lunch, family programs, facilities costs and staffing during the conference. The conference charge does NOT include conference parking or housing. The conference charge for family members 5-17 years old is $10. There is no charge for children under 5. While all family members are welcome to attend, conference activities are not designed for the enjoyment of younger children. If possible, alternate arrangements are encouraged.

Registration for family members is a separate process than student conference registration. For more information and to register, please visit newaggie.tamu.edu/family-and-guests. Priority registration is open through January 7; late online and on-site registration will be available for $35 per adult family member. For questions related to family member registration, contact New Student & Family Programs at aggiefamilies@tamu.edu or (979) 845-5826.
New Student Conferences en Español
Thanks to the generosity of The Association of Former Students, New Student & Family Programs offers Spanish translation for family members during the New Student Conference. Programs designated for Spanish translation will be noted in the NSC schedule and provided via headset. Family members interested in having programs translated will need to visit the Help Desk in Rudder Tower on Day 1 to receive a headset. Additionally, a Spanish-speaking staff member will be available at Check-In and the Help Desk for family members to ask questions as needed. These services are provided free of charge, but we do request that families indicate their interest in utilizing this service on their family/guest registration form. More information available at newaggie.tamu.edu/es.

What to Bring to Your Conference
- Transcripts for all college work previously completed that have not already been sent to Texas A&M University (official transcripts must be in a sealed school envelope or sent directly from the institution to Texas A&M University for evaluation and transfer of credit). These will be used in advising sessions.
- Test results or scores for the Texas Success Initiative requirements if not previously reported.
- Government issued photo ID (driver’s license, passport, military ID, etc.) to receive your student ID card.
- Casual, weather appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes.
- Money for meals and extras. Credit cards are not accepted at all venues.
- A pad of paper and pen to take notes.
- Parking permit for use during your conference (details below).

Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Requirement
BEFORE you come to your NSC, you must submit your bacterial meningitis immunization records. TEC 51.9192 (amended by SB 62) requires all students under the age of 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.

Upload your evidence of vaccination documents in the Applicant Information System (AIS). Using your NetID, sign on to howdy.tamu.edu, select the “Applicant Tab” and enter AIS, then click on the “My Documents” tab. Declining the vaccination requires completing an original Texas Department of State Health Services Vaccine Exemption Affidavit form that can only be provided by the TDSHS office and takes a significant amount of time to obtain. Notarized affidavits to decline vaccination must be mailed.

Newly admitted students who have not provided documentation will 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 NSC and registering for classes, so it is imperative you fulfill this requirement two weeks prior to arriving at your NSC. For more information about this requirement, please visit admissions.tamu.edu/meningitis.

Lab Safety Acknowledgement Requirement
Some courses require students to submit a Lab Safety Acknowledgment (LSA) before registration is permitted. All New Student Conference attendees must submit the LSA prior to their New Student Conference to ensure registration access. Step-by-step instructions for submitting your LSA via the Howdy Portal are available at registrar.tamu.edu/forms/LabSafetyAck.pdf. If you need assistance, please contact the Office of the Registrar at 979-845-7117.

Coming to Campus for Your New Student Conference
1. Conference Check-In & Schedules
   - All participants must officially check in to the conference on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Conference Check-In is in the Zone Club at Kyle Field (entrance located at the North End of Kyle Field off Joe Routt Blvd).
   - A sample New Student Conference Schedule will be available by December 15 at newaggie.tamu.edu.
2. **Parking**

PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION BEFORE PURCHASING A PERMIT FOR YOUR NEW STUDENT CONFERENCE.

New Student Conference attendees should purchase an annual permit, Daily/Weekly permit, or pay to park in a visitor facility. ALL vehicles must display a valid Texas A&M University parking permit when parked on University property (other than pay by time visitor parking areas). Attendees should select the option that best meets their needs from the ones described below.

