NEW STUDENT CONFERENCES

FRESHMAN HANDBOOK

Are you ready for your New Student Conference (NSC)?

Students are expected to come to the NSC prepared. We encourage you to tear out this page to remind you of what you need to do before your NSC. Before your New Student Conference, be sure to:

- Make your NSC overnight accommodations. See page 5 in this book for details.
- Register any family members or guests who are attending the NSC with you. See page 16 and insert.
- Purchase an NSC parking permit. See page 6.
- Submit evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis. See page 7.
- Take your Math Placement Exam, Foreign Language Placement Test and/or Texas Success Initiative Assessment. See pages 7-8.
- Complete required online orientation via the Howdy Portal. See page 7.
- Complete the Lab Safety Acknowledgment via the Howdy Portal. See page 8.
- Begin checking your Texas A&M Gmail account. See page 17.
- Download the TAMU Mobile App in the App Store and Google Play!
Welcome to the Aggie Family! The next four years promise to be exciting ones for you. Texas A&M will connect you with students, faculty and staff from varied backgrounds, diverse cultures and unique experiences. Your time at Texas A&M will be spent in the pursuit of knowledge and the engagement of lifelong learning.

This New Student Conference Handbook was developed to help you make the most of your mandatory New Student Conference (NSC). Please take time to read through this and any other materials you receive from the university. These materials are valuable resources you can use throughout your first year at Texas A&M University.

At your NSC, you will learn about all the academic programs, student life services and co-curricular activities Texas A&M University has to offer. Your NSC is a critical component of your future success at Texas A&M University. Over the course of two days, you will participate in sessions and programs designed to assist in the transition from your previous environment to Texas A&M.

During your New Student Conference, you can expect to:

- Gain awareness of the university’s academic requirements, policies and procedures — including course selection and registration.
- Develop an awareness of information concerning personal safety and security on campus.
- Discover the broad range of student involvement and leadership opportunities on campus.
- Learn about the university’s offerings related to housing, dining, transportation, financial assistance, academic support and career guidance.
- Connect with current students to gain understanding of university expectations and ask questions.

Accompanying Family Members and/or Guests

Students are encouraged to share this publication with their family members and/or accompanying guests. The interior packet of this booklet has a publication catered to individuals supporting students through their academic pursuits. While the New Student Conference is only mandatory for students, we invite family members and guests to attend and participate in sessions designed for them. Registration for family members and guests is required and separate from the student registration process. Further details about registration and conference programs for family members are located inside.

New Student Conferences en Español

Thanks to the generosity of The Association of Former Students, the Office of New Student & Family Programs offers Spanish translation for family members and guests during the New Student Conference. Programs designated for Spanish translation will be noted in the NSC schedule and provided via headsets. Family members interested in having programs translated will need to visit the Help Desk on Day One of the NSC 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 details at newaggie.tamu.edu/es.

When you come to your New Student Conference, make sure you bring:

- NSC confirmation letter and this NSC Handbook. If you do not have your confirmation letter, print out a copy of the NSC Confirmation page in AUS (applicants.tamu.edu), which will be located on the ‘My App Status’ tab after clicking the Registration Details button.
- Transcripts for all college work previously completed, if they have not already been accepted by Texas A&M.
- Texas Success Initiative test results or scores showing exemption, if they have not already been sent to Texas A&M.
- Government-issued picture identification (driver’s license, passport, etc.) for verification at testing, and to get your Texas A&M ID card.
- Money for meals and extras.
- Comfortable clothes and walking shoes. You will be walking frequently around a large campus for different meetings.
- A light jacket. Weather during the summer in College Station is very hot and humid, but conference rooms can be chilly.
- Umbrella or rainsuit (as needed).
- A pen and paper to take notes.
- A refillable water bottle.
- Laptop computer (optional). You will have access to Texas A&M computers in the lab; however, some find it convenient to bring their own laptop to view the online course catalog, course schedules, etc.

Need a parking permit? Please visit transport.tamu.edu for more details and to purchase a parking permit.
Texas A&M University provides equal opportunity to all employees, students, applicants for employment or admission, and the public regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Texas A&M University will promptly investigate all complaints of illegal discrimination, sexual harassment, and related retaliation in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
The New Student Conference is a great time to meet other members of your class, learn more about Aggie traditions, participate in social programs, and interact with conference staff and Orientation Leaders. During your NSC, take advantage of the opportunity to gain valuable advice and get your questions answered as you start your journey at Texas A&M.

