



HOWDY!

Welcome to the Aggie family! The next few years promise to be exciting as you connect 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 as these are valuable resources you can use throughout your first year at Texas A&M University.

Your NSC is a critical component of your future success as an Aggie. You'll participate in sessions and programs designed to assist in your transition to Texas A&M. Some of the topics we'll cover at your NSC include:

- University academic requirements, policies and procedures — including course selection and registration.
- Personal safety and security on campus.
- Housing, dining, transportation, financial assistance, academic support and career guidance.

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.

NSC NEW
STUDENT
CONFERENCE

NEW STUDENT & FAMILY PROGRAMS
(979) 845-5826
(979) 256-1311 (Text Line)
nsfp@tam.u.edu
newaggie.tam.u.edu

THE NSC EXPERIENCE



OVERVIEW

Your New Student Conference experience includes a series of steps to aid in your transition to Texas A&M. It begins with Online Orientation, a series of modules for you to complete prior to your NSC dates. Launching in mid-May, you'll receive an email notification once Online Orientation is available.

The next step is selecting the programs and presentations you plan to attend during your in-person NSC experience. A link in AIS will prompt you to complete this action one week prior to your NSC. On the dates of your NSC you'll attend a series of prescheduled programs, an orientation group session, and meet with your academic college and register for summer/fall courses.

After your NSC you'll receive an email about on-going programs you can attend virtually throughout the rest of the summer. We will communicate with you through email every step of your NSC Experience!

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 NSC. 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/emailmobile.

REGISTERING FAMILY/GUESTS

While the NSC is only mandatory for students, we invite family members and guests to participate in the NSC experience. All family members and guests attending the in-person NSC with their student **must be pre-registered** in the [Applicant Information System \(AIS\)](#) prior to your NSC. It is recommended students do not bring more than two guests.

Family and guest registration will close within seven days of your scheduled NSC date. There will be **no on-site registration for family members/guests. If guests/family members are not registered in AIS, they cannot attend any NSC programs.** Therefore, it is critical you register them in AIS in advance of your NSC dates. It is recommended you register family members and guests as soon as possible so they can receive important information and updates prior to your NSC.

NSCs EN ESPAÑOL

Thanks to the generosity of The Association of Former Students, the Office of New Student & Family Programs offers Spanish translation for the NSC experience. These services are provided free of charge, but we do request that family members indicate their interest in using this service on their family/guest registration form in AIS.

Registered family members will receive more information via email prior to the NSC.

PRE-NSC REQUIREMENTS

ONLINE ORIENTATION

All new students are required to complete online orientation **BEFORE** they can attend their NSC.

All incoming students are required to complete Online Orientation prior to their scheduled NSC dates. Online orientation is released mid-May and provides critical information for your transition to Texas A&M. Students who do not complete their required online orientation will have a hold placed on their account and will not be able to register for classes. Once you complete Online Orientation, it takes about 24 hours for the hold to be removed from your account. We recommend you finish Online Orientation well in advance of your NSC date.

Online Orientation takes about 90 minutes to 2 hours, but if you can't complete Online Orientation all at once, your progress will be saved for you to complete it later. An email will be distributed to all incoming students when Online Orientation becomes available.

How to access online orientation

Online orientation is accessible through the "My Record" 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 course registration is permitted. All NSC attendees should submit the acknowledgment prior to their NSC to ensure registration access. Submit your LSA via the **Howdy portal** at howdy.tamu.edu. Step-by-step instructions are available at tx.ag/LSAinstructions.

If you need assistance, please contact the Office of the Registrar at registration@tamu.edu or (979) 845-1003

MATH PLACEMENT EXAM (FRESHMEN ONLY)

All freshmen are required to take the Math Placement Exam (MPE) and will not be permitted to register for any mathematics course until MPE test scores are on file.