**OPTION 1:**
Attendees who have purchased their annual Texas A&M parking permit may choose to use their parking permit and park on conference dates in any of the lots listed on the Break & Summer Parking Map [transport.tamu.edu/BSMmap](http://transport.tamu.edu/BSMmap). If you have not yet received your annual permit in the mail, a printed receipt may be displayed on the dashboard as a temporary permit for up to 14 days after purchase.

**OPTION 2:**
The Daily or Weekly permits are $5/day or $20/week and allow attendees to park in the following lots during semester breaks: 30, 40, 43, 50, 61, 71, 78 and 100. These permits are non-refundable, only valid for the dates selected during the purchase process and available for purchase online only. Attendees will print the receipt at the end of the purchasing process to use as a permit. Permits must be displayed on the dashboard at all times while parked on campus.

All permits must be purchased online at [transport.tamu.edu/account](http://transport.tamu.edu/account):

1. Sign in using your NetID login and password.
2. Click “Purchase Permits”.
3. Choose the daily, weekly or preferred annual permit from the “Choose a Permit” dropdown list.
4. Print the permit receipt and display on your dashboard at all times while parked on campus.

**OPTION 3:**
If attendees do not wish to purchase one of the above permits, they may park in University Center Garage, Central Campus Garage, Northside Garage, West Campus Garage, or lots 51, 61, 72, 74, 88 or 97 and pay the hourly rates. Payments for lots and Northside Garage is required upon arrival and payment for other garages is required upon exit. See [transport.tamu.edu/visitor](http://transport.tamu.edu/visitor) for more about the garages and rates.

3. **Overnight Accommodations**
The NSC is a two day experience therefore overnight accommodations are needed. For accommodations in Bryan/College Station, please contact the Bryan/College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau at (979) 260-9898 or visit [www.visitaggieland.com](http://www.visitaggieland.com) for information on area hotels and motels. Your own transportation to and from campus is needed.

4. **Make Plans to Attend the Student Luncheon**

After a morning of conference sessions, relax and dine with your fellow classmates in this luncheon planned just for you! It is a great time to meet other new students, chat with our Orientation Leaders and learn about additional resources for new Aggies. The lunch is free for new students participating in the conference, but RSVP is required. To attend, please RSVP online at [newaggie.tamu.edu/studentluncheon](http://newaggie.tamu.edu/studentluncheon) no later than 72 hours before the start of your NSC. Please note this luncheon is for students only; registered parents/family members will attend the concurrent Family Luncheon.

**Testing During Your New Student Conference**

1. **Math Placement Exam**
The Math Placement Exam (MPE) is a multiple-choice examination used to assess a student’s math skills. They are an important tool to help your advisor determine which mathematics course you should take. There are two MPE exams and you will be directed to the correct exam based upon your major.
Requirements for Transfer Students:
Most transfer students do not have to take the Math Placement Exam. However, there is an exception—if you plan to take MATH 147/151/171 at Texas A&M, a prerequisite restriction will prevent you from enrolling in this course unless you either have credit for MATH 150 at TAMU or a grade on the MPE. If you have taken a pre-calculus course equivalent to MATH 150 (TCCNS 2412) at another institution, your Texas A&M advisor might be able to substitute that for MATH 150; otherwise, you will have to take the MPE before you can enroll in MATH 147/151/171.

MPE Testing Instructions:
To take the MPE, log into Howdy at howdy.tamu.edu and go to the “Applicant Tab” and follow the instructions for the Math Placement Exam. Use the online review material available to help you prepare for this 90-minute exam. Be prepared to spend the full 90 minutes taking the exam. If you experience any technical difficulties, please contact the Department of Mathematics at mathassessment@math.tamu.edu.

The following rules apply to the Math Placement Exam:
- Calculators are not permitted.
- Exam must be taken before you attend your New Student Conference.
- The exam may be repeated; however, there is a 30 day waiting period between attempts.
- You cannot register for any math course until you have completed the exam.