Orientation Leaders are students who volunteer their time to welcome and assist new students and their families. Members of the Aggie Orientation Leader Program (AOLP) can be identified by their distinctive maroon polos and welcoming smiles. These students are trained to help make the conference a memorable and fun experience. Have a question or a problem? Seek out an Orientation Leader — they’re here for you! Orientation Leaders work with the New Student & Family Programs staff and will be on hand to assist you throughout your conference. Visit aolp.tamu.edu.
Conference Preparations

Conference Dining

Howdy Lunch & Resource Tables (May, June & July conferences only)

Join conference participants and the Aggie community for lunch on Day One at Sbisa Dining Hall. Tickets are available for purchase at NSC Check-In and at the door. Lunch is not included in your registration fees.

Additionally, during this time university departments and offices will be available in the Memorial Student Center to discuss services and programs for new students.

Howdy Lunch is NOT offered for the August conference. The August NSC will have resource tables in the MSC during lunch time on Day 1. Details online.

Student/Family Dinner

Dinner on the evening of Day One of the New Student Conference is included in your conference fee for both students and registered guests. Enjoy a relaxed dinner on campus while you meet other students or family members and interact with the Aggie Orientation Leaders. See page 14 for more details.

Meals on Your Own

Texas A&M University Dining invites you to dine on campus during your New Student Conference. There are a variety of options around campus and students, parents and visitors are all welcome! For location and facility hours, please refer to the summer schedule handout you will receive at NSC Check-In.

Additional information regarding University Dining and dining plan options available at dining.tamu.edu, (979) 845-3005 or TAMUDining@compass-usa.com.

Overnight Accommodations

Both days of the New Student Conference are mandatory; therefore, you will need overnight accommodations for at least one night. 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 or off campus during your NSC.

On-Campus Accommodations (May, June & July Conferences only)

The Department of Residence Life invites you, family members, and guests to stay in New Student Conference (NSC) Overnight Accommodations. Our housing is an affordable option for any traveling students and families in need of a place to stay during their conference.

NSC Overnight Accommodations offers two options for students, families, and guests: residence halls and apartments. Both options tend to fill quickly and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Residence hall/apartment rates, registration, and more details for NSC Overnight Accommodations are online at http://reslife.tamu.edu/guests/nsc/. NSC Overnight Accommodations costs will be billed to the student’s account after the student and their family have checked out of their NSC Overnight Accommodations.

Students and families staying in NSC Overnight Accommodations may check in during the following times:

Pre-Conference Day: 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Zone Club
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at residence halls/apartments

Conference Day 1: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Zone Club
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at residence halls/apartments


Please bring items such as a cell phone, mattress pads, alarm clocks, blankets and pillows to use during your stay. Bed linens and towels are provided, but you may want to bring your own items to make your stay more comfortable. Each room has two twin beds in the residence halls. Apartment rooms are all single full size beds. Roll-away beds or cribs are not available.

On-Campus NSC Overnight Accommodations are NOT available for the August conference.

Off-Campus Accommodations

For accommodations in Bryan/College Station, please contact the Bryan/College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau at (979) 260-9898 or experiencebcs.com for information on area hotels and motels. If you are staying off campus, you will need to provide your own transportation.
New Student Conference Parking

Please read all information before purchasing a parking permit for your New Student Conference.

ALL vehicles must display a valid Texas A&M University parking permit when parked on university property (other than visitor parking areas that are available at an hourly rate). Attendees should select the option below that best meets their needs.

OPTION 1a: Purchase a New Student Conference Surface Lot Permit
The NSC Surface Lot Permit allow attendees to park in the following lots: 30, 40, 43, 50, 61, 71, 88, 100, 122, West Campus Garage and Southside Garage. The NSC Surface Lot Permit is $15 and only valid for the dates selected during the purchase process.

OPTION 1b: Purchase a New Student Conference Cain Garage Permit
The NSC Cain Garage Permit allows attendees to park in the following lots: 30, 40, 43, 50, 61, 71, 88, 100, 122, West Campus Garage, Southside Garage and Cain Garage. The newly constructed Cain Garage is located across the street from NSC check in and the Memorial Student Center offering the closest parking to all NSC activities. The NSC Cain Garage permit is $30, only valid for the dates selected during the purchase process and is recommended for individuals being housed in White Creek Apartments for their New Student Conference. Attendees purchasing the above permits must print the permit after purchase and display it on the dashboard at all times while parked on campus. When parking in West Campus Garage or Cain Garage, you must scan the barcode on your permit at entry and exit gates.