Freshmen enrolling in the College of Engineering and the College of Science (excluding Biology majors) will take a virtually proctored MPE before their NSC. Students in these two colleges will receive instructions for taking the proctored MPE via email, and information will be posted at newaggie.tamu.edu once it is available. Students may take up to five practice exams prior to their MPE and are encouraged to do so.

All other freshmen students should take the MPE online at least 24 hours before attending their NSC. Students will be able to see their MPE scores under the 'My Test Scores' in AIS and will want to make sure the MPE scores are posted prior to their NSC.

How to access the MPE & practice exam

Log into howdy.tamu.edu, go to the "Applicant" tab and follow the instructions for the MPE.

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

For information about disability accommodations for the MPE, please see [page 4](#).





BACTERIAL MENINGITIS DOCUMENTATION

All students under the age of 22 entering an institution of higher education are required to provide current proof of vaccination against bacterial meningitis (within five years of the date of intended enrollment) or meet certain requirements for declining such a vaccination. Texas A&M has partnered with Med+Proctor for the submission of bacterial meningitis vaccination records. Please go to medproctor.com/tamu-immunization to register and upload your proof of bacterial meningitis vaccination.

Evidence of vaccination must verify that the vaccination was received during the five year period prior to and no later than 10 days before the first day of the semester. Students entering Summer 2021 must receive a vaccination on or after 05/16/2016. For students entering Fall 2021, vaccination must be on or after 08/16/2016.

SUBMIT PHOTO FOR ID CARD

The Aggie Card is your official ID at Texas A&M University and allows you to access numerous campus services.

You must submit an ID photo online on myaggiecard.tamu.edu. Pick-up dates and locations will occur just before the fall semester and communicated via email and posted online at sbs.tamu.edu.



TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete any of the NSC placement exams or Texas Success Initiative requirements, please contact Disability Resources to discuss your needs. Reasonable testing accommodations are provided to allow students with documented disabilities an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.

In order to coordinate testing accommodations for any of the tests offered through New Student Conferences, students must submit documentation of their disability at least two weeks prior to the scheduled testing date for review.

For more information, contact the Disability Resources office at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu.

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) REQUIREMENT

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a requirement by the state of Texas that all students enrolled at public institutions of higher education demonstrate college-readiness in reading, writing, and mathematics. To do so, students must either meet the TSI Exemption criteria or pass the TSI Assessment.

You can check to see if you have fulfilled the TSI requirements online using these steps:

- Go to applicant.tamu.edu and log in
- Find the “Tasks to Complete Prior to Enrollment” checklist
- Find “Fulfill the Texas Success Initiative requirements”

If a red X is present, you will be blocked from registering for classes during the NSC.

The TSI Assessment is not required for all incoming students; many are exempt based on ACT and/or SAT scores. A list of possible exemptions can be found at tx.ag/TSIexemptions.

If you believe you are exempt but a red X is still present in your checklist, further documentation is needed to verify your exemption. Please contact the Academic Success Center at successcenter@tamu.edu.

All students who are not exempt must first complete the mandatory TSI Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) found in Howdy under the “My Record” tab under “Texas Success Initiative.” Once completed, they must then take the TSI Assessment at a local public Texas college where testing is available. Some colleges require students to obtain a voucher before testing by calling the A&M testing center at (979) 845-0532.

If you are **not** exempt and have not submitted any TSI Assessment scores (even if they are below the required scores) you **will not be able to register** for any classes during your NSC. **No exceptions.**

Visit newaggie.tamu.edu/requirements for more information about fulfilling the TSI requirement, exemptions and testing options.



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.

All exams will be conducted online and proctored remotely. Students can take them at any time throughout the summer but **should do so no later than one week before their NSC** to ensure they receive

results prior to their registration time. Students who register will receive instructions via email on how to access the exam.

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, including accommodations, which of the two tests to register for, options for citizens from Spanish-speaking countries, and more, visit tx.ag/SpanishExam. For questions, call (979) 862-4258 or email hisplexams@tamu.edu.

