



ARE YOU A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT?

A first-generation college student is defined as a student whose parents have not completed a bachelor's degree.

IF SO, THIS PREPARATION GUIDE IS FOR YOU!

This guide is to prepare you for your New Student Conference (NSC) at Texas A&M University.



PREPARING FOR YOUR NSC

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This is not an exhaustive guide; however, the tips provided could help you make the most of your NSC experience.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR NSC:

 Bring a family member! It's helpful to have someone capture information with you and its included in your NSC registration fee!

Send in your photo early for your Aggie ID Card! Visit myaggiecard.tamu.edu



 Get a heads up of construction on campus! Visit <https://aggiemap.tamu.edu> for the latest construction updates!

Download the Texas A&M University app on your smartphone.



 Check the weather before your arrival.

For a complete checklist, visit newaggie.tamu.edu.

GENERAL TERMINOLOGY

At your New Student Conference, you will hear many new terms or acronyms. We have compiled a list of the more common words you will hear.

GENERAL TERMINOLOGY

New to you (maybe) terms:

Undergraduate- A student studying to earn their first university degree (Associate or Bachelor's degree).

Graduate- A student who has completed an undergraduate degree and is pursuing a Master's or Doctorate degree.

President- The leader of the university that guides everyone towards achievement and excellence

Provost- A chief academic officer under the president. A Provost is responsible for creating and supporting academic priorities.

Dean- Someone who has responsibilities involving academics and/or relating to student life.

Academic Advisor- Someone to assist you in making sure you're meeting your degree requirements. You should meet with them each semester!

Registrar- Someone in charge of records (honor roll, degree requirements for graduation, student records, etc.) at the university

GENERAL TERMINOLOGY *continued...*

Here is a visual aid!

Texas A&M
University

- President: Michael K. Young
- Provost: Dr. Carol A. Fierke

Academic
Colleges

- Deans
- 11 Academic Colleges!

Department

- Majors
- Minors
- Certificates

YOU!

- Academic and personal student resources
- Student organizations

TERMINOLOGY *Continued...*

On day two of your NSC, you will attend your academic college meeting. At this meeting, you will register for your courses, meet other students within your same academic college, and academic advisors.

Open Add/Drop

You may add courses and remove courses from your course schedule through the 5th class day of the semester.

Late Add/Drop

After the 5th class day, you must contact your academic college to submit a drop or add request.

This may lead to a Q-Drop.

Q-Drop

The student removes themselves from a class and a 'Q' on their transcript. This can protect the GPA of a student if they feel they may get a 'F' in the class.

Withdrawal

Withdrawing from the university means a student drops all courses currently in progress.

Course
Registration

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PLEASE VISIT
[HTTP://REGISTRAR.TAMU.EDU/](http://REGISTRAR.TAMU.EDU/)
FOR MORE INFORMATION

TERMINOLOGY *Continued...*

Here are some common acronyms you might hear at your NSC.

NSC (New Student Conference) - You will register for classes, learn about campus, and meet fellow Aggies!

OL (Orientation Leader) - This is a student leader to convey information about Texas A&M and answer questions about student life!

MSC (Memorial Student Center) - A place to eat, meet people, study, and relax!

GPR (Grade Point Ratio) - Same thing as GPA!

FLO (Freshman Leadership Organization) - A great way to meet other freshman through a variety of interests.

RA (Resident Advisor) - A trained peer leader who coordinates peer activities within the residential hall.

TA (Teaching Assistant) - A graduate student who instructs one or more course.

Acronyms

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FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

The first step in paying for college is knowing how not to... or at least keeping it at a low cost for you! The terms on the following page will help you understand the various ways college can be less of a financial burden for you!



FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

Knowing the difference between financial aid terms will be beneficial when trying to keep the cost of attending college low.

Cost of Attendance:

This is the total price of going to college. This includes tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies, and other living expenses.



Direct PLUS Loan:

Federal loans available to parents. This loan has higher interest rates and requires a credit check.



Expected Family Contribution:

A formula that tells you how much you can afford to pay. This estimation includes your family's assets, income, and family size.



FAFSA:

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is used to apply for grants, loans, and work-study. All students are highly encouraged to complete this form each year.



TERMINOLOGY *Continued...*



Grants:

This is free money that you do not have to pay back. It is mostly based on financial need.

Net Price:

After grants, scholarships, and tuition discounts have been accounted for, this will be the amount you'll actually pay for college.



Merit Aid:

This money is based on academic achievement, artistic abilities, and leadership skills.



Perkins Loan:

Federal loans that have a relatively lower interest rate and reserved for low-income students.



Scholarships:

Money that does not need to be repaid and can be received through various ways.



TERMINOLOGY *Continued...*



Subsidized Stafford Loan:

Based on financial need, this loan's interest doesn't start building up until you enter repayment after graduating college.

Unsubsidized Stafford Loan:

Interest starts building up the day you take out the loan; it is not based on financial need.