OPTION 2: Pay to Park in a Garage or Visitor Parking Area
If attendees do not wish to purchase one of the above NSC permits, they can pay hourly parking rates in Cain Garage, University Center Garage, Central Campus Garage, Northside Garage, West Campus Garage, or lots 24, 30, 51, 61, 72, 74, 88, 97 or 122. Payment for surface lots and Northside Garage is required upon arrival, and payment for other garages is required upon exit. Parking maps are available online at transport.tamu.edu/VISmap.

OPTION 3: Use Your Fall 2017 Permit (August NSC Attendees Only)
August NSC attendees who have ordered and received their Fall 2017 permit may display it and park in their assigned lot. All others must purchase a $20 Weekly Visitor permit and park in one of the Any Valid Permit areas shown on the map at transport.tamu.edu/AVPmap.

Transportation Services
(979) 862-PARK (7275)
transport.tamu.edu/nsc

Disability Services

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, visual, learning and/or mental health disabilities 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.

Representatives from Disability Services are available to meet with students and family members during New Student Conferences. If eligible, you may arrange for accommodations during your New Student Conference by submitting documentation of your disability to Disability Services at least two weeks prior to your New Student Conference.

Disability Services
701 West Campus Blvd
Student Services at White Creek,
Bldg. 0062
(979) 845-1637
disability.tamu.edu
Bacterial Meningitis Documentation

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 you submit documentation at least two weeks prior to your NSC.

The law further states that students must receive the vaccination no later than 10 days before the first day of the semester in which the student enrolls. Therefore, all new students enrolling for the fall 2017 semester must receive the vaccination by August 17 or before your conference (whichever date is earlier). For students attending the August 21-22 conference, you are strongly encouraged to submit your Evidence of Vaccination by July 7 so that you can be preregistered for your classes by your academic advisor.

Upload your proof of vaccination through AIS (applicant.tamu.edu) by choosing the link under the “Upload Supporting Documents” section. You will be able to view receipt of your immunization document on AIS under the Documents tab within the next 24 hours. Please allow a few days for Office of Admissions staff to complete processing on your immunization document.

To determine if you have satisfied the evidence of vaccination requirement for bacterial meningitis, go to the AIS website and ensure that a check mark is present on the bacterial meningitis checklist item found under the “Documents Required prior to Enrollment/Registration” section.

If you arrive at your New Student Conference and have not yet fulfilled this requirement, you will not be able to check in and must take care of your immunization requirement immediately. For more information including where to send your documentation, visit admissions.tamu.edu/meningitis/.

Math Placement Exam

All freshmen are required to take the MPE. Students will not be permitted to register for any mathematics course until MPE test scores are on file.

How to access the MPE: The MPE is taken online. To take the MPE, log into howdy.tamu.edu and go to the “Applicant Tab” and follow the instructions for the Math Placement Exam.

Use the online review material available at math.tamu.edu/placement/ to help you prepare for the 90-minute MPE. Be prepared to spend the full 90 minutes taking the exam. No calculators or help from other resources is permitted on the MPE.

If you experience any technical difficulties, please contact the Department of Mathematics at mathassessment@math.tamu.edu.

Online Orientation

All freshmen 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 Applicant Tab in 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.

Lab Safety Acknowledgment

Many 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 NSC to ensure registration access.


If you need assistance, please contact the Office of the Registrar at (979) 845-7117.
Texas Success Initiative (TSI) 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 criteria or pass the TSI Assessment.

You can check to see if you 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, so it is critical that students satisfy this requirement two weeks prior to their scheduled NSC date.

Not all incoming students need to take the TSI Assessment Test. A list of possible exemptions can be found at: http://successcenter.tamu.edu/Texas-Success-Initiative/TSI-Exemptions. If you believe you are exempt but a red X is present in your AIS Checklist, further documentation is needed to verify your exemption. Please contact the Academic Success Center at (979) 845-2724.

All students who are not exempt must first complete the mandatory TSI Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) and then take the TSI Assessment test. 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. For more information about fulfilling the TSI requirement, exemptions and testing options, please visit http://newaggie.tamu.edu/freshmen/prepare-for-your-ncs/testing/.

Foreign Language Placement Testing

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, however it is highly recommended you complete the placement test. Heritage language learners must always take the placement test, regardless of their scores on high school tests or college level credit examinations, 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 these tests.

