Help your student create a plan for academic success, find support through resources on campus, learn what it means to get involved, and successfully transition into life at college.

START HERE
Welcome to Aggieland! We are excited to have your student on campus soon! As an Aggie, your student is joining a family of over 60,000 current students, with more than 436,000 former students across the world. Our office is dedicated to making your student’s first year seamless and serving as a reference for their transition and student development.

As you embark on this journey with them, the Office of New Student & Family Programs would like to keep you updated with information about the Aggie community through our Summer Edition of The Aggie Connection. We hope this information will be helpful and provide you and your student with valuable resources prior to your student’s arrival in the fall.

To continue to receive periodic advice and information specific to Aggie families, we encourage you to look to our Aggie Family Newsletter. If you do not already receive our monthly Aggie Family Newsletter, which is sent via email each month, we invite you to sign up at aggiefamilies.tamu.edu/newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact New Student & Family Programs staff at (979) 845-5826 or send us an email at aggiefamilies@tamu.edu. Your student can also visit us at Student Services @ White Creek. We’re located in Student Life 2, Bldg. #0068. Bus Route 03 (Yell Practice) travels from Main Campus and stops right across the street from Student Services @ White Creek.

Thanks and Gig ‘Em!
New Student & Family Programs
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Residence Life

The time has come for your student to leave for college. This step is not always easy, and our office is here to help with this transition. We want to make sure you and your student have all the information you need for this next step. Below you will find information about on-campus and off-campus living, campus safety, and assistive services.

On-Campus Living

Resident Advisor (RA)
Resident Advisor (RA): The RA is one of the most helpful and resourceful fellow students that your student will interact with at Texas A&M University. RAs have been carefully selected based on their leadership potential, interpersonal skills, positive attitude, and sense of commitment. As a peer, the RA provides basic information and referral services and assists residents in adjusting to campus life, including helping with academic concerns, roommate relationships, homesickness, and other matters. The RA is responsible for helping residents meet one another and building a strong community on the floor. Encourage your student to reach out to their RA for anything they may need concerning college.

Security
Security is of prime importance to the Residence Life staff. Outside doors are locked at all times to keep unwanted visitors from entering the buildings. Access is gained through an electronic card-access system and your student’s Aggie Card. However, any security measure is only as good as the resident allows. Residents should not prop open outside doors. Residents must not allow visitors to enter the residence halls unescorted, and should report any suspicious activity to the hall staff immediately. Additionally, Texas A&M University has uniformed security officers patrolling residence hall complex areas and the Corps Quad on foot 24/7.

Fall 2018 Move In:
- Corps Move In: Aug. 11-18
- Residence Halls Move In: Aug. 19
- Classes Begin: Aug. 27
- Halls Close: Dec. 15

Spring 2019 Move In:
- Corps Move In: Jan. 10
- Residence Halls Move In: Jan. 10
- Classes Begin: Jan. 14
- Halls Close: May 11

Questions?
Department of Residence Life
Housing Assignments Office, A-3 Lounge
Phone: (979) 845-4744
Toll-Free: (888) 451-3896
Email: housing@tamu.edu
Visit: reslife.tamu.edu
On-Campus Mailing Services

U.S. Mail is not delivered to students’ rooms. If your student is living on campus, they may want to think about renting a mailbox. There are two options when it comes to choosing a mailbox on campus. Mailboxes may be rented from the following two locations:

**Student Mail Services**
- **Northside Campus** - Located in Hullabaloo Hall
- **Southside** - Located in the Commons
  - Summer Hours: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
  - Semester Hours: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
  - To sign up, call **(979) 268-7727**

**Northgate Post Office**
- Located at 104 Houston Street off of University Drive
- Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- To sign up, call **(979) 846-5716**

For more information, visit reslife.tamu.edu/living/amenities/mail

UPS and FedEx will make deliveries directly to a student’s room, but residents must be present in their room to receive room deliveries. Residence Life staff will not receive packages for residents. To send packages via UPS or FedEx, please use the following format below:

```
Name
Residence Hall Name and Room Number
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77840
```

**Suggested Packing List**

**General**
- Bed linens
- Pillows and blankets
- Towels
- Hangers
- Alarm clock
- Medications
- Toiletries

**Desk/Study**
- Laptop
- Notebooks, folders, binders, etc.
- Pens/Pencils/Highlighters
- Calculator

**Cleaning**
- Laundry detergent and basket
- Cleaning products
- Iron/Ironing board

**Other**
- First-Aid Kit
- Flashlight
- Lamps
- Posters/Pictures/Decor
- Power strip w/ built in circuit breaker
- Printer
- Reusable Water bottle
- Umbrella/Rain Jacket
- Wastebasket
Off-Campus Living

Tenant Responsibilities:

For many students, this is likely their first time entering into a rental agreement. Consider talking with your student through these responsibilities that they will now be expected to know.

