

January 10-11, 2018

Howdy and welcome to the Aggie family! The next few 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.

Whether you are a first-year student or transfer student, you bring valuable college and life experiences to our community. Many of you have taken college coursework, but are new to the academic experience at Texas A&M. Because of that, we've designed a New Student Conference (NSC) with knowledge specific to joining the Aggie Family.

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.

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!

Family Members Attending the New Student Conference

While the New Student Conference is mandatory only for students, we invite family members to attend and participate in a variety of sessions and services specifically designed for family members. Texas A&M University believes the college experience represents a collaboration involving the student, the family of the student and the University. Family members accompanying students to the New Student Conference will receive valuable information to aid them in supporting the student's transition into the Texas A&M University community.

Students will register their family members through the Application Information System (AIS) at applicant.tamu.edu. Each adult family member (18 and over) who wishes to attend must be registered online through the Applicant Information System and pay the \$25 conference charge. The conference charge for family members 5-17 years old is \$10. There is no charge for children under 5. *While all family members are welcome to attend, conference activities are not designed for the enjoyment of younger children. If possible, alternate arrangements are encouraged.*

For more information on family registration, please visit newaggie.tamu.edu/family-and-guests. Online registration is open through 11:59 p.m. on January 2. On-site registration will be available for \$35 per adult (18+) family member; however, we **highly suggest** registering online in advance. For questions related to family member registration, contact New Student & Family Programs at aggiefamilies@tamu.edu or (979) 845-5826.

New Student Conferences en Español

Thanks to the generosity of The Association of Former Students, New Student & Family Programs offers Spanish translation for family members during the New Student Conference. Programs designated for Spanish translation will be noted in the NSC schedule and provided via headset. 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. Family members interested in having programs translated will need to visit the Help Desk in Rudder Tower on Day 1 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. More information is available at newaggie.tamu.edu/es.

Requirements Prior to Your New Student Conference

Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Requirement

All students under the age of 22 entering an institution of higher education must 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 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 NSC and registering for classes, so it is imperative you fulfill this requirement *two weeks prior to arriving at your NSC*. For more information about this requirement, please visit admissions.tamu.edu/meningitis.

Upload your proof of vaccination through the Applicant Information System, applicant.tamu.edu, by choosing the link under the "Upload Supporting Documents" section. You will be able to view receipt of your immunization document 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.

Lab Safety Acknowledgement Requirement

Some courses require students to submit a Lab Safety Acknowledgement (LSA) before registration is permitted. All NSC attendees must submit the LSA prior to their New Student Conference to ensure registration access. Instructions for submitting your LSA via the Howdy Portal are available at newaggie.tamu.edu/lab-safety-acknowledgment/. If you need assistance, please contact the Office of the Registrar at (979) 845-7117.

Math Placement Exam

Transfer Students: If you have completed the math courses needed for your degree at Texas A&M, then you do not need to take the Math Placement Exam (MPE). If you still need to take the required math course for your degree at Texas A&M, then you are required to take the MPE. If you have taken a precalculus course equivalent to MATH 150 (TCCNS 2412) at another institution, your Texas A&M advisor might be able to substitute that course for MATH 150; otherwise, you will have to take the MPE.

Freshman Students: 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: 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.

Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

Some students may need to take the TSI Assessment prior to their NSC. Many transfer students are exempt from the TSI. Review possible exemptions at successcenter.tamu.edu/Texas-Success-Initiative/TSI-Exemptions.

Students who are not exempt must first complete the TSI Pre-Assessment Activity and then take the TSI Assessment Test. Nonexempt students will be blocked from registering for all classes during the New Student Conference until the TSI Assessment Test has been taken and scores are on file at Texas A&M University.

Students need to register for the test by contacting Testing Services at (979) 845-0532. Students may take the TSI Assessment Test at most Texas public colleges in their area and send the scores to the Academic Success Center at Texas A&M University. If you have already taken the TSI Assessment test at another testing center but do not have a copy of your score report, contact Texas A&M Testing Services and provide the following information: name of testing center where the TSI exam was taken, student's first and last name, and student's date of birth. Testing Services will be able to access your scores with this information.

If you have further questions concerning the Texas Success Initiative, please contact the Academic Success Center at (979) 845-2724 or visit successcenter.tamu.edu/Texas-Success-Initiative.

Language Placement Exams

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, but it is highly recommended. Heritage language learners must always take the placement test, regardless of their scores on high school tests, 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 this test.

Tests are administered the day before the New Student Conference along with credit by examination tests. The test will also be offered at various times during the semester. 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 first semester. 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.

