Make sure you’ll be able to register for classes!

Confirm you meet Texas A&M standards for the Texas Success Initiative, bacterial meningitis, and other requirements on page 4.
Congratulations! We are excited to welcome you to the Aggie family and help you understand what it means to be a part of our community. Texas A&M University is a campus rich in history and tradition, which you will become more familiar with during your New Student Conference (NSC) and Howdy Week. Many things may change for you over the next few months, so we hope this issue of New Aggie News will help answer some of the questions you might have.

In this issue, you can learn more about what to expect while you are on campus for your NSC, available campus services, academic information, as well as involvement opportunities.

New Student & Family Programs is committed to assisting you prior to and during your first year at Texas A&M University. By now, you should have received your New Student Conference Handbook. This publication and the newaggie.tamu.edu website provide helpful information to prepare you for your transition to Aggieland. We look forward to welcoming you to your NSC, and we encourage you to make the most of your experience by participating to the fullest extent in all the conference programs. For a detailed listing of the NSC programs, please refer to newaggie.tamu.edu.

Our office also hosts Howdy Week: Aggieland’s Week of Welcome. Howdy Week begins August 20th and ends on August 27th. Howdy Week is a great way to meet many new and returning students in a relaxed and entertaining atmosphere, so we invite you to come experience the fun. For more information, visit howdyweek.tamu.edu.

New Student & Family Programs is with you every step of the way to ensure your success as a student. If you have any questions leading up to your NSC, please feel free to call our office at (979) 845 5826 or visit our website at studentlife.tamu.edu/help.
NEW

STUDENT

CONFERENCES
BEFORE YOUR
NEW STUDENT CONFERENCE

STEP ONE: CONFIRM YOUR NEW STUDENT CONFERENCE (NSC) DATE

Sign on to applicant.tamu.edu using your NetID, confirm your date and print the confirmation page to bring with you to your NSC.

STEP TWO: REGISTER FAMILY MEMBERS OR GUESTS

If you are bringing family members or guests to your NSC, please have them register at newaggie.tamu.edu/family-and-guests. During NSC Check-In, family members and guests will receive a schedule, conference materials, Texas A&M Family Calendar and more! Spanish translation of all NSC Programs are available.

**Standard Registration**
(Up to Four Business Days Prior to Conference)
- $30 per Family Member 18+
- $10 per Family Member age 5-17

**Late Registration**
(Four Business Days Prior to Conference)
- $35 per Family Member 18+
- $10 per Family Member age 5-17

STEP THREE: ARRANGE LOGISTICS FOR YOUR NSC

Parking

ALL vehicles must display a valid Texas A&M University parking permit when parked on University property (other than pay-per-space visitor parking areas). New Student Conference attendees should purchase a SUMMER WEEKLY permit OR pay to park in a visitor facility OR use your Fall 2017 Permit (August NSC attendees only). Summer Weekly permits are non-refundable and available for purchase online only. Please visit transport.tamu.edu for more information.

Lodging

Costs for housing are NOT included in the student or family member registration fee and arrangements must be made separately. You may choose to stay on campus during your NSC. Visit newaggie.tamu.edu/housing for more information.

On-Campus: If you and your family would like to stay on campus in one of the residence halls or on-campus apartments, you can reserve a room at reslife.tamu.edu/guests/NSC. On-Campus Housing is only available for conferences occurring between May 28 and July 16. For more information, call (979) 845 9381.

Off-Campus: For information regarding local lodging, visit experiencebsc.com.
REQUIRED IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

All students under age 22 entering an institution of higher education are required to provide current proof of vaccination against bacterial meningitis (an immunization given within five 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 to submit documentation at least two weeks days prior to your NSC. For more information, please visit 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. You can also upload your immunization record here.