Work Study:

Students are given an on-campus job to help pay for college bills.

For Additional Information:

studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa

financialaid.tamu.edu

scholarships.tamu.edu

TIPS DURING YOUR NSC

You will learn a lot of information during your NSC. Here is a list of ways to make the most of your experience!



TIPS DURING YOUR NSC



Come with a smile and an open mind!



Browse the bookstore, resource tables, and campus!



Ask questions! Find out what you don't know about Texas A&M.



Have a willingness to interact with others and become friends with fellow New Aggies and Orientation Leaders!



Know that you belong here at Texas A&M!

AFTER YOUR NSC...

So. You've had a great experience at your NSC, met many new Aggies, and have been given a lot of information. What do you do now?



WHAT TO DO AFTER YOUR NSC:



Take a deep breath. You are one step closer to starting college. Congrats!



If you still have questions you didn't get to ask, reach out!



Stay connected with those who you met at your NSC and plan to meet up at Howdy Week!



Look at all of the information you and your family gathered at your NSC.



Gather moving supplies; residence hall room needs and wants.

TIPS FOR CAMPUS LIFE!

On the following pages,
we have compiled a few
lists to get you started
on your college
adventure at Texas A&M
University.



TIPS TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE

- 1 Become familiar with the bus routes and the locations of your classes.
- 2 Don't worry about buying a new wardrobe of clothes. It's all new to us anyways!
- 3 Familiarize yourself with Texas A&M lingo and locations of campus resources!
- 4 Find confidence in how hard you've worked to get to college and be proud of it!
- 5 Your college experience will be what you make of it!

TIPS TO LIVING ON CAMPUS

- 1 Everyone is just as nervous about the new adventure of living with a bunch of new people. Talk to them, socialize, and support each other!
- 2 Communication is key. Especially with your roommate; having conversations will make living in a small space easier.
- 3 Be flexible with your roommate. Knowing their schedule, likes, and dislikes make for a peaceful living environment.
- 4 Be aware of the dining options on campus. If you can't make it to dinner, keep snacks and sandwiches on hand!
- 5 Your parents aren't going to be down the hall. Set an alarm everyday and call your family often. It can be challenging the first few months to learn to live away from family.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Texas A&M University offers many ways to help you be successful. But, why should you take advantage of the campus resources? Stop by their resource table in the afternoons when you go to your NSC!



CAMPUS RESOURCES

Texas A&M has many resources to help you be successful. It is up to you to ask for help when you need it.

HERE ARE THE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SEEK HELP:

- 🔍 Most campus resources are FREE!
- 🔍 You are learning how to live in a new place with new people.
- 🔍 You can become a better learner in the classroom.
- 🔍 Enhance your writing and studying skills, manage your time and money better, and get assistance with any health concerns all in one place!

CAMPUS RESOURCES

THE TOP 10 RESOURCES YOU SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF:

- 1 Academic Advisor:**
In addition to helping you complete your degree requirements, your Academic Advisor can help connect you to academic and personal support programs, career options, and co-curricular opportunities.
- 2 Academic Success Center:**
Helps you enhance your academic performance through tutoring, Supplemental Instruction (SI), academic coaching, and peer mentoring.
- 3 Career Center:**
Helps you connect the dots between your interests and your future through major exploration, resume writing, job shadowing, and professional school preparation.
- 4 Disability Services:**
To help create a community without barriers, Disability Services offers accommodations coordination, evaluation referral, disability-related information, assistive technology services, sign language interpretation, and more!
- 5 Libraries:**
Texas A&M has 4 libraries for you to utilize. There, you can find study spaces, books to rent (free), computer labs, printers, and the University Writing Center!

CAMPUS RESOURCES

THE TOP 10 RESOURCES YOU SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF:

- 6** Money Education Center:
Through one-on-one advising, this resource helps you navigate unexpected financial barriers, minimize student loan debt, limit the cost of attending, and prepare for a lifetime of financial decisions.
- 7** Recreational Sports (Rec Center):
Here, you can enjoy aquatics, group fitness and classes, indoor climbing, intramural sports, strength and conditioning, and potential employment!
- 8** Student Counseling Services (SCS):
Available for free at White Creek, SCS is available to help you through personal counseling, crisis intervention, self-help, and learning disability and ADD/ADHD screenings.
- 9** Student Health Services:
On campus, there is the medical clinic, nutritional services, pharmacy, preventative medicine, and women's clinic. You can also get Student Health Insurance!
- 10** University Writing Center (UWC):
The UWC offers tools to help you become a better writer and speaker. Utilize their online or in-person consultations for writing and public speaking projects!

Remember!

You've worked hard to get to A&M; stay determined and committed to graduating in four years.

Share with your family the kind of support you need. Let them know if you need regular phone calls, mail, or encouraging texts.

It will take time to figure out college and that's okay. We're here to help!



New Student &
Family Programs
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

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This guide was created by
first-generation college students for
first-generation college students.