Testing Accommodations

Disability Services (DS) provides testing accommodations for eligible students with disabilities. Reasonable testing accommodations are provided to allow students with documented disabilities an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. In order to receive testing accommodations for any of the tests offered through New Student Conferences, the student must submit documentation to DS at least two weeks prior to the scheduled testing date. Please contact the Disability Services office at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu.

For more information about the Math Placement Exam, Texas Success Initiative, and Language Placement Exams, visit newaggie.tamu.edu/transfer/testing or newaggie.tamu.edu/freshmen/testing.

Preparing for Your New Student Conference

New Student Conference Parking

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

New Student Conference attendees must either purchase an annual, daily, or weekly permit, or they can pay by the hour to park in a visitor facility. It is important to note that ALL vehicles must display a valid Texas A&M University parking permit when parked on university property (other than pay-by-the-hour visitor parking areas). Attendees should select the option that best meets their needs from the ones described below.

The most convenient parking locations for NSC Check-In and Day One include Cain Garage, West Campus Garage and lot 61. Day Two events take place at various locations throughout campus as determined by academic colleges.

OPTION 1: Use your annual permit

Attendees who have purchased their annual Texas A&M parking permit may choose to use their parking permit and park on conference dates in any of the lots listed on the Break & Summer Parking Map at transport.tamu.edu/BSMmap. If you have not yet received your annual permit in the mail, a printed receipt may be displayed on the dashboard as a temporary permit for up to 14 days after purchase.

OPTION 2: Purchase a daily or weekly permit

The Daily or Weekly permits are \$5/day or \$20/week and allow attendees to park in the following lots during semester breaks: 30, 40, 43, 50, 61, 71, 88 and 100. These permits are non-refundable, only valid for the dates selected during the purchase process and available online only. Attendees will print the receipt at the end of the purchasing process to use as a permit. Permits must be displayed on the dashboard at all times while parked on campus. These permits are not valid in the hourly pay spaces located within these lots.

OPTION 3: Pay-by-the-hour parking

If attendees do not wish to purchase one of the above permits, they may park in University Center Garage, Cain Garage, Central Campus Garage, Northside Garage, West Campus Garage, the Golf Lot or lots 24, 30c, 40a, 51, 61, 72, 74, 88, 97 or 122 and pay the hourly rates. Payments for lots and Northside Garage is required upon arrival and payment for other garages is required upon exit. See transport.tamu.edu/visitor for more about the garages and rates.

Purchasing a Parking Permit

To purchase an annual or daily/weekly permit go to transport.tamu.edu/account.

- 1) Sign in using your NetID login and password.
- 2) Click "Purchase Permits".
- 3) Choose the daily, weekly or preferred annual permit from the "Choose a Permit" dropdown list.
- 4) Print the permit receipt and display on your dashboard at all times while parked on campus.

Overnight Accommodations

The NSC is a two day experience therefore overnight accommodations are needed. For information on local accommodations in Bryan/College Station, contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau at (979) 260-9898 or www.visitaggieland.com. Your own transportation to and from campus is needed.

Conference Check-In & Schedules

- All participants must officially check in to the conference on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 between 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. Conference Check-In is in the Zone Club at Kyle Field (entrance located at the North West Side of Kyle Field, near Wellborn Road and Joe Routh Blvd).
- A sample New Student Conference Schedule will be available by Monday, December 18 at newaggie.tamu.edu.

What to Bring to Your Conference

- Transcripts for all college work previously completed that have not already been sent to Texas A&M University (official transcripts must be in a sealed school envelope or sent directly from the institution to Texas A&M University for evaluation and transfer of credit). Unofficial transcripts can be used in advising sessions.
- Test results or scores for the Texas Success Initiative requirements, if not previously reported.
- Government issued photo ID (driver's license, passport, military ID, etc.) to receive your student ID card.
- Casual, weather appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes.
- Money for meals and extras. Credit cards are not accepted at all venues.
- A pad of paper and pen to take notes.
- Parking permit for use during your conference (details on page 4).

Start checking your Texas A&M Gmail account as our office will send important information regarding the New Student Conference.

To check your email, visit google.tamu.edu and log in with your NetID and password.

We look forward to seeing you in January!



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For information concerning conference registration for students:

Office of Admissions
(979) 845-1060
admissions@tamu.edu
applicant.tamu.edu

For information concerning family member registration or conference programs:

New Student & Family Programs
(979) 845-5826
nsfp@tamu.edu
newaggie.tamu.edu

For information regarding accommodations during your New Student Conference:

Disability Services
(979) 845-1637
disability@tamu.edu
disability.tamu.edu