Mail: Texas A&M University
Admissions Processing
P.O. Box 30014
College Station, TX 77843-3014

Phone: (979) 845-1060
Fax: (979) 458-1808
admissions@tamu.edu

Hand Delivery: General Services Complex- Admissions Processing
750 Agronomy Rd., Suite 160

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) TESTING REQUIREMENT

The state of Texas requires a demonstrated level of competency in the key areas of reading, writing, and mathematics for all students enrolled at public institutions of higher education. To demonstrate college-readiness in reading, writing and mathematics, a student must either meet a TSI Exemption criterion or pass the TSI Assessment. Last year, 11% of Texas A&M’s incoming students were initially TSI non-compliant. Non-compliance leads to delays in course registration, frustrations and unnecessary anxiety. You can check to see if they have fulfilled the TSI requirements online through the Applicant Information System. After logging in, look for the “Tasks to Complete Prior to Enrollment” checklist, then “Fulfill the Texas Success Initiative requirements”. If a red X is present, further action is required. Non-compliant students will be blocked from registering for all classes during the New Student Conference (NSC), so it is critical that students satisfy this requirement two weeks prior to their scheduled NSC date.

For more information about fulfilling the TSI requirement, exemptions and testing options, please visit newaggie.tamu.edu/freshmen/prepare-for-your-nsc/testing/.

ONLINE ORIENTATION

All new students are required to complete an online orientation module before they attend their New Student Conference. Students who arrive at their NSC without completing online orientation will not be able to proceed with scheduled New Student Conference events until they have completed this requirement.

How to access online orientation:
Online orientation is accessible through the Howdy Portal at howdy.tamu.edu. If you have any difficulties, visit newaggie.tamu.edu/online for support or contact the Office of New Student & Family Programs at (979) 845-5826.
WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR NEW STUDENT CONFERENCE

“Attending my New Student Conference was immensely informative and I learned so much in three short days. I was able to show my parents around campus, and this was special since it was their first time in Aggieland. The different programs throughout my NSC taught me an astounding amount of information about the resources at Texas A&M and most importantly: 100% of my questions were answered!” - Jasmine Rendon ‘19

“When I came to my NSC I was extremely nervous because I didn’t know what to expect. But after attending all the programs I was able to make friends and feel more confident about my first year at Texas A&M.” - Leodalin Diaz ‘19

Download the TAMU Mobile App to have all the information you will need when you arrive on campus!

For a detailed listing of the New Student Conference programs, please visit newaggie.tamu.edu.
EXTENDED ORIENTATION
EXTENDED ORIENTATION

FISH CAMP
Fish Camp welcomes the Freshman class to Texas A&M each year by giving them the opportunity to have fun, make friends, and learn more about Texas A&M. We hope that through Fish Camp, you will begin finding your place in the Aggie Family before classes even begin!
Fish Camp is a 4-day extended orientation program that takes place at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, Texas. Students ride buses from the Texas A&M campus to Lakeview, where they stay in air-conditioned, furnished cabins.
Fish Camp is led by A&M students who are passionate about making the first year of college a success for freshmen! Every counselor has valuable personal experience, so they can offer advice about classes, College Station, and anything else you need as you begin your journey as an Aggie! For more information, visit fishcamp.tamu.edu or call (979) 845-1627.

VENTURE CAMP: BASE CAMP
Venture Camp: Base Camp, the thrilling program held in conjunction with Outdoor Adventures in Recreational Sports, will take place both on the Texas A&M campus and in the Texas Hill Country. Venture Camp: Base Camp is sure to provide you with many fun and exciting experiences including camping, hiking, canoeing, and rock climbing. No prior outdoor recreation experience is required, but a willingness to be an active participant and team player are very important. For more information, visit venturecamp.tamu.edu or call (979) 845-1133.

Registration Opens Early May
FIRST COME FIRST SERVED
CAMPUS SERVICES
Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plans
- Go to TGTP.tamu.edu
- Click on “Activate My Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan” to create username & password
- Enter: Name, UIN, Semester You Would like to Use the Plan (Must be activated each semester), TGTP Account Number, Type of Plan

Refund Delivery
Texas A&M and Heartland ECSI have partnered to deliver Financial Aid and other student account refunds to students. You will receive information from Heartland ECSI and the University at your New Student Conference and in your official University email account, which will explain the process for providing your direct deposit information for refund delivery.

Unclaimed Refunds
According to federal law, the University is required to return Title IV funds that have not been claimed (i.e. refund check that has not been cashed) within 240 days of issue. These funds will be returned to the appropriate federal financial aid program.

Learn more about this office at the Keys to Financial Matters presentation during your New Student Conference!

