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 you will become familiar with during your New Student Conference and Gig ‘Em Week. We hope you are excited about all the opportunities Texas A&M has to offer. Many things may change for you over the next few months; we hope that 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’re on campus for your New Student Conference, available campus services, academic information, as well as involvement opportunities.

Our office 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, along with the [newaggie.tamu.edu](http://newaggie.tamu.edu) website, provide you with important information and help prepare you for your transition to Aggieland. New Student & Family Programs hosts your New Student Conference, and after that we invite you to join us at Gig ‘Em Week: Aggieland’s Week of Welcome. Gig ‘Em Week events begin on move-in day, August 23rd, and ends with Undergraduate Convocation on August 30th. Gig ‘Em Week is a great way to meet many new and returning students in a relaxed and entertaining atmosphere.

We look forward to welcoming you to your New Student Conference. We encourage you to make the most of your experience by participating to the fullest extent in all of the conference programs. There are numerous programs that provide a greater awareness of the university’s academic requirements and resources, as well as an opportunity to meet new and current Aggies. For a detailed listing of the New Student Conference programs, please refer to [newaggie.tamu.edu/freshmen/at-your-nsc/programs/](http://newaggie.tamu.edu/freshmen/at-your-nsc/programs/).

New Student & Family Programs is with you every step of the way to ensure your success as a student. We look forward to finally meeting you at your New Student Conference. Until then, if you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at (979) 845-5826 or visit our website at [studentlife.tamu.edu/nsfp](http://studentlife.tamu.edu/nsfp).
TABLE OF CONTENTS

New Student Conference (NSC)

4 Before your Conference
   Required Immunizations
5 What to Expect at your NSC
   Changing your Major

Extended Orientation

6 Fish Camp
6 Gig ‘Em Week

Campus Services

7 Paying for College
8 Academics
9 Where Should I Live?
10 Technology
10 Academic Success Center
11 Dining
11 Sports Passes
11 Transportation

Getting Involved

12 Get Involved!
12 Corps of Cadets
13 Fraternity & Sorority Life

Welcome

Photos used throughout this publication obtained by NSFP, FYFP and the Division of Marketing & Communications.
New Student Conferences

Before your Conference

Congratulations on accepting your offer to attend Texas A&M University! We are ready to welcome you to campus, but in order to do so you need to register for your New Student Conference. Attendance at New Student Conferences is mandatory, if you have not done so please sign up applicant.tamu.edu. Be sure you choose a conference in which the college of your chosen major is participating.

If you are bringing your family or guests to your NSC please have them register at newaggie.tamu.edu/family-and-guests. From May 1st until four business days prior to the conference, the fee is $30 per adult and $10 per child. Past four business days before the scheduled conference will require utilization of on-site registration which will occur at $35 per adult and $10 per child. Family members are welcome to participate in the entire conference by following the family schedule. Family members will check in during NSC Check-In to receive a schedule, conference materials, Texas A&M Family Calendar, and more!

Before coming to the conference, be sure to arrange:

- 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 2015 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: NSCs are two days and one night in length, so overnight arrangements must be made. 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: If you and your family would like to stay on campus in one of the residence halls, you can reserve a room at reslife.tamu.edu/conferencesTours/ nscHousing. On Campus Housing is only available for conferences occurring between May 28 and July 16.
  - Off-Campus: For information regarding local lodging, visit visitaggie.com/ where-to-stay.

Required Immunization Information

TEC 51.9192 requires all students under age 22 entering an institution of higher education to provide current proof of vaccination against bacterial meningitis (an immunization given within 5 years of the date of intended enrollment) or meet certain requirements for declining such a vaccination.

Newly admitted students who have not provided documentation of vaccination have a meningitis deficiency hold placed on their account. The hold will be removed once the appropriate immunization documentation has been provided to Texas A&M. The meningitis deficiency hold will prevent you from checking in to your New Student Conference and registering for classes, so it is imperative you fulfill this requirement prior to arriving at 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.

