Coming into college I thought I had my life figured out. I thought grades would be fine and I would have this nice smooth path to graduation. I soon found out that success in college requires a new way of thinking. One of the first things involves understanding and learning how to study beyond the general information. The quicker you learn how to think critically in all of your classes, the better you will do. Another important thing is to not compare yourself to those around you. Letting others control your view of success will always lead to disappointment. Do the best you can, utilize your resources, accept not knowing something, take criticism, ask for advice, and realize that if you truly want it to, it will work out. YOUR PROFESSORS WANT TO KNOW AND HELP YOU! Make sure to go into their office hours and get to know them because it will make any situation in that class seem a lot easier and help alleviate any struggle you may have. You only have the ability to control and accept what you do, and this is so evident with academics, so go do it, and do it well.

Ty Parker ’18
Study Smart
Assessing your own learning style and developing a personal study system is an integral part of your success in college. Generally, for every one hour you spend in class, you should spend three hours studying for that class. The Academic Success Center services are valuable (and FREE!) resources for help with note-taking, determining your learning style, or developing study skills. Here are a few simple tips to get you started towards studying smart:

1. **Read the assigned material and previous week’s notes.** This will prepare you to contribute in class and to ask questions.
2. **During the lecture, try to be an active listener.** By asking questions or making comments for clarification, you will be more likely to understand and remember the material during an exam.
3. **Experiment with note-taking methods to find what works for you.** After class, review your notes or use your book or a friend’s notes to fill in areas you may have missed. Type/re-write and organize your notes if necessary.
4. **Stay current with the assigned readings and review your notes on a weekly basis.** This will help you retain information across the semester and prevent late-night cramming before a test.
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Academic Coaching – Students can set up one-on-one appointments with Academic Coaches who will provide students with guidance on improving time management and strategic learning along with helping students identify obstacles to their success. Coaches will also discuss and review resources available and refer students to additional offices on campus to help them succeed.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) – The SI program, supported by The Association of Former Students, the Academic Success Center, and academic departments, is an award-winning academic assistance program designed to improve the student’s academic performance and increase retention. It targets traditionally difficult core curriculum courses and provides regularly scheduled, out-of-class study sessions. The SI sessions are led by undergraduate students who have taken and excelled in the course and have been trained in proactive learning and study strategies. The SI leaders attend all course lectures, take notes, and read the assigned materials. They serve as leaders for organized group study sessions and help students develop active and independent learning skills. SI sessions are free and open to all students in the course section; attendance is voluntary.

Transfer Student Programs (TSP) – TSP is a program designed for incoming transfer students to learn more about the resources at A&M, make connections with other transfer students, faculty and staff and actively encourages engagement on all levels of the university. Joining the community will provide you access to dedicated peer mentors and staff who will do their best to help you find answers to questions, resources and encouragement so that you can get the most out of your experience at Texas A&M.

Tutor Zones (TZ) – Tutor Zones are on-site tutoring locations in various places around campus, such as White Creek Apartments, Evans Library, and Hullabaloo Hall. Tutor Zone tutors have excellent academic skills and are trained in learning strategies and study skills.

Tutoring – Free walk-in tutoring in a variety of math and science courses is offered to students. To find the current tutoring schedule, check the ASC website, successcenter.tamu.edu.

Workshops and Courses – The Academic Success Center provides a variety of courses and workshops designed to help students learn effective learning strategies and organizational skills. STLC 101: Application of Learning Theories to College Studies is a two-credit hour course designed to help students understand learning theory and develop effective learning strategies. Commit to Success is a 6-session, 3-week workshop series that covers a variety of study skills topics. Wednesday Workshops are 50-minute workshops that cover a variety of study skills topics including time management, textbook reading, note-taking, and test preparation.
Understanding Add/Drop & Q-Drop
registrar.tamu.edu - 979.845.1031

A student may drop a course with no record up through the fifth class day of the fall or spring semester. During a summer term, students may drop a course with no record up through the fourth class day. Following this period, if approved by the dean of the student’s college, a student may drop a course without penalty (called Q-Drop) through the 60th class day of a fall or spring semester, the 15th class day of a 5-week summer term, or the 35th class day of the 10-week summer semester. Under section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code, “an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop more than six courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education.” Undergraduate students are normally permitted four Q-drops at Texas A&M during their undergraduate career.

However, in order to comply with this statute, a student who has dropped courses at other Texas public institutions may not be permitted four Q-drops if the student’s total number of dropped courses would exceed the State limit of six. Q-drops are processed in the academic deans and/or departmental offices.