The Lease: A binding, legal contract in which your student agrees to pay an amount of rent for a specific piece of property, for a specific period of time. Be sure to understand your student’s rights and responsibilities that are outlined on the lease. If expectations and obligations are not fulfilled, legal actions may be taken as a response.

Withholding Rent: Legally, your student is unable to withhold rent because repairs have not been completed. Depending on the circumstance, your student may negotiate a rent reduction settlement with management. Advise your student to work with property management and produce a written agreement where both parties’ signatures are present.

Renter’s Insurance: Personal belongings and injuries sustained in a rental unit are not the responsibility of the building’s owner. The apartment your student will live in may be insured for structural damage but that does not guarantee insurance for personal property like furnishings, clothing, and electronics.

The Guarantor: A Guarantor is someone who can support the claim that your student is legally and financially responsible. This person is also responsible and liable for the lease if the other tenant fails to pay or perform.
Campus Safety and Assistive Services

After your student is moved into their residence hall/apartment, we want you to be aware of the campus safety resources and services we offer your student for their health, both mental and physical. Below you and your student will be given safety tips, information on campus carry, Texas A&M’s emergency text alert CODE MAROON, some of Texas A&M’s campus initiatives like Step In, Stand Up and Tell Somebody, and information on the offices that help your student with their mental and physical health.

**Safety Tips On and Off Campus:**

- Never leave apartment/residence hall room doors open or unlocked for friends.
- Remind your students to not lend their keys to other people.
- Lock away computers and other valuable items during vacations or days away. Be sure to also stop all deliveries, including mail, upon leaving.
- Notify police for suspicious person(s) loitering around the building.
- Immediately contact management with safety devices and/or locks.

**Maintaining Safety:**

It is important to remember that your student is responsible for their own personal safety both on and off campus. Please advise your students to be aware of all the resources they have to help ensure their safety as they make their way off campus. There are numbers for Corps Escorts, University Police Department (UPD), and CARPOOL on the back of their student ID, as well as below:

- Corps Escorts: (979) 845-6789
- UPD: (979) 845-2345
- CARPOOL: (979) 693-9905

**Campus Carry:**

Concealed Handgun License (CHL) Holders

On Campus: Concealed handgun license holders must follow all state and federal laws concerning owning and possessing a handgun on campus. Students who are living on campus who have a Concealed Handgun License and choose to bring their handgun into their residence hall room/apartment must store their handgun and any ammunition in a combination or electronic locking steel safe when the handgun is not on or about their person. This safe can be rented or purchased from the Department of Residence Life.

***Along with many other requirements, please keep in mind that only individuals who are over the age of 21 are eligible for licenses to carry concealed handguns.***
Campus Safety and Assistive Services

Tell Somebody:
Tell Somebody is a Texas A&M initiative where TAMU community members submit online reports for issues or situations of concern. As a member of this University community, if you observe any behavior that is concerning, you may report the behavior using the online report form or by contacting one of the Special Situations Team members during business hours. The Special Situations Team is comprised of University faculty and staff charged with helping students, faculty, and staff who are exhibiting concerning behavior. The submitter of the report has the option to fill in contact information or submit the report anonymously. Reports submitted anonymously or with limited information may limit the Team’s ability to follow up on an incident. Once a report is submitted online, a copy is emailed to the entire team for appropriate review and necessary action. NOTE: Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed for reports submitted through this site. State law determines confidentiality.

For more information and to submit an incident report go to tellsomebody.tamu.edu

Step In, Stand Up:
At Texas A&M University, we believe sexual harassment and sexual violence has no place in our states, cities, universities, or our country. Aggies have an unwavering commitment to serving others and protecting each other. We hold ourselves to a higher standard through our core values, including integrity, respect, and selfless service. It is up to us — students, faculty, staff and the rest of the Aggie community — to step in as active participants to reduce the incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence on our campus and stand up against it by starting courageous conversations and sharing information. What harms even one of us, harms us all.

