



Student Life

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

MAKING AGGIELAND HOME

Where will “home” be for you?

Commuting
from outside
B/CS

On campus

Bryan

College
Station



**Wherever you choose to
live, you are part of the
Aggieland community now!**

Making Connections

Why make the effort?

What if I'm shy?

Let's practice!



Getting Involved

Finding your people

Staying informed of all the community and campus have to offer

Logistics



tx.ag/CreateYourAggieExperience



Want help connecting?

Scan the QR code and complete the form to be kept in the loop about:

- Events
- Interest groups
- Get-togethers

All for off-campus students!



tx.ag/wrkevJZ



HOW TO ADULT IN B/CS

Staying safe

Personal safety

- Buddy system (especially at night)
- Corps Escort Program
- Party Smart!

Securing your property

- Lock doors and windows at home and in your car
- Secure your belongings on campus

Transportation safety

- Understand the rules of the road
- Look out for others
- Wear a helmet! (Please.)

Other Important Local Laws

Noise

- Should not be audible outside the home, especially from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Trash

- Containers in street only 12 hours before/after collection
- Request extra container at minimal monthly cost if needed

No Parking

- On the lawn
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- On wrong side of the street
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk

Budgeting Basics

Estimate Expenses

- Recurring
- Variable living expenses
- Less frequent expenses



Estimate Income

- Job
- Financial aid disbursements
- Family support?



Make a Plan

- Cover recurring expenses first, then estimated variable expenses
- Save a little each month for the less frequent expenses
- Be prepared to adapt as needed!

Overwhelmed?

Use this budget template to get started!



What's the Cost?

COFFEE, PLEASE.



Starbucks run

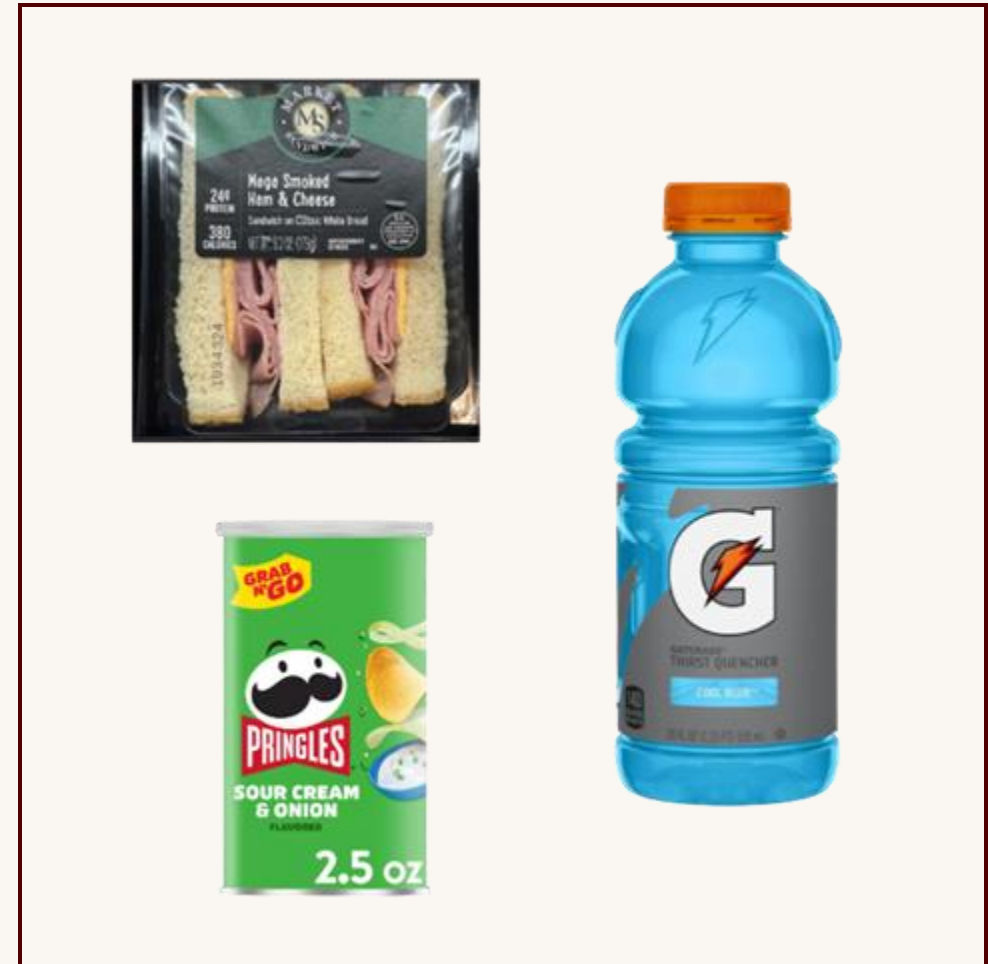


What's the Cost?

Pack a lunch (or four)



Convenience Store



What's the Cost?

Just the essentials





NAVIGATING CHALLENGES

Common Issues for Off-Campus Students

Roommates

- Cleanliness
- Noise/schedules
- Finances
- Use of space or belongings
- Guests
- Animals
- Substance use

Neighbors

- Noise
- Parking/crowding
- Yard/home maintenance
- Trash
- Care of pets

Landlords

- Maintenance issues
- Late rent payments
- Community policies
- Animals
- Deposits/refunds

Communication Tips

Roommates

- Start with an agreement!
- Address things as they arise
- Consider their needs too
- Be open to compromise

Neighbors

- Start with a friendly foundation
- Communicate in advance
- Consider their needs too
- Offer and ask for help when needed

Landlords

- Check your lease for policies and procedures
- Ask for clarification
- Do not be afraid to follow up politely
- Document everything in writing

What would you do?

