Welcome to Aggieland!

The Office of New Student & Family Programs is excited to welcome you to Texas A&M University for the fall 2016 semester! Now that it’s time for you to start your academic and personal journey, our office is dedicated to making your 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 on campus. There are many ways for you to customize your time as a student at Texas A&M. We encourage you to participate in the numerous academic enrichment opportunities, develop your leadership by getting involved in campus organizations, attend and cheer loudly at Fightin’ Texas Aggie athletic events, and participate in all of the unique traditions that make Aggieland so special!

Don’t forget that we’re here to help every step of the way! If you have any questions, please contact us at (979) 845-5826, or visit the New Student & Family Programs website. You can also find us at Student Services at White Creek in building 0068.

The Aggie Orientation Leader Program hopes your New Student Conference was great and that you’re excited to be loud and proud members of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Family! We are looking forward to seeing you on campus in the fall. Don’t forget to visit the New Aggie Facebook page to stay up-to-date on information that will make your transition to Aggieland a success!

Make it a priority to attend Gig ‘Em Week: Aggieland’s Week of Welcome on August 21-28, 2016. It’s a great time to meet fellow Aggies and participate in a variety of activities! We hope to see you there!
## Academic Calendar
### Fall 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Last day to register for fall semester classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>First day of fall semester classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>Last day for adding/dropping courses for fall semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10 - November 30</td>
<td>Preregistration for 2017 spring semester</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| November 18   | Bonfire 1999 Remembrance Day  
|               | Last day for all students to drop courses without penalty           |
|               | Last day to change KINE 198/199 grade type                           |
|               | Last day to officially withdraw from the University                   |
| November 23   | Reading day, no classes                                              |
| November 24-25| Thanksgiving Holiday, university closed                              |
| December 5    | Redefined day, students attend their **Friday** classes;  
|               | *does not apply to programs offered by the College of Nursing*       |
| December 6    | Redefined day, students attend their **Thursday** classes;  
|               | *does not apply to programs offered by the College of Nursing*       |
| December 7    | Last day of classes for fall semester                                |
| December 8    | Reading day, no classes                                              |
| December 9, 12-14 | Fall semester final examinations for all students                   |

All dates subject to change; find the full [Academic Calendar online](#).
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 location 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.
What Is Gig ‘Em Week?

Gig ‘Em week is Aggieland’s official Week of Welcome! This week is full of events and opportunities for new and returning students to become familiar or reacquainted with the TAMU campus, fellow Aggies, and the Bryan/College Station community. Gig ‘Em Week is coordinated by the Office of New Student & Family Programs in partnership with many campus and community sponsors. Gig ‘Em Week takes place just before the fall semester. A full schedule can be found online on the Gig ‘Em Week website.

2016 Signature Events

Tuesday, August 23
3-5pm  Aggie Fest
5:30-7:30pm  GatheRing & Yell Practice

Wednesday, August 24
11am-1pm  Ice Cream Carnival
1-3pm  Library Open House
6:30-11:30pm  Movie & Party on the Plaza

Thursday, August 25
11:30am-1:30pm  Student Activities Block Party
7-10pm  Rec-A-Palooza

Friday, August 26
4-7pm  ATC Backyard Bash

Saturday, August 27
4-6pm  Fish Crush

Sunday, August 28
2-3:30pm  Undergraduate Convocation

Download the Gig ‘Em Week App to keep up to date with events, updates, and ways to get involved!
Moving to Aggieland

You’ve been admitted to Texas A&M, attended your New Student Conference, registered for classes, and arranged a living space on or off campus in College Station - now all that’s left is to move in! Those living in on-campus residence halls will move in on Sunday, August 21st. Fellow Aggie students, faculty, and staff will be available to help you unpack your car and welcome you to campus. Students living off-campus should check with their leasing office for specific move-in information.

Whether you’re living on-campus or off-campus, it’s important to make your new living space feel like home. Below is a packing checklist full of items you may want to bring to Aggieland. If you forget an item, don’t worry! College Station has many stores in close proximity to campus.

Visit the Department of Resident Life website for more information on living on campus, move-in day, what to bring, and more!