All tests are administered the day before the New Student Conference. 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 conference.

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.
Conference Questions?
For information concerning conference registration for students, please contact:
Office of Admissions
(979) 845-1060
admissions@tamu.edu
Visit applicant.tamu.edu, select Contact Us, Ask a Question, and submit your question.

For information concerning conference programs or family/guest registration, please contact:
New Student & Family Programs
(979) 845-5826
nsfp@tamu.edu
newaggie.tamu.edu
Participate in the Class of 2021 community service project!

The Aggie Orientation Leader Program, in partnership with the Brazos Valley Food Bank, will be collecting canned food goods for donation throughout the summer.

If you are interested in participating, we invite you to bring one or more goods for donation to Check-In on the Pre-Conference Day or Day One of your NSC. No student or family member is required to bring a donation in order to fully participate in the New Student Conference.
You will receive an official schedule at Check-In; however, the following pages will provide an overview of the NSC Schedule and programs. Date specific schedules are posted on the newaggie.tamu.edu website one week prior to your New Student Conference date.

Times, locations and specific program descriptions in this publication are subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Residence Hall Tours</td>
<td>Available to guests wishing to see furnished rooms of Hullabaloo Hall, Modular, Corridor, Balcony and Ramp style buildings. For specific times visit reslife.tamu.edu/conferencesTours/reshallTours or call (979) 845-0557. In addition to the regular Residence Hall Tours, we offer White Creek tours and Commons tours. White Creek tours run from 12:00 - 4:30 (the last tour leaves at 4:30). Commons tours will run from 12:00 - 4:30 (the last tour leaves at 4:30).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>On-Campus Conference Housing Check-In</td>
<td>Students and families staying in on-campus conference housing may check into housing at the following times: 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Zone Club of Kyle Field, 1st Floor 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the residence hall/apartment where you will be staying. Please call (979) 845-2821 if you arrive after 8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Check-In</td>
<td>You will receive all of your orientation materials, including a map and official conference schedule. You will also have the opportunity to clear any holds on your account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Campus Tours</td>
<td>Get acquainted with the campus, its unique history, and the traditions of Texas A&amp;M. Orientation Leaders will conduct walking tours of central campus, departing from conference Check-In about every 10 minutes. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes, and bring an umbrella in case of inclement weather. An alternative tour is available for those who would prefer a virtual tour experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times Vary</td>
<td>TSI Assessment Test</td>
<td>Students who are not exempt from the Texas Success Initiative and have not taken the TSI Assessment Test prior to the conference must do so at this time, or they will not be allowed to register for classes. See page 8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Money Tips for Students</td>
<td>During college, students have to make tough financial decisions which can help shape the rest of their lives. This presentation provides recommendations which can help students be more financially successful during college so that they can be in a great financial position upon graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Fraternity and Sorority Life Session</td>
<td>Almost 5,000 Aggies have chosen to experience fraternity or sorority life at Texas A&amp;M. Learn about the impact Greek life has on campus and the community. We want to tell you how you could fit into the picture!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Corps of Cadets Open House</td>
<td>Joining the Corps or seeking more information? Stop by the Corps of Cadets Open House to meet with outfit representatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Social with the Orientation Leaders</td>
<td>The Aggie Orientation Leader Program and The Association of Former Students invite new students and family members for light refreshments as you explore the different exhibits on display at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center. This is a casual, come and go social where Orientation Leaders will host activities and be available to answer your questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>Utilize the Rec Center at your leisure. Check in at the Rec Center’s Member Services Desk to gain passes. Equipment fees may apply. Proper attire is required. Family members under 18 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pre-Conference Day (May, June, & July Only)

There are two days of required NSC programs, however we encourage you to arrive on the day prior to your New Student Conference, what we refer to as the Pre-Conference Day. For example, if you are registered for the June 13–14 conference, your Pre-Conference Day will take place on June 12.

You will have the opportunity to take advantage of supplemental programming, go through Check-In early, have your student ID made and take care of many of the other to-do items on your NSC Schedule Checklist. Students attending the Pre-Conference Day typically experience shorter wait times to accomplish necessary tasks. If you do not attend the Pre-Conference Day, then you should note that Check-In on the morning of Day One is mandatory.

*For the August Conference, the only Pre-Conference event is the Evening Social with the Orientation Leaders. There is not an early Check-In. Additionally, evening programs on Day One will vary. Please visit newaggie.tamu.edu/freshmen/at-your-nsc/nsd-dates-freshman/ to view a full August Conference schedule.