All other Language Placement Tests (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian) 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, email intsadvising@tamu.edu.

Visit newaggie.tamu.edu/requirements for links to register for a foreign language placement exam.

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.

FAQ

How can I change my conference date?

You can change your conference date as long as dates are available through the Applicant Information System (AIS) at applicant.tamu.edu. Select the “Reschedule my NSC” icon and select the NSC date choice you prefer. As conferences are filled, they are removed from the site and are no longer available due to capacity limits. Additionally, not every college participates in each NSC, therefore not all dates are available. The ability to change into an in-person NSC date **will close 7 days prior to each specific NSC date.**

Appeals to change into a restricted or full conference are only granted for military orders, medical emergencies or extreme extenuating circumstances that students can substantiate with written documentation. Appeals are submitted online via AIS by going to the “Contact Us” tab, clicking “Ask A Question,” selecting a subject type of “NSC Appeal” and completing the required fields.

What if I change my mind and decide I want to participate in the virtual NSC?

Students can select the virtual NSC by following the “reschedule my NSC” instructions listed above. The virtual NSC **will close 24 hours prior to the beginning of the scheduled virtual NSC dates.** For example, the virtual NSC for June 8-9 will close at 11:59pm CST on June 6th. This will allow for any last minute safety concerns, illness, or accommodations to conflicts.

How can I change my major?

Admitted students may request a change of major via the Howdy Portal at howdy.tamu.edu by the deadlines posted on newaggie.tamu.edu. Go to the “Applicant” tab and select “Manage Applications.” Some colleges and majors have enrollment limits and will not accept a change of major once filled. Students may choose from only those colleges and majors with space available at the time of request, but a change of major is never guaranteed and majors can fill prior to processing your request.

Students are encouraged to meet virtually with a Transition Academic Programs (TAP) Advisor prior to requesting a change of major to make sure the new major aligns with your career goals. To find out more about how to register for a virtual advising appointment, visit newaggie.tamu.edu/faqs.

Who do I contact with questions about Advanced Placement (AP) 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.

For more FAQ’s visit newaggie.tamu.edu/faqs



VETERAN & MILITARY DEPENDENT SERVICES & RESOURCES

At Texas A&M, 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. The Veteran Resource and Support Center and the Veteran Services Office together have a unique and powerful relationship 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 (VSO), a part of Scholarships & Financial Aid, helps veterans and their eligible dependents maximize their funding at Texas A&M University. The VSO provides services and support for accessing Veteran Administration (VA) and state education benefits. In addition to certifying your benefit eligibility, they can assist with financial aid and scholarship questions.

Veterans are required to attend an NSC session, offered during the in-person NSC and for those attending the NSC virtually, on getting the most out of their military educational benefits and getting connected with the Aggie veteran community and both campus veteran offices. This session is highly encouraged for military dependents.

Veteran Resource and Support Center

(979) 845-3161

aggievets@tamu.edu

aggieveterans.tamu.edu

Veteran Services Office

(979) 845-8075

veterans@tamu.edu

veterans.tamu.edu



NSC STAFF

NEW STUDENT & FAMILY PROGRAMS

In support of Texas A&M University's mission, the goal of the Office of New Student & Family Programs (NSFP) is to facilitate your success as a new student through your first year at Texas A&M.

Through various programs and publications, including NSCs, our staff strive to provide you with the framework to adjust to the expectations, standards, academic rigors and social community at Texas A&M. Our office also facilitates collaboration between university services in order to provide a comprehensive new student experience.

To learn more about NSFP, visit studentlife.tamu.edu/nsfp.

ORIENTATION LEADERS

Aggie Orientation Leaders (OLs) are passionate New Student & Family Programs student leaders who dedicate their time to welcome and assist new students and their families. These students are trained to help make the conference a memorable and fun experience and will be available to assist you during your conference.

Have a question or a problem? Seek out an Orientation Leader — they're here for you! Visit tx.ag/OrientationLeaders to learn more about them.