Good Things to Know
It is important to keep up with the latest information about due dates, fees, charges, and registration policies. The best place to get that information is at the Student Business Services home page at sbs.tamu.edu, in the Class Schedule, which you can access at MyRecord in Howdy, or by accessing your TAMU e-mail account. Aggie Answers, found on the homepage, is also a resource for frequently asked questions within a knowledge base that is searchable by keywords. You can also ask SBS questions related to your account through Aggie Answers-Ask a Question. If you keep up with the information provided by these three resources, you should never be dropped for non-payment of tuition and fees.

Returned checks are assessed a financial penalty and should be avoided. Many students come to campus never having had a checking account. You will find that having one is almost a necessity. If you are new to checking accounts, ask your family or your bank's customer service department to explain how they work.

Student Business Services is also where to apply for a refund of your $100 general deposit if you do not graduate or if you officially withdraw from the University. If you don’t ask for it back, it remains on file for four years and then is forfeited to a scholarship account.

If you need to make a student account payment you can make a payment online via My Finances within the Howdy Portal. You will also be able to designate your parent or someone else to view and pay your bill through the online payment system. There is also a payment drop-box by the FedEx box located in front of the General Service Complex. Drop check payments here, as long as you do so before 5 p.m. on the due date.

The Student Loan Administration Office administers repayment of any short-term loans. Apply online for short-term loans at staid.tamu.edu/stlapp.
CAMPUS SERVICES

L.A.U.N.C.H.
Learning communities, Academic excellence, Undergraduate research, National fellowships, Capstones, and Honors programs

LAUNCH provides high-impact educational experiences and challenges motivated students in all academic disciplines 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, life-long learners, nationally-recognized scholars, and world citizens. Through LAUNCH, motivated students have access to Honors courses, co-curricular enrichment activities, and research programs that can be customized to enhance each student’s personal, professional, and intellectual development.

As recognized “high impact practices,” LAUNCH, 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.

LAUNCH: Honors students have access to numerous special services and programs. Throughout the academic year, LAUNCH 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.

LAUNCH: National Fellowships coordinates the campus nomination processes for various national fellowship competitions, including the Rhodes, Truman, and Goldwater scholarships. For more information, please visit launch.tamu.edu.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

The Academic Success Center (ASC) represents a collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. The ASC’s mission is to provide all Aggies with access to comprehensive resources and support so that they can achieve their academic goals and fulfill their academic potential. The ASC’s holistic approach fosters mental and physical well-being and encourages students to identify roadblocks; set realistic, attainable, and personally fulfilling academic goals; and take ownership of their learning. ASC’s programs include academic coaching, supplemental instruction, tutor zones, and StudyHub. For more information visit successcenter.tamu.edu.

Learn more about these opportunities at the Resource Tables during your New Student Conference!
ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Residence Life’s goal is to provide students with a comfortable and supportive living environment at a competitive price, allowing them to capitalize on the advantages of on-campus living including location, onsite staff, easy access to campus services, and educational programs and activities. Research shows that on-campus resident students have higher grade point ratios, higher retention rates with the University, take less average time to complete their degrees, and have a higher rate of progress on to graduate and professional schools.

Residence Life offers six different types or styles of residence hall living: balcony style, corridor style, commons style, modular style, ramp style, and Hullabaloo Hall. These living styles feature many of the same amenities, but each differs in concept.

The University Apartments offers 1, 2 and 4 bedroom apartments for approximately 2,100 students and students with families who want the benefits of living on-campus but are looking for something different than traditional residence hall living.

The Department of Residence Life through the Corps Area Housing Office administers on-campus housing for the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University. Accommodations for approximately 2,600 students are currently available in 12 halls on the Corps of Cadets Quad. Members of the Corps must reside in the Corps residence halls unless approved by the Commandant because they are married, living at home with family (in Bryan/College Station), or have prior military service.

Applications and more information can be found at oncampusaggies.tamu.edu.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS) provides services to all students who live off campus and attend Texas A&M University. OCSS offers educational programs and services including the following:

Off-Campus Housing Fair
An annual event where students can meet property owners/managers and community service providers to talk about their housing search needs.

AggieSearch
A free, web-based search system featuring a roommate search database and community housing information for students needing off-campus housing and/or roommates. Visit aggiesearch.tamu.edu.