International students: Please keep in mind when choosing a New Student Conference date that you are required to attend a Check-In appointment with International Student Services the day prior to your New Student Conference. Please visit newaggie.tamu.edu/international-students for additional information.

Class T-Shirts

Purchase your Official Class of 2021 T-Shirt! T-shirts are $15 each and will be available at Check-In.
## Day One

The first mandatory event of your NSC begins with Check-In, provided you did not arrive and check-in on the Pre-Conference Day. Programs on Day One provide an overview of resources and services available to students and highlight important details for your transition to Texas A&M.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AUDIENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Check-In</td>
<td>You will receive all of your orientation materials, including a map and official conference schedule. You will also have the opportunity to clear any holds on your account.</td>
<td>Mandatory for all participants if you did not check in on the Pre-Conference Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Campus Tours</td>
<td>Get acquainted with the campus, its unique history and the traditions of Texas A&amp;M. Orientation Leaders will conduct 45-minute walking tours of central campus, departing from conference Check-In about every 10 minutes. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes, and bring an umbrella in case of inclement weather. An alternative tour is available for those who would prefer a virtual tour experience.</td>
<td>Optional but encouraged for all participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>On-Campus Accommodations Check-In</td>
<td>Students and families staying in on-campus accommodations may check in at the following times: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Zone Club of Kyle Field, 1st Floor 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at hall/apartments Please call (979) 845-2821 if you arrive after 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>If applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.</td>
<td>Veteran Services Session</td>
<td>Learn how to get the most out of your military educational benefits and the veteran services and resources available at Texas A&amp;M.</td>
<td>Mandatory for veterans; highly suggested for military dependents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional School Advising Session {or}</td>
<td>This program is important for first-year students interested in careers in medicine, dentistry, allied health, veterinary medicine, law or teacher certification for secondary education. Attendance is strongly recommended for all students interested in one of these professions, regardless of major.</td>
<td>If applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From Backpack to Briefcase</td>
<td>Learn the essential campus resources provided by Transition Academic Programs, the Academic Success Center, Student Counseling Service and Career Center that help students make a smooth transition to college, succeed in a collegiate academic setting, and further personal career development.</td>
<td>Optional but encouraged for all participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome Session</td>
<td>This opening session is your formal welcome to the Aggie Family from New Student &amp; Family Programs!</td>
<td>Mandatory session for all participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Joining a Community of Scholars</td>
<td>This session will provide you with important information about the opportunities, rights and responsibilities as a new member of Texas A&amp;M’s Community of Scholars.</td>
<td>Mandatory session for all participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Academic Meeting</td>
<td>This session will provide you with critical information regarding academic policies and course registration.</td>
<td>Mandatory session for all participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.</td>
<td>Keys to Financial Matters</td>
<td>Staff from Student Business Services and Scholarships &amp; Financial Aid will discuss tuition and fees, how to pay your bill, deadlines and financial resources including scholarships, grants and loans.</td>
<td>Mandatory session for all participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:35 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Campus Services Session</td>
<td>Learn more about the support services offered to you such as transportation, dining and computing.</td>
<td>Mandatory session for all participants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Day One Afternoon/Evening**

On the afternoon and evening of Day One of the conference, we offer a separate track of activities for students and family members. Beginning with the Student Dinner at 5:15 p.m., these programs are optional, but many participants tell us these activities were the highlight of their conference experience. This is a great opportunity to interact with your peers and learn more about Aggie Life from our Orientation Leaders!