Aggie Honor System Office
aggiehonor.tamu.edu - 979.458.3378

For many years Aggies have followed a Code of Honor, which is stated in this very simple verse: “Aggies do not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do.”

The Aggie Honor Code is an effort to unify the aims of all Texas A&M men and women toward a high code of ethics and personal dignity. For most, living under this code will be no problem, as it asks nothing of a person that is beyond reason. It only calls for honesty and integrity, characteristics that Aggies have always exemplified. The Aggie Honor Code functions as a symbol to all Aggies, promoting understanding and loyalty to truth and confidence in each other.

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the A&M community from the requirements or the processes of the Aggie Honor System Office. Texas A&M University is dedicated to the discovery, development, communication, and application of knowledge in a wide range of academic and professional fields.

The Aggie Honor System Office is charged with the responsibility of continuing an Aggie tradition that dates from our earliest days. Aggies pride themselves in hard work, integrity, and allegiance. Living in accordance with the Aggie Honor Code is critical to these ideals, to the goal of assuming a place of preeminence in higher education, and to the development of the whole student. The Honor Council consists of students and faculty members and is a critical part of the Aggie Honor System Office. The council enforces sanctions when students acquire information from unauthorized sources, provide information without authorization, plagiarize, conspire to violate principles of academic integrity, violate academic rules, or falsify information. The Honor Code does not function as a tool to force honor by fear; instead it acts as a symbol of our understanding of and loyalty to truth and our confidence in each other.
Disability Services
disability.tamu.edu - 979.845.1637
Disability Services interacts and collaborates with students, faculty and staff to promote an inclusive environment at Texas A&M University by educating the campus community and facilitating appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities such as mobility, hearing or visual impairments, learning and/or psychological disorders may be eligible for services and should submit an accommodation request form and documentation of their disability to Disability Services to begin the process to set up accommodations.

Honors and Undergraduate Research
hur.tamu.edu - 979.845.1957
Honors and Undergraduate Research challenges motivated students to graduate from an enriched, demanding curriculum. The programs administered by the office bring together outstanding students and faculty to build a community of knowledge-producers, lifelong learners, nationally-recognized scholars, and world citizens. As recognized “high impact practices,” undergraduate research and capstone experiences, which are available to Honors and non-Honors students alike, increase undergraduate student learning and success not only while students are at Texas A&M, but long after graduation.

Honors students have access to numerous special services and programs. Throughout the academic year, Honors and Undergraduate Research coordinates recreational and community-building events, lectures, and workshops. Honors students are invited to engage in leadership opportunities and contribute to the development of university-level honors programming through the Honors Student Council, the University Scholars program, and as Honors Housing Community leaders. Honors and Undergraduate Research also coordinates the campus nomination processes for various national fellowship competitions, including the Rhodes, Truman, and Goldwater scholarships.

While some services of the office are exclusive to Honors students, advisors are available to talk with any student who is interested in sampling the academic challenge of an honors course, committing to an undergraduate research or capstone project, being nominated for a National Fellowship or applying to become an Honors student and earn the Honors Fellows distinction.
The Office of Professional School Advising (OPSA) provides a multitude of free services, resources, and materials to any student interested in attending medical, dental, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, nursing, veterinary, or law school.

Full-time advisors provide counseling and workshops to students from freshman year through graduation on course selection, testing strategy and timing, the application process, and career options. Other services include applications, up-to-date hand-outs, student group information, volunteer and community service options, career exposure, and evaluation letter collection and dissemination.
Study Abroad
studyabroad.tamu.edu - 979.845.0544

Texas A&M University offers a wide range of high impact international opportunities coordinated by academic colleges and the Study Abroad Programs Office. As part of the Action 2015, these programs help prepare Texas A&M students to become leaders in the global economy. Multinational corporations are looking for employees who have engaged in culturally diverse experiences and can live and compete in the international marketplace. Even if you plan to stay in Texas, adding an international experience to your undergraduate curriculum is a rewarding opportunity.

Students from every discipline can participate in courses taught by A&M faculty overseas; volunteer, research, and internship opportunities; service learning programs; inter-university exchanges; or international field trips as a component of a regular semester course. Aggies can also study for a semester or summer session at one of the A&M locations overseas: the Santa Chiara Study Center in Italy, the Soltis Center for Education and Research in Costa Rica, or the A&M branch campus in Qatar.

Texas A&M provides more than $500,000 in university-wide scholarships for international education each year so students can apply their financial aid to a study abroad program. Many colleges offer additional scholarship support for a study abroad experience, and study abroad advisors assist students in applying for prestigious national scholarships including the National Security Education Program, the Gilman International Scholarship, and the Critical Language Scholarship program.