Off-Campus Survival Manual
An annual publication which lists apartments, amenities, and tips for successful off-campus living. To obtain a copy of the Off-Campus Survival Manual, come by the office at Student Services @ White Creek or visit ocss.tamu.edu.
CAMPUS SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY

Internet 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. Some labs are open 24 hours a day. For a full list of locations, equipment, hours and usage, visit 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 100 of the Computing Services Center.

Learn more about this office during the Campus Services presentation during your New Student Conference!

AGGIE TERMINOLOGY

Howdy
“Howdy” is the official greeting of Texas A&M. Students greeting one another — and especially campus visitors — with a “howdy” has earned the university a reputation as the friendliest campus in the world. The origins of this tradition are unknown, but it is one that Aggies proudly continue.

Gig ‘Em
Aggies will often flash a thumbs up and say “Gig ‘Em!” This is a phrase that dates back to 1930. It was coined by PL “Pinky” Downs, a member of the Texas A&M Board of Regents and Class of 1906, when Downs asked the crowd at a yell practice before the 1930 TCU football game, “What are we going to do to those Horned Frogs?” Improvising, he borrowed the name of a sharp-pronged frog hunting tool called a gig, answering his own question by saying “Gig ‘Em, Aggies!” For emphasis, Downs made a fist with his thumb extended straight up.

Today, the phrase and thumbs-up gesture are a universal sign of approval for Aggies and identify an Aggie or an Aggie fan. Usually done with the right hand, the Gig ‘Em sign also showcases the Aggie Ring, which is traditionally worn on that hand. But even more than that, Gig ‘Em signals optimism, determination, loyalty, and the Aggie Spirit.

Whoop
Aggie upperclassmen and graduates will often say “Whoop!” as an expression of approval or excitement. It is most often used at the end of an Aggie yell. Underclassmen are not supposed to say the word until they have reached either junior or senior status.

Good Bull
“Good Bull” is a phrase used to describe anything that embraces or promotes the Aggie Spirit or the traditions of Texas A&M. It is also used to signify approval of virtually anything.

Former Student
“Former student” is the preferred term for an individual who is no longer a Texas A&M student. This term dates back to the university’s early days, when many students would attend school long enough to gain the necessary training and education but would not always graduate. Regardless of the length of time spent on campus, the devotion of these Aggies to Texas A&M remained strong. “Alumnus” is an acceptable term for graduates; however, “ex-Aggie” is not. Aggies strongly believe that, “once an Aggie, always an Aggie!”

For more information about traditions, visit tamu.edu/traditions.
DINING

Dining on campus is an essential part of the Aggie experience! Whether you are in the mood for BBQ, Tex-Mex, Italian, Indian or All-American classics, you are sure to find something that will please your palate! Each dining location strives to offer a range of options ensuring that wherever you are on campus you can find a satisfying meal. We create a dining experience that is just as unique as Texas A&M with input from students and the guidance of our on-campus leadership team that brings more than 150 combined years of food service management.

Flexibility and Convenience

Dining on campus is as simple as a swipe of your Aggie ID Card, so there is no need to carry cash, or deal with credit card fees. Northside residents are just steps away from Sbisa Dining Center, which features all-you-care-to-eat style dining. The Sbisa complex is also home to Einstein Brothers Bagels, Smashburger, Papa John’s Pizza and Smoothie King. Corps of Cadets members and students on the Southside of campus are conveniently located close to the Duncan Dining Center, another all-you-care-to eat facility, as well as the MSC upper and lower level food court, Starbucks in Evans Library and more! All locations accept dining dollars, cash and credit.

Dining Plans and More

- Dining Plans can be selected prior to the start of each semester by visiting dining.tamu.edu. Please visit the website for Dining Plan options, Dining Plan requirements, policies and frequently asked questions.
- Dining Plans are accepted at all locations on campus that are operated by University Dining.
- Special dietary needs can often be accommodated. To find out more, please visit dineoncampus.com/tamu/show.cfm?cmd=_dietician.
- For more information regarding Dining Plans, call (979) 845 3005 or email TAMUDining@compass-usa.com.

12TH MAN PASS

As a current student, a 12th Man Pass is your gateway to all Texas A&M Athletic events. With just one card, you can have access to every home event during the school year. The 12th Man Pass includes all regular season home events for Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, and Tennis. The 12th Man Pass is $290 for the Fall 2017-Spring 2018 academic year.