**STUDENT TRACK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AUDIENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:10 p.m. –</td>
<td><strong>Aggies Engage</strong></td>
<td>Learn the keys to academic success from a Texas A&amp;M faculty member. Presenters will provide insights to the academic expectations set for students, as well as tips for succeeding during your first semester and beyond as a college student.</td>
<td>Mandatory session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:50 p.m. –</td>
<td><strong>Aggieland... A Community of Respect</strong></td>
<td>Centered around the Core Value of Respect and the university’s commitment to diversity, this program reviews your role in fostering a warm and welcoming community for every Aggie.</td>
<td>Mandatory session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45 p.m. –</td>
<td><strong>Step In, Stand Up in Aggieland</strong></td>
<td>This session provides information about our students’ rights and available resources pertaining to the prevention of and response to sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, stalking and related retaliation. Students will learn how each one of us can commit to a safe and welcoming campus community.</td>
<td>Mandatory session.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### STUDENT TRACK (CONTINUED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Student Dinner</td>
<td>This is an opportunity to relax and dine with your fellow classmates! It is a great time to meet other Aggies and chat with Orientation Leaders. The dinner is free for new students participating in the conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>CSI: Aggieland</td>
<td>Focusing on “Campus Safety Issues,” this session will inform students of the tough safety and social issues many college students face, as well as the resources available at Texas A&amp;M to support them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Aggie Insights</td>
<td>Want to find out everything about Aggieland but not sure whom to ask? Aggie Insights offers the chance for new students to meet in small, informal groups with Orientation Leaders. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions about college life, and Orientation Leaders will share their personal experiences as students at Texas A&amp;M.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FAMILY TRACK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:10 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.</td>
<td>Partners in Success (or)</td>
<td>Explore the challenges faced by new students during their transition to college, and how the university and families can partner to provide support to increase student success.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Generation Partners in Success</td>
<td>Family members of first generation college students can attend this version of our Partners in Success presentation that specifically highlights first-gen student success.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Your Student's Academic Success</td>
<td>An Aggie faculty member will provide insights to the Texas A&amp;M classroom experience and offer resources for supporting your student academically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Introduction to Aggie Family Programs</td>
<td>Members of the New Student &amp; Family Programs staff will offer an introduction to the various Aggie Family Programs in place to support parents and families throughout their student's time at Texas A&amp;M University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Ask an Aggie</td>
<td>A panel of current students will provide an expanded Q&amp;A session to address any questions or concerns and give their perspective on life at Texas A&amp;M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Family Dinner</td>
<td>This relaxed dinner is a great way to meet other family members and interact with the Aggie Orientation Leaders. The cost of this dinner is included in the family member registration charge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSCs in Español Family Dinner</td>
<td>This version of our Family Dinner is designed especially for family members who would like to connect with other Spanish-speaking families.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AUDIENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Being an Aggie and Yell Practice</td>
<td>Being an Aggie means developing in many aspects! Hear from current student leaders on what it truly means to be an Aggie. The evening concludes with the Aggie Yell Leaders leading you in your first Yell Practice as a member of the Class of 2021!</td>
<td>Students and family members will join back together for this session.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Day Two

On Day Two of the New Student Conference, students will spend the day with their academic college and register for courses. Please be prepared to remain until 6:00 p.m., if necessary, to complete registration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AUDIENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>College Meetings and Academic Advising</td>
<td>These meetings provide the opportunity to meet with representatives from your specific college who will discuss requirements and answer questions you have about your major. You will also meet in small groups with an academic advisor to help prepare you for registration.</td>
<td>Mandatory session for all participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times Vary</td>
<td>Lunch on Your Own</td>
<td>See handout for dining locations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Course Registration</td>
<td>Students will register for their fall classes and optional campus services. Academic advisors will be available to answer any questions you may have. Please be prepared to remain until 6:00 p.m., if necessary, to complete registration.</td>
<td>Mandatory session for all participants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Veteran and Dependent Services and Resources

At Texas A&M University, we take great pride in our standing as a national leader in service to our veterans and other military-affiliated students. We are committed to serving well those who have served through a uniquely collaborative support network that provides personalized resources and services. Our two offices, the Veteran Resource and Support Center and the Veteran Services Office, have a unique and powerful relationship that is specifically designed to facilitate your transition and success.

The Veteran Resource and Support Center serves the needs of all veterans and military-affiliated students with uniquely tailored campus and community resources. The Veteran Services Office provides services and support for all of your VA and state educational benefits. In addition to certifying your benefits, they can answer questions and provide assistance with financial aid and scholarships. We are here to serve you and connect you to the rest of campus. THANK YOU for your service to our country, and we stand ready to serve you as you pursue your education.

Services from the Veteran Resource and Support Center:

- Academic support and student life skills through the Aggie Vet Network and Vet Connect programs.
- Course credit for military service, academic resources and military service withdrawals.
- Military admissions and Vet Success (VA) on Campus Support.
- Relocation/housing and Disability Services assistance referrals.
- Student Veterans Association (aggieveteranlife.com).
- Corps of Cadets Delta Company — for combat veterans who want to join the Corps.

Veteran Resource and Support Center
Koldus Building, Suite 112
(979) 845-3161
aggievets@tamu.edu

Student Veterans Association
aggieveteranlife.com

Services from both the Veteran Services Office and the Veteran Resource and Support Center:

- A mandatory New Student Conference orientation for student veterans (highly encouraged for military dependents).
- VetCamp (held in the fall and spring) — an in-depth orientation about campus and community resources (spouses welcome).