### Packing Checklist

- Alarm clock
- Batteries
- Bike & bike lock
- Calendar
- Camera
- Carpet/rug
- Cleaning supplies
- Coffee maker
- Computer/Laptop
- Decorations
- Desk lamp
- Ethernet cable
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Hangers
- Iron/ironing board
- Laundry basket
- Stapler
- Microwave (max 700 watts)

- Photos
- Planner
- Power strips
- Rain boots
- Recycling bin
- Refrigerator (max 4.4 ft³)
- Coffee mug
- Water bottle
- Three-hole punch
- Toilet paper
- Toiletries
- Towels
- Television
- Scissors
- Sewing kit
- Umbrella
- Wastebasket

### Leave at Home List

- Air conditioning units (wall or room)
- Camping stoves
- Electric skillets
- Candles/devices with open flames
- Ceiling fans
- Electric power tools
- Gas power tools
- Griddles
- Grills (i.e. George Forman type, charcoal, or propane)
- Halogen lamps
- Hot oil popcorn popper
- Hot ovens
- Oven broilers
- Pets
- Sandwich makers
- Space heaters
- Toasters/toaster ovens
- Wireless routers
On June 13, 2015, Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 11 into law. The bill, which goes into effect on August 1, 2016, permits individuals with appropriate licenses to carry concealed handguns on college and university campuses in Texas. On August 13, 2015, Texas A&M president Michael K. Young formed and officially charged the Campus Carry Policy Task Force with “[developing] recommendations that will uphold the integrity of the law, ensure the safety and security of everyone on campus and foster a climate of mutual respected to create the most supportive learning environment possible.” The 22-member Task Force, comprised of students, faculty, and staff, combined campus feedback with their individual expertise to develop 14 recommendations that were accepted by the Texas A&M Board of Regents on April 27, 2016. A summary of the recommendations can be found online.

Below are the answers to some of the most frequently-asked questions related to campus carry. A full list can be found on the campus carry website.

What does the new law permit that is currently prohibited? Currently, concealed handgun license (CHL) holders may only carry handguns in university parking lots, garages, driveways, streets, & sidewalks. The new law allows CHL holders to carry handguns inside buildings. Universities may prohibit concealed carry in certain buildings, but may not enact rules that ban concealed carry arbitrarily.

Does a handgun have to be concealed? Yes; openly carrying a handgun on university property is a Class A misdemeanor. If you see someone with a handgun on campus, call the Texas A&M Police Department by dialing 911.

Can a non-CHL holder carry a handgun on campus under the new law? No; the only individuals authorized to carry a handgun on the Texas A&M campus are those who may legally own a firearm. Note that Texas law restricts concealed handgun licenses to only those individuals over the age of 21.

Are CHL holders required to identify themselves to a magistrate/peace officer? Yes, CHL holders must show both their driver’s license and their handgun license.

Are CHL holders required to identify themselves to those other than a magistrate/peace officer? No, CHL holders are not legally required to inform a non-magistrate or peace officer of their CHL. This includes university officials.

Am I allowed to make a rule prohibiting CHL carriers from carrying in my office/room/classroom/laboratory? No; SB 273 prohibits universities from enacting policy that restricts activity to a greater degree than that imposed by law.

Will the university track CHL carriers on campus? No.

What is the penalty for a non-CHL holder carrying on campus? Depending on where the handgun was carried, the offense may be a misdemeanor or felony. University sanctions will be considered in accordance with the offender’s status.

Who should I contact with questions regarding campus carry? The Campus Carry Task Force may be reached at campuscarry@tamu.edu. The University Police can be reached at (979) 845-2345.
Kick-off for the first Fightin’ Texas Aggie Football game against UCLA is Saturday, September 3 at 2:30pm. You won’t want to miss the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band & Corps step-off. Be in your seat early to watch the world’s largest military-style marching band & witness the Corps of Cadets march-in.

Your 12th Man Sports Pass gives you the opportunity to pull a ticket on your class’ assigned day. Freshmen will most likely receive assigned seats on the third deck. Once you arrive at the correct deck, be ready to show your ticket to event staff to enter the seating area from the concourse. You will use your assigned seat to sit, but should stand on the row in FRONT of you.

If you purchased a parking pass for a lot reserved during home football games, you must move your car the night before the game. A list of reserved areas can be found online at the Transportation Services website.
Being the 12th Man means more than just supporting Fightin’ Texas Aggie football at Kyle Field during the fall. As Aggies, we enthusiastically support all of our men’s and women’s athletic teams throughout the entire year!

Your 12th Man Sports Pass gives you access to every regular season home game for all ticketed sports - that’s more than 170 sporting events each year! Whether it’s soccer, volleyball, baseball, or tennis, Texas A&M student-athletes depend upon the 12th Man for their ability to impact the game.

We encourage you to support all Texas A&M sports during your time here. After all, the 12th Man isn’t just a name. It’s our way of life.
“College is a time for fun, so be yourself, explore new things, and make memories - but remember that you are here for a future career so take it seriously!”