The study abroad office also contributes to the development of on-campus experiences that foster cultural awareness by encouraging certificate programs, engaging learning communities in global awareness, and offering students the opportunity to participate in the Academy for Future International Leaders.
Texas A&M Information Technology  
IT.tamu.edu - 979.845.8300

Internet Access, Web and Email
All residence hall rooms are equipped with high-speed wired and wireless Internet. TAMULink wireless Internet is also available in most classrooms, dining facilities, and libraries on campus. To check your Texas A&M Gmail account, visit google.tamu.edu. You can also set up Texas A&M Gmail on your mobile device.

Open Access Labs (OALs)
The Open Access Labs provide students with computer resources at locations across campus, including multiple supported computer labs and printing centers. Over 1,300 computers (PCs and Macs) and numerous scanners, digital video workstations, and color or black-and-white printers are available to all registered students. Labs are available up to 24 hours a day. For a full list of locations, equipment, hours and usage, visit the Open Access Lab website at oal.tamu.edu.

Discounted Software
Once registered, students can take advantage of discounted software through Texas A&M’s software store. This includes deeply discounted Microsoft products and no-charge antivirus software. For more details, visit software.tamu.edu.

Getting Help
Need help? Help Desk Central is available 24 hours a day for computing support. You can call 979.845.8300, email helpdesk@tamu.edu, visit hdc.tamu.edu or stop by room 104 of the DPC/Computing Services Annex.

Testing Center
testing.tamu.edu - 979.845.0532
Testing Services administers several testing programs at Texas A&M. These include national standardized tests, credit by examination, and placement examinations. The following national standardized tests are offered:

- ACE (American Council on Exercise Certification Exam)
- ACT (American College Testing Assessment)
- ACCUPLACER
- CLEP CBT (College Level Examination Program) (Computer Based Test)
- FE (Fundamentals of Engineering)
- GED
- CPT (Certified Professional Trainer)
- ELPE (English Language Proficiency Exam)
- GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)
- GRE (Graduate Record Examination)
- LSAT (Law School Admission Test)
- MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)
- SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test: I and II-Subjects Tests)
- TExES (Texas Examinations of Educator Standards)
- TSI (Texas Success Initiative)
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- Prometric Testing Center

Credit by Examination
Credit by examination is offered through the Advanced Placement Program, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST), International Baccalaureate (IB), SAT II: Subject Tests, and departmental examinations.

Other Testing Services
Testing Services is the official repository for the standardized test scores used in the admissions, placement, and proficiency testing programs. Unofficial reports of such scores can be provided to students by Testing Services, if the scores have been reported to Texas A&M. Information regarding the time of testing is necessary, and positive identification of the student is required. Under no circumstances will test scores be given out over the phone.

Testing Services also serves as the center for correspondence testing, including written and online testing. Interested students should contact the DARS office for information regarding procedures and charges.
Undergraduate Convocation

Undergraduate Convocation officially welcomes new students to the Texas A&M University Community of Scholars in a manner similar to the recognition they will receive at commencement. Incoming undergraduate students will join faculty, college deans, and the university president and vice presidents to commemorate their entry into the Texas A&M University Community of Scholars. In addition, when assembled in one place, incoming students will gain a sense of their number, strength and identity, as well as to develop an important connection to one another and to the University. Undergraduate Convocation will be held in Reed Arena on

**Sunday, August 28th at 2p.m.**

For additional information, please visit:

[undergradconvo.tamu.edu](http://undergradconvo.tamu.edu)

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**University Writing Center**

[writingcenter.tamu.edu](http://writingcenter.tamu.edu) - 979.458.1455

The University Writing Center helps Aggies become more effective and self-confident communicators. We’ll work with you on any kind of written project and at any stage of your creative process. Our consultants know that even great writers need help, and they’re trained to assist with all kinds of communication—from lab reports to scholarship essays. We’ll answer grammar questions, help you cite sources, suggest ways to clarify your sentences, and teach you to find your own mistakes.

We also work with oral communication; we can show you how to organize ideas for a speech, help you create slides for a PowerPoint, or give advice as you rehearse your presentation.

We’re located on the second floor of Evans Library and also have an evening walk-in center at West Campus Library. In addition to our face-to-face consultations, we offer online and web conference sessions. You can make appointments at [writingcenter.tamu.edu](http://writingcenter.tamu.edu), where you’ll also find great resources including videos, podcasts, and handouts about writing and speaking.

So, remember: you don’t have to write alone. The University Writing Center is here to help!