When do Classes Begin?
The first day of summer one term classes is May 30 and summer two term is July 5. The first day of the 2017 Fall Semester is August 28.
How can I change my Conference Date?

You are required to attend the conference date for which you are registered. Students are not allowed to participate in a conference they are not registered for in advance. You can change your conference date as long as dates are available on the NSC registration website, accessible through applicant.tamu.edu (AIS). As dates are filled they are removed from the site and are no longer available due to capacity limits.

Students will not be forced into conferences to accommodate changes in their personal schedule due to work conflicts or travel. Appeals to change into a restricted or full conference are only granted for military orders, medical emergencies or extreme extenuating circumstances which students can substantiate with written documentation.

Appeals are submitted online at applicant.tamu.edu by going to the ‘Contact Us’ tab, clicking ‘Ask A Question’, and selecting a subject type of ’NSC Appeal’ and completing the required fields.

If a family member or guest plans to attend the NSC with me, do they need to register?

Yes. Each family member or guest who wishes to attend must register online and pay the respective conference charges. Registration for family members is a separate process from the student registration. For more information and to register, please visit newaggie.tamu.edu/family-and-guests. Priority registration is open until May 1; after May 1, additional charges will apply. For questions related to family member registration, contact New Student & Family Programs at aggiefamilies@tamu.edu or (979) 845-5826. See “Aggie Family Member” insert for more information.

Who do I contact with questions about advanced placement scores?

For questions regarding scoring or how courses will apply to your degree plan, please contact your academic advisor. If you took an Advanced Placement test in May, scores will not be received by Texas A&M University until mid-July. Students should only accept AP credit after consulting with their academic advisor, which you can do during your NSC. Contact information for academic colleges is on the back cover of this handbook.

When do I pay for tuition, fees, & optional campus services?

Tuition and fees payment information may be found online at sbs.tamu.edu. Students will have access to view fee statements and pay online beginning in August. An email notification will be sent to the student’s Texas A&M Gmail account with a link to the online statement when fees for the fall term have been calculated.

Students attending August conferences are encouraged to pay tuition and fees immediately after registering. Payments may be submitted online or in person at the General Services Complex in Suite 2801 (expect long lines in August).

Payment options include:

- Online credit cards and e-checks.
- Check, cashier’s check or money order.
- Wire transfer.
- Installment plan.
- Emergency tuition and fee loans — see Loan Applications at financialaid.tamu.edu for details.

In addition to registering for your classes during your New Student Conference, you will have the opportunity to select from various optional services. These may include dining plans, parking permits and a sports pass. Any optional services that you select will appear on your fee statement in addition to your tuition and any required fees. A list and description of required and optional fees can be found at sbs.tamu.edu.
Extended Programming for Incoming Students

Extended orientation programs are designed to provide new students with additional opportunities to socialize and network with new and continuing students. While attendance at a New Student Conference is mandatory for all new undergraduate students, participation in extended orientation programs, such as Fish Camp, is optional but highly encouraged! For information on the various programs available, please visit newaggie.tamu.edu/freshmen/after/.

Howdy Week: Aggieland's Week of Welcome, August 20–27

Your classes are set, you've moved in, and you have learned some of the traditions that make this place so special...what's next? Howdy Week! This week is full of events and opportunities for new and returning students to become familiar or reacquainted with the Texas A&M campus, fellow Aggies and the Bryan/College Station community.

Howdy Week provides you an opportunity to learn more about the campus, other students and college life in general through a series of educational and social events sponsored by university departments, colleges, student organizations, residence halls and community members. Howdy Week is coordinated by the Office of New Student & Family Programs and takes place the week before classes begin in the fall. For more information, please visit howdyweek.tamu.edu.

Texas A&M Gmail

As a confirmed new student, you now have a Texas A&M Gmail account. Your email address is NetID@tamu.edu. Your NetID is the same ID you use to log in to Howdy and the Applicant Information System (AIS). You should start checking your Texas A&M Gmail account regularly because important information will be sent there prior to your New Student Conference.

To check your email, visit google.tamu.edu and log in with your NetID and password. You can also set up Texas A&M Gmail on your smartphone so you won't miss any important emails! To learn how, visit u.tamu.edu/mobileemail.

