

# New Aggie

# News

December 2016  
Edition



Howdy and 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.

Additionally, the confirmation letter you received, available at [newaggie.tamu.edu](http://newaggie.tamu.edu) will provide you with important information and help prepare you for your transition to Aggieland. Take the time to browse through the provided information 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](http://newaggie.tamu.edu), or email us at [nsfp@tamu.edu](mailto:nsfp@tamu.edu).

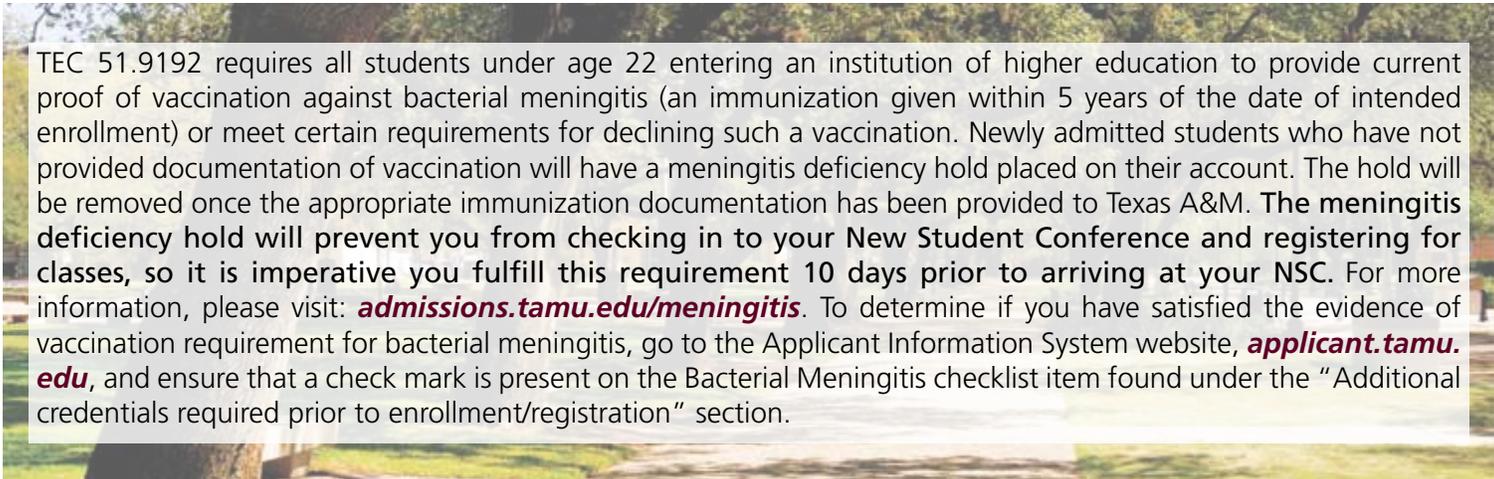
**NSC** NEW  
STUDENT  
CONFERENCE

This publication is produced by New Student & Family programs within the Offices of the Dean of Student Life and the Division of Student Affairs.

# BEFORE YOUR CONFERENCE

We hope you are excited to come to Aggieland for your New Student Conference (NSC)! Here are a few items you should take care of **before** your NSC. More details regarding the items below can be found by visiting [newaggie.tamu.edu](http://newaggie.tamu.edu) and accessing the "Prepare for your NSC" sections.

- Register your family or guests who plan to attend
- Verify your conference date and print your NSC confirmation letter
- Know what to expect by checking out the sample NSC schedule online
- Arrange for lodging during the conference
- Print off your NSC checklist for a packing list
- Download the Texas A&M App for a campus map and your NSC schedule
- Verify which required testing you may need to complete prior to or at your NSC
- Verify 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 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 New Student Conference and registering for classes, so it is imperative you fulfill this requirement 10 days prior to arriving at your NSC.** For more information, please visit: [admissions.tamu.edu/meningitis](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](http://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 One with Check-In, at which you will receive new student orientation materials, clear any registration holds 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, athletic tickets, 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 where you 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. This lunch is free, but please RSVP in advance at [newaggie.tamu.edu/studentluncheon](http://newaggie.tamu.edu/studentluncheon). The first session of the afternoon is Step In, Stand Up. This mandatory session focuses on 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, 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. In the morning, you will hear from your Academic Advisor and later in the afternoon 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.

# SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

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 the March 15 priority date. FAFSA can be completed online at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://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](https://financialaid.tamu.edu). Once you have applied for financial aid, you may monitor your record at [howdy.tamu.edu](https://howdy.tamu.edu) by going to the "My Finances" tab and 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](https://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.

## Student Employment

Student Employment is another option for financing your education and gaining valuable work experience at the same time. More than one-third of Texas A&M students are employed on campus. Students seeking part-time employment on or off campus can search and apply for jobs at [jobsforaggies.tamu.edu](https://jobsforaggies.tamu.edu).

## 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.

## Short-term and Emergency Tuition and Fee Loans

Scholarships and Financial Aid 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](https://sfaid.tamu.edu/stlapp).

## Money Education (ME) Center

Texas A&M University has dedicated the Money Education (ME) Center to providing Aggie students with the education and resources they need to make smarter personal finance decisions during college and lay a foundation of financial success for a lifetime. The center provides one-on-one advising, scheduled presentations, and classroom and student group presentations. To learn more about the center visit [money.tamu.edu](https://money.tamu.edu).