The Bonus Roommate

Things were going great with your new roommate, Alex, for the first half of the semester – until they started dating Taylor. Suddenly, Taylor is **always** in the apartment, whether Alex is home or not! Alex has been leaving the door unlocked so Taylor can get in without Alex's key fob.

The problems don't stop there: Both Taylor and Alex have begun leaving piles of dirty dishes in the sink and trash scattered around the living room. Taylor prefers a chilly apartment, so the thermostat is now always set to 64°, and your most recent electric bill was almost double what you paid last month. Finally, Taylor smokes in Alex's room, and you've started to notice the smell clinging to your clothing when you leave.

What would you do?

The Party Planner

You were so excited to find a house to rent with your three best friends. You could not wait to start hosting backyard parties! Now that the beautiful spring weather is kicking in, you decide to plan a crawfish boil and outdoor movie night for your student organization.

Your only concerns are the neighbors. You know the street is so narrow that it can be difficult to drive down when lots of cars are parked along both sides. Additionally, one family living next door has three young children. The neighbor on the other side goes to work at 5 am most days. You have heard that someone living close by called in a noise complaint the last time the students across the street had a loud party.

What would you do?

Paws-itively Cat-astrophic

You were grateful when your friend's mom, Nicole, agreed to rent you a room in the house she had purchased for her Aggie kids.

Before moving in, you made sure Nicole and your roommates-to-be knew about your severe cat allergy. They assured you that there would be no cats in the home, as the only cat who had ever lived there belonged to the person who just moved out. But when you move in, you find your room full of cat hair. No matter how many times you vacuum, you can't stop sneezing, your eyes are watering, and when you lie down to sleep, it feels like you can't breathe.

What would you do?

Paws-itively Cat-astrophic (Part II)

After three weeks of trying to make it work, you decide you just cannot stay in the house. Because you've been such a good friend to her kids, Nicole agrees to let you break the lease without a major fee. You are so thankful for her flexibility.

However, two weeks after you've moved out (leaving the room **much** cleaner than when you moved in, thanks to all the vacuuming), you receive a bill for \$500 due to torn carpet in the corners of the room, deep scratches on the baseboards, and broken blinds on the window. You try to explain to Nicole that these damages were present when you moved in and must have been caused by the previous tenant's cat, but this time she will not budge. She threatens to take you to small claims court if you refuse to pay for the repairs.

A photograph of a crowded indoor event, likely a career fair or student carnival. In the foreground, a young man in a blue t-shirt and white cap looks at a brochure. Next to him, a young woman in a maroon t-shirt with 'MISS OF 2028' and 'OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT CARNIVAL' printed on it is also looking at a brochure. They are surrounded by other students in a large, well-lit room with high ceilings and large windows. In the background, more people are visible, some looking at displays. In the foreground, a table is partially visible with brochures, a water bottle, and other items.

RESOURCES TO REMEMBER

Getting Around Town

Texas A&M Transportation Services

- AggieSpirit bus serving much of College Station
- Night & Weekend parking permits
- Bicycle resources
- Motorist assistance program



tx.ag/QfoHQRv

Brazos Transit District

- Public transit service around Bryan/College Station
- No additional cost to Texas A&M students (present student ID when boarding)



tx.ag/ylp8gL4

Your Next Housing/Roommate Search

AggieSearch.tamu.edu

- Find housing
- Match with a roommate
- List a rental for subleasing
- Browse resources

Protect yourself

- Do your research
- Don't sign until you're sure!
- Consider safety information
- Avoid scams and fraud



Want to learn more about financial wellness?

Resource Available

- For-credit courses
- Self-paced Financial Fit program offered by Texas A&M Libraries
- Online info about money management, credit scores, preparing for life after graduation, and student loan repayment



tx.ag/N5ave4p

Resources in College Station

SEE CLICK FIX

Use this online system for reporting issues, ranging from road maintenance to rental property code violations, to College Station government.



tx.ag/0L6lwvb

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to stay up to date on local events, volunteer opportunities, and issues to be decided at upcoming City Council meetings.



tx.ag/3csife3

Resources in Bryan

HELP BRYAN

Use this online system for reporting issues, ranging from road maintenance to rental property code violations to Bryan government.



tx.ag/AjUkT7O

CITY OF BRYAN E-NEWS

Subscribe to stay up to date on local events, volunteer opportunities, and issues to be decided at upcoming City Council meetings.



tx.ag/8zNqsb4



UPCOMING EVENTS

Off-Campus Student Carnival

Sunday, August 24

5-8 p.m.

College Station City Hall

Keep an eye on the Howdy Week calendar of events for transportation options and other details!

Howdy!
WEEK



tx.ag/HWSchedule



Other Fall Events

- Interest group gatherings
- Block Party
- Leasing 101 Workshops
- Community Luncheons
- Party Smart Watch Party

For updates on the details:

- Join the email list
- Follow Student Life on social media
- Check the calendar on the Student Life website



tx.ag/wrkevJZ



Need Additional Support?

Your friends at Student Life are here to help!

Leasing questions

Landlord issues

**Roommate
conflicts**

Housing searches

**Information
about City
ordinances and
processes**

**Resources for
basic needs
support (food,
clothing, etc.)**

**Free legal advice
& Notary Services**

**General
assistance in
navigating
challenges**

Thanks & Gig 'em!

Contact Us



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