If you have questions about your Texas A&M Gmail account or NetID, call the Texas A&M Information Technology Help Desk Central at (979) 845-8300 or visit IT.tamu.edu.
Need directions?

This map highlights locations specific to NSC programs. A more comprehensive map will be provided at NSC Check-In and is also available at maps.tamu.edu.

NSC Check-In is held in the Zone Club (north end zone) of Kyle Field. The physical address for Kyle Field is:
198 Joe Routt Blvd.
College Station, TX 77843
Welcome to the Aggie Family! The next four years promise to be exciting ones for you. Texas A&M will connect you with students, faculty and staff from varied backgrounds, diverse cultures and unique experiences. Your time at Texas A&M will be spent in the pursuit of knowledge and the engagement of lifelong learning.

This New Student Conference Handbook was developed to help you make the most of your mandatory New Student Conference (NSC). Please take time to read through this and any other materials you receive from the university. These materials are valuable resources you can use throughout your first year at Texas A&M University.

At your NSC, you will learn about all the academic programs, student life services and co-curricular activities Texas A&M University has to offer. Your NSC is a critical component of your future success at Texas A&M University. Over the course of two days, you will participate in sessions and programs designed to assist in the transition from your previous environment to Texas A&M.

During your New Student Conference, you can expect to:
- Gain awareness of the university’s academic requirements, policies and procedures — including course selection and registration.
- Develop an awareness of information concerning personal safety and security on campus.
- Discover the broad range of student involvement and leadership opportunities on campus.
- Learn about the university’s offerings related to housing, dining, transportation, financial assistance, academic support and career guidance.
- Connect with current students to gain understanding of university expectations and ask questions.

Students are encouraged to share this publication with their family members and/or accompanying guests. The interior packet of this booklet has a publication catered to individuals supporting students through their academic pursuits. While the New Student Conference is only mandatory for students, we invite family members and guests to attend and participate in sessions designed for them. Registration for family members and guests is required and separate from the student registration process. Further details about registration and conference programs for family members are located inside.

New Student Conferences en Español

Thanks to the generosity of The Association of Former Students, the Office of New Student & Family Programs offers Spanish translation for family members and guests 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 on Day One of the NSC to receive a headset. Additionally, a Spanish-speaking staff member will be available at Check-in and the Help Desk for family members who need assistance 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 details at newaggie.tamu.edu/es.

Need a parking permit? Please visit transport.tamu.edu for more details and to purchase a parking permit.
Are you ready for your New Student Conference (NSC)?

Students are expected to come to the NSC prepared. We encourage you to tear out this page to remind you of what you need to do before your NSC. Before your New Student Conference, be sure to:

- Make your NSC overnight accommodations. See page 5 in this book for details.
- Register any family members or guests who are attending the NSC with you. See page 16 and insert.
- Purchase an NSC parking permit. See page 6.
- Submit evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis. See page 7.
- Take your Math Placement Exam, Foreign Language Placement Test and/or Texas Success Initiative Assessment. See pages 7-8.
- Complete required online orientation via the Howdy Portal. See page 7.
- Complete the Lab Safety Acknowledgment via the Howdy Portal. See page 8.
- Begin checking your Texas A&M Gmail account. See page 17.
- Download the TAMU Mobile App in the App Store and Google Play!

Academic Colleges

- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
  (979) 845-3712
  aglifesciences.tamu.edu
- College of Architecture
  (979) 845-1144
  arch.tamu.edu
- Mays Business School
  (979) 862-3850
  mays.tamu.edu
- College of Education & Human Development
  (979) 845-5011
  ed.tamu.edu
- College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
  (979) 845-4941
  vetmed.tamu.edu
- College of Science
  (979) 845-7261
  science.tamu.edu
- College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
  (979) 845-7261
  engineering.tamu.edu
- College of Geosciences
  (979) 845-5001
  geosciences.tamu.edu
- College of Liberal Arts
  (979) 845-5141
  liberalarts.tamu.edu
- College of Science
  (979) 845-7261
  science.tamu.edu
- College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
  (979) 845-4941
  vetmed.tamu.edu
- College of Public Health
  (979) 845-4941
  sph.tamhsc.edu
- Transition Academic Programs
  Blinn TEAM and Gateway
  (979) 845-5006
  tap.tamu.edu

FRESHMAN HANDBOOK

newaggie.tamu.edu

Download the TAMU Mobile App

Download the free TAMU Mobile App available on the App Store and Google Play. It has everything you need for your NSC: schedule, checklists, event information and more.