## Special Tips

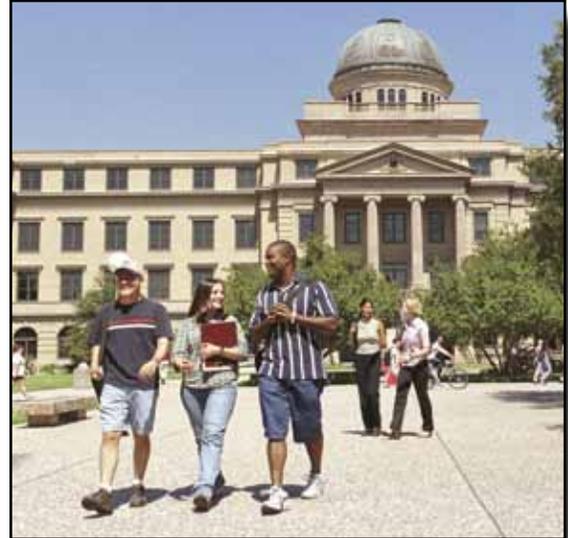
If you are a first-time borrower you are required to complete loan entrance counseling.

Students attending Texas A&M for the first time in the Spring 2017 semester should complete FAFSA as soon as possible.

Transfer students, if you have completed FAFSA at your previous institution you need to add the Texas A&M code (003632) to your application.

# Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center's (ASC), a collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, mission is 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 visit [successcenter.tamu.edu](http://successcenter.tamu.edu).



# Transfer Student Program

The Transfer Student Program (TSP) is a program designed for incoming transfer students to learn more about the resources at TAMU, make connections with other transfer students, faculty and staff and actively encourages engagement on all levels of the university.

Transfer students sometimes face unique challenges, challenges that may only become apparent as the semester progresses; the TSP eases the transition into Texas A&M University. TSP offers social and academic support throughout the semester, to all colleges and majors. On TSP's staff are a number of Transfer Student Peer Mentors (TSPM) from a variety of colleges. Our TSPMs are all former transfer students who are extensively trained and hold office hours. They 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 TAMU. Visit [successcenter.tamu.edu](http://successcenter.tamu.edu) for more information regarding the Transfer Student Program initiative.

# Dining

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 40 options you are sure to find something to suit your appetite. The diverse family of expert chefs and registered dietitians 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. For more information call (979) 845-3005 or visit [dining.tamu.edu](http://dining.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 2017. If you would like to purchase a permit, log in to your account on the Transportation Services web site at [transport.tamu.edu/account](http://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](http://transport.tamu.edu).

# GET INVOLVED

Beyond your New Student Conference there are many opportunities for you to learn more about the many history and traditions which encompass the Aggie spirit! Get involved through extended orientation opportunities or become a part of a student organization to find your home in Aggieland.

## Corps of Cadets

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. 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. For more information please go to [corps.tamu.edu](http://corps.tamu.edu) or call 800-TAMU-AGS.

## Howdy Camp

Howdy Camp is an optional, student-run extended orientation program offered to all students admitted in the spring semester. It is designed to help you transition into the Aggie family, learn about Texas A&M University's many traditions, help you meet new friends, and have a lot of FUN! This year Howdy Camp will be held January 7-9, 2017. For more information and to register, visit [atc.tamu.edu](http://atc.tamu.edu) or call (979) 862-1785.

## Joining a Student Organization

There are so many ways to get involved at Texas A&M. When you arrive in the Spring, MSC Open House on January 22nd will give you the opportunity to learn about a variety of different organizations. If you want to get a jump-start on getting involved, head over to [studentactivities.tamu.edu](http://studentactivities.tamu.edu) and look under the get involved tab. There you can search through the over 1,000 student organizations that Texas A&M has and find what fits you best!

## Student Representatives

The student voice is a strong one, especially at A&M, with close to 60,000 students. The best way to make sure your voice is heard is to serve as a student representative. Whether it is representing the entire student body through Student Government, representing your class through Class Councils, or representing the on-campus population through the Residential Housing Association, there are opportunities for the passionate, the political, and the service-minded. For more information, visit [studentactivities.tamu.edu](http://studentactivities.tamu.edu)

## Athletics

Texas A&M spring athletic events include Aggie basketball, baseball, softball, indoor track, and tennis. Admission to spring sporting events are sold on a first-come, first-serve general admission basis. To learn more about attending athletic events and the schedule for all teams visit [12thman.com](http://12thman.com).

## Spring 2017 Events to Consider

- Howdy Camp (January 7-9, 2017)
- MSC Open House (January 22, 2017)
- Spring Break (March 13-17, 2017)
- Big Event (March 25, 2017)
- Family Weekend (April 7-9, 2017)
- Muster (April 21, 2017)
- Graduation Ceremonies (May 11-13, 2017)
- Check out [visitaggieland.com](http://visitaggieland.com) for events in Bryan and College Station!

To learn about more events at Texas A&M check out the university calendar at [calendar.tamu.edu](http://calendar.tamu.edu).



New Student & Family Programs  
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# Howdy!

## New Aggie News