For more information visit 12thmanfoundation.com/students or visit the ticket office in the Zone at Kyle Field during your New Student Conference. For questions, call (979) 845 2311 or 1-888-99-AGGIE (888-992-4443).

TRANSPORTATION

The ability to park on campus is a great service provided to you as a student. Vehicles parked on campus are required to display a permit, except for those parked in designated visitor spaces. To get the best parking available, register online by the July 5 priority deadline. Also, the university operates an on-campus transit system that can be used by anyone on campus, fare-free. This is a quick and efficient mode of transportation for students who want to move about the campus. During the fall and spring semesters, regular on-campus transit service runs Monday through Friday, from approximately 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., with limited service until midnight and on the weekend.

For more information about parking permits or to view the Parking Rules and Regulations, visit Transportation Services online at parking.tamu.edu.

On-Campus Residents

If you register for parking prior to receiving your housing assignment, you will have an opportunity in July to make final changes to your parking (to match your housing assignment) without jeopardizing the priority of your request. A reminder will be sent to your Texas A&M email account.

Off-Campus Students

For students who live off campus, the university operates an off-campus transit system that serves most of the major apartment complexes and housing areas in College Station, as well as the Blinn College Campus. All transit services are included in student registration fees and do not require a bus pass, however, passengers must present a Texas A&M, Blinn or Brazos Transit District ID. This off-campus transit service operates Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., with reduced service until midnight and weekend service from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. More detailed information and maps are available online at transport.tamu.edu/busroutes.
GETTING INVOLVED
GETTING INVOLVED

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Activities believes in helping Aggies reach their fullest potential through leadership, involvement, and tradition! They develop leaders of character. From the Maroon & White Leadership Fellows to international leadership experiences and our Peer Leadership & Service Programs, our Leadership & Service Center will help you fulfill our core values of leadership and selfless service. We turn passion into involvement. With over 1000 recognized student organizations, Aggies can find their niche on campus. Check out the Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life that houses 50+ international chapters, or the Student Government Association and Class Councils that offer opportunities for Aggies to represent the student voice. Enhance your transition into the Aggie culture through extended orientation programs such as Fish Camp, Aggie Transition Camps, or Venture Camp. We are home to Texas A&M traditions. The “A&M Experience” would not be complete without the unique student-led Aggie traditions such as Midnight Yell Practice, Silver Taps, Muster, The Big Event, and Ring Dance. From the beginning of your time in Aggieland to the end, these Aggie traditions will give you memories for a lifetime, and Student Activities will be there supporting you along the way! For more information on how to get involved, visit stuact.tamu.edu.

CORPS OF CADETS

The Corps of Cadets is the largest, oldest and most visible student organization at Texas A&M. It is also one of the largest uniformed bodies of students in the nation, outside of the military academies. Currently over 2,450 young men and women are Corps members. It starts with a world-class University with over 140 years of tradition. The Corps then builds on that foundation, guiding cadets as they develop their leadership capabilities while enjoying the benefits of being at one of the nation’s premier universities. Academic excellence is the top priority of the Corps of Cadets offering scholastic advising, tutoring, cadet-led support programs as well as access to state-of-the-art academic facilities such as the Buzbee and Ash Leadership Learning Centers, located in the area of the Corps dorms known as the Quad. The Corps of Cadets has been developing leaders of character for our state and nation since 1876. Cadets learn leadership in a military-style environment that complements their academic education and prepares them for a lifetime of success. In addition to leadership opportunities in the Corps, our cadets gain valuable leadership experience in Student Government Association and other student activities. Many of Texas A&M’s most cherished traditions grew out of the Corps, including Midnight Yell Practice, Aggie Muster, and Silver Taps. The Corps views itself as the “Keepers of the Spirit” and the “Guardians of Tradition.” These endeavors add to the unique and cherished A&M experience for all students and create lifelong memories for the accomplished graduates of the Corps. Cadets live on campus with their unit in the Corps residence halls, building lifelong friendships with the members of their class as well as the upperclassmen. For more information, visit corps.tamu.edu.

HOWDY WEEK!

Howdy 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 campus, fellow Aggies and the Bryan/College Station community. Howdy Week is coordinated by the Office of New Student & Family Programs and takes place just before the Fall semester begins at Texas A&M University.

Howdy Week 2017 will be held August 20th - 27th. In August, visit howdyweek.tamu.edu to view a complete schedule of events.