Mail: Texas A&M University
Admissions Processing
P.O. Box 30014
College Station, TX 77843-3014
Phone: (979) 845-1060
Fax: (979) 458-1808
E-mail: admissions@tamu.edu
Hand Delivery: General Services Complex- Admissions Processing
750 Agronomy Rd., Suite 160
What to expect at your New Student Conference:

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

The day before your New Student Conference, we invite you to check-in in the afternoon and enjoy some optional programs such as campus tours, residence hall tours, the Corps of Cadets Open House, and a Greek Life Session. That evening, Orientation Leaders host new students and families for light refreshments as you explore the exhibits of the Alumni Center, enjoy various outdoor activities, try on an Aggie Ring and ask any questions you may have. The Pre-Conference day is offered for May, June and July NSCs only. For the August conference, the only Pre-Conference event is the Evening Scial with the Orientation Leaders.

Your New Student Conference officially begins on Day 1 with Check-In, at which you will receive new student orientation materials, clear any registration blocks you may have and take a campus tour. You will also have the opportunity to purchase an official class t-shirt. The mandatory morning sessions will be kicked off with an energizing Welcome Session, followed by Joining a Community of Scholars which will highlight the academic expectations and core values of Texas A&M. Campus Services will follow giving you an opportunity to learn more about the optional services the university provides such as Dining Plans, Sports Passes, and other helpful services that make your time here in Aggieland more enjoyable. Next, Keys to Financial Matters will discuss tuition and fees, financial resources, and deadlines.

After these sessions, you will make your way over to Sbisa Dining Center for Howdy Lunch, which will provide an opportunity to mingle with other family members over lunch, talk to other new students, and visit with over 30 University service departments at the Resource Tables. You do not have to purchase tickets for the Howdy Lunch in order to take part in the Resource Tables.

The first session of the afternoon will be either the On-Campus Housing or Off-Campus Housing session. These sessions offer information about housing on-campus, such as hall policies and room assignments, or services for off-campus students. Be sure to attend the Corps of Cadets Registration and Orientation session if you intend on joining the Corps of Cadets.

Next, you will attend Campus SAVE Training. This mandatory session focuses on Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and reviews students’ rights and available resources. After this, the Community of Respect session will invite you to celebrate the differences that make us all unique and the similarities that bind us together as the Aggie family. Next, you attend the Academic Meeting. This session is the most important meeting at your New Student Conference as it introduces you to the academic requirements of your college and includes academic advising.

That evening, the Freshman Dinner is provided free for the students. Staff and Orientation Leaders will be present for you to meet and ask questions. Following the dinner is the Aggie Insights program, which is an excellent way to meet new Aggies and to ask an Orientation Leader what life as a Texas Aggie is all about. This program is followed by the Aggie Energizer, which is an interactive program facilitated by the Orientation Leaders. After this, the CSI: Aggieland program will teach incoming students about Campus Safety Issues. Orientation Leaders will serve as the actors for this skit. Then, the Being an Aggie program will touch on important first-year student information and provide you with information about leadership, social, and academic opportunities. The day concludes with your very first Yell Practice. Come ready to learn a few of the yells and University traditions.

Your second day begins with your Mandatory College Meeting and Academic Advisement. During this time, you will meet with your Academic Advisor to create your schedule and register for courses and optional services. We ask that you be prepared to remain on campus until 6 p.m., if necessary, to complete registration.

Changing Your Major

Admitted students may request a change of major via the Howdy Portal, howdy.tamu.edu, Applicant Tab under ‘Manage Applications.’ Some majors have enrollment limits and may not accept a change of major, such as the College of Architecture (all majors); College of Engineering (all majors); Mays Business School (all majors); Biomedical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine; Biology, Molecular and Cell Biology, Microbiology, and Zoology within the College of Science; Psychology, Communications and Journalism Studies-University Studies in the College of Liberal Arts; and Public Health in the College of Public Health. Please be aware that a change of major is never guaranteed.

A change of major may mean a change in your NSC date; therefore, verify that your new college is participating in the NSC in which you are currently registered. If not, you must reschedule your conference from the dates available at the time your change of major is approved.