-Stephen Sibbitt ‘17

“Introduce yourself to the person sitting next to you in class. That’s how I made great friends in college and found someone to study with.”

-Felysha Walker ‘16

“Seek help if you start struggling in your classes. Go to office hours, SI sessions, and tutoring.”

-Menka Lolyekar ‘18

“College is only going to be as fun as you make it. Take every opportunity that is presented to meet new people by joining organizations, attending events, and not going home every weekend.”

-Kaitlyn Laney ‘17

“Don’t risk losing all your hard work! Back up files using Dropbox, Google drive, or a USB flash drive.”

-Kayla Cates ‘19

“Classes can overwhelm you and studying can exhaust you so don’t forget to relax. Call a friend, have dinner with them, go for a walk, do something you enjoy doing. Some time to yourself will not only help you but will make you feel more prepared for the rest of the semester.”

-Brittany Frost ‘17

“Know that even though you might be far away from your family and friends, you will make a new family and friends here at Texas A&M. Remember everything happens for a reason!”

-Tatiana Trevino ‘18

“Go to your academic advisor at least once a semester! If you need help setting up your schedule, or want to learn more about your major, they are there to help.”

-Kristen Harris ‘18

“Go find your classes before the first day! It’ll save you so much time. Also, print off your syllabi before class so you can follow along on the first day.”

-Danielle Stein ‘18

“Say goodbye to sleep and say goodbye to money, but most of all, get ready for the time of your life, because this is the life of an Aggie, and you’re going to love every second of the quick, bumpy ride!”

-Tony Nguyen ‘16

“Remember you will make mistakes, but if you just take a deep breath and remember that making mistakes is okay, you can learn from it & grow so much!”

-Tori Wolf ‘18

“No single test determines your college career and no grades determine your self worth. If you don’t do so great on a test or a class, don’t be discouraged - just focus harder & learn from your mistakes.”

-Krystopher Byfuglien ‘19

“Study hard but also have fun. This means taking care of business in the classroom as well as getting involved on campus.”

-Jordan Addison ‘19

“Make a schedule and try to stick with it. Plan out everything including class time, workout time, you time, etc.”

-Gladys Cruz ‘18
Among the myriad of important and timeless traditions at Texas A&M, perhaps none is more respected than the Aggie Ring. The moment a student becomes an Aggie, he or she begins down a path towards fulfilling the requirements necessary to earn the right to wear an Aggie Ring. These requirements, some of the most difficult in the country, were established by the Official Senior Ring Committee in 1933. The Aggie Ring serves as more than just a decorative piece of jewelry. The symbolism engraved within the Ring represents six core values of every Aggie: excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect & selfless service.

The Association of Former Students Aggie Ring Program now bears responsibility for ensuring the integrity of the Aggie Ring. Over 12,000 students order and receive their Aggie Ring at one of three ring days each year. Ring Days, hosted at the Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center, are one of the year’s most highly-anticipated events. To be eligible to order an Aggie Ring, undergraduate students must have completed 90 total hours (45 institutional), have a 2.0 minimum cumulative GPR, and not be on academic probation or suspension. A number of payment options, loan programs, and Aggie Ring scholarships are available for students. More information about the Aggie Ring can be found on The Association of Former Students website.
The New Aggie Bucketlist

- Participate in **Gig ‘Em Week**
- Visit the **MSC Fall Open House** on 9/4/16 from 1-5pm
- Join one of more than 1,000 student organizations
- Stand as the 12th Man during football games at Kyle Field
- Go to the **Maroon Out Game** on 10/8/16
- Take a weekend trip to Austin, Houston, Dallas, or San Antonio
- Attend **Fish Camp**
- Support A&M’s 20 varsity sports teams by attending five different athletic events
- Visit the **George Bush Presidential Library & Museum**
- Enjoy some outdoor time at Lake Bryan
- Get involved in the community (check with the **Leadership and Service Center** for ideas)
- Participate in **Muster** on 4/21/17
- Attend **Convocation** on 8/28/16 from 2-3:30pm
- Participate in Midnight Yell
- Take a picture with Reveille
- Visit First Friday in downtown Bryan
- Put a penny on Sully’s boot for good luck
- Visit **Bonfire Memorial**

20 “Must Do’s” for the Class of 2020
Show Us Your Aggie Spirit!

As you start your journey at Texas A&M, don’t forget to share all of your memories with us! Connect with New Student & Family Programs on social media, share pictures as you check items off your Bucketlist, comment on posts, and connect with other Aggies!

/NewAggie  @NSFtamu  @NSFtamu  New_Aggie

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