2. Texas Success Initiative
Many transfer students are exempt from the Texas Success Initiative. Unless exempt, students must first complete the mandatory TSI Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) and then take the TSI Assessment test. A list of possible exemptions can be found at successcenter.tamu.edu/Programs/Texas-Success-Initiative/TSI-Exemptions. Non-exempt students will be blocked from registering for all classes during the New Student Conference until the TSI Pre-Assessment Activity has been completed, the TSI Assessment test has been taken and scores are on file at Texas A&M University.

The mandatory TSI Pre-Assessment Activity (including the practice test) can be found online at either the “Applicant” or “My Record” tab in the Howdy Portal under the heading “Texas Success Initiative.” The TSI Assessment test must be taken at a testing center and is available at Texas A&M University for students who have not met the Texas Success Initiative requirement. Students need to register for the test prior to the test date by contacting Data and Research Services at (979) 845-0532. For more information, visit http://dars.tamu.edu/Testing/Texas-Success-Initiative

You can check to see if you are exempt from the TSI requirements on-line at either the “Applicant” or “My Record” tab in the Howdy Portal under the heading “Texas Success Initiative; TSI and Core Curriculum.” Select the term you will start at A&M and then click on submit. Your TSI status will be displayed as either “College Ready” or “Complete” if you have met all of the TSI requirements.

If you have questions concerning the Texas Success Initiative, please contact the Academic Success Center at (979) 845-2724 or visit successcenter.tamu.edu/Programs/Texas-Success-Initiative

3. Language Placement Exams
Students who intend to enroll for the first time in a college foreign language course, who have previous knowledge of the language, however acquired, and who have no college credit in the language MUST take a placement test to determine the appropriate course for their level of ability.

The foreign language placement test also serves as a basis for credit by examination. Second language learners who take the Advanced Placement (AP) test, the College Board Achievement test, the International Baccalaureate test (IB) or the SAT II Subject Test in their foreign language of choice do not have to take the required foreign language placement tests, as the results of these tests may be used for placement, but it is highly recommended. Heritage language learners must always take the placement test, regardless of their scores on high school tests, because these tests sometimes are not a good reflection of the language abilities of those students.
The Spanish Language Placement Test is administered by Hispanic Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. There is a $30.00 fee that is due at the time of registration. For more information, call (979) 458-0672. Please visit newaggie.tamu.edu/languageplacementexam to register for this test.

All other Language Placement Tests are administered by International Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. There is a $30.00 fee that is due at the time of registration. For more information, call (979) 845-5144. Please visit newaggie.tamu.edu/languageplacementexam to register for this test.

All tests will be administered the day before the New Student Conference along with credit by examination tests. The test will also be offered at various times during the fall and spring semesters. Students who do not take the placement test prior to their NSC will not be able to register for a foreign language course during their first semester. Please note: Seats in language courses are limited; taking the Language Placement Exam does not guarantee the ability to register for a language course during your first semester.

4. **Testing Accommodations**
Disability Services (DS) provides testing accommodations for eligible students with disabilities. Reasonable testing accommodations are provided to allow students with documented disabilities an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. In order to receive testing accommodations for any of the tests offered through New Student Conferences, the student must submit documentation to DS at least two weeks prior to the scheduled testing date. Please contact the Disability Services office at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu.

**Start checking your Texas A&M Gmail account as our office will send important information regarding the New Student Conference.**
**To check your email, visit google.tamu.edu and log in with your NetID and password.**
**We look forward to seeing you in January!**

For information concerning conference registration for students, please contact:
Office of Admissions
(979) 845-1060
admissions@tamu.edu
applicant.tamu.edu

For information concerning conference programs and family member registration please contact:
New Student & Family Programs
(979) 845-5826
nsfp@tamu.edu
newaggie.tamu.edu

For information regarding special accommodations during your New Student Conference, please contact:
Disability Services
(979) 845-1637
disability@tamu.edu
disability.tamu.edu