For more information and to submit an incident report go to stepinstandup.tamu.edu

CODE MAROON:
Sign up for Code Maroon to receive text message alerts from Texas A&M’s emergency notification system. Code Maroon sends health and safety information to members of the campus community. You can receive these alerts via text message if you register your cell phone number. Texas A&M will use your information exclusively to provide official notification of critical emergencies.

ENROLL online: codemaroon.tamu.edu

Public (family) access to Code Maroon emergency alerts is available. Visit codemaroon.tamu.edu and select “Public Access“ for details.
Student Health Services

Student health services is an accredited ambulatory health care provider serving the Texas A&M University student body by providing primary health care services and promoting good health through prevention and education. SHS is located conveniently on campus near Sbisa Dining Hall and All Faiths Chapel. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some of the services offered are medical clinic, preventive medicine, women’s clinic, specialty clinic, medical laboratory, nutrition services, radiology services, pharmacy, physical therapy, ambulance services/EMS, dial-a-nurse, insurance, and appointments. To learn more about these services and Student Health Services you can visit their website at [shs.tamu.edu](http://shs.tamu.edu). Students are not required to have insurance to utilize SHS services. SHS will file most health insurance as a courtesy for services provided. SHS is unable to file with Medicaid, CHIPS, and other Medicaid Products (e.g. Superior, Molina, Community Health, Texas Women’s, STAR, Cooks Children, etc.).

Health Insurance Information

A copy of the insurance card, front and back, will be required. SHS does not contract with insurance companies, Managed Care Networks, or government insurance programs. Any balances not paid by the student’s insurance carrier will be transferred to the student’s fee account at Student Business Services. A verification of benefits does not guarantee payment. SHS cannot file pharmacy claims unless the student is covered under one of the TAMU Sponsored Plans. To discuss a student’s financial account information or medical information, a SHS Medical Records Release form will be required.

For more information visit [shs.tamu.edu](http://shs.tamu.edu).
Just as important as a student’s physical health is their mental health. Students new to Texas A&M are likely to have many adjustments to make during their first semester in College Station. Hopefully, most experiences will be positive; however, some difficulties are likely to be encountered. The stress experienced during their ongoing transition to college can sometimes lead to feelings of anxiety, loneliness, and disconnect.

If your student experiences difficulty with the transition or too much stress, Student Counseling Service is an excellent resource. SCS provides a full range of professional services, including personal and career counseling, academic skills enhancement, testing, outreach programming, psychiatric services, consultation, and crisis intervention.

If your student would like to schedule an appointment, go to scs.tamu.edu and click on “Register for Services.” Appointments are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Limited evening services are sometimes available in the fall and spring semesters.

Your student can visit the Student Counseling Service website or call Student Counseling Services at (979) 845-4427 to learn more about the variety of services offered to students.
Getting Your Aggie Involved

Your student’s number one priority when coming to college should be their academics. However, one thing that tends to help students with success in college is getting involved with a student organization. Joining a student organization will help your student have a creative outlet, build skills like teamwork and leadership, create networking possibilities, and make memories they will cherish forever. Listed below are a few different resources and opportunities for your students to get involved on Texas A&M’s campus.

Corps of Cadets
The Corps is the largest, oldest, and most visible student organization and leadership training program at Texas A&M. It is also one of the largest uniformed bodies of students in the nation. It starts with a world-class university with over 140 years of tradition and builds on that foundation, guiding cadets in developing their leadership abilities while enjoying the benefits of being at one of the nation’s premier universities. A majority of our leadership training graduates pursue a career in the public or private sector; however, the Corps of Cadets consistently commissions more officers than any institution other than the service academies. An average of 40-45 percent of our cadets pursue a military commission in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. For more information on the Corps you can visit their website at corps.tamu.edu.

Student Government Association (SGA)
Student Government Association strives to bring collaboration, unity, and tradition to the Texas A&M campus. Through leadership, integrity, selfless service, respect, loyalty, and excellence, we believe we help all students as they strive to share their voice, get involved, and find their passion. SGA consists of three branches: executive, senate, and judicial; four commissions: election, diversity, development, and legislative relations; and 14 committees: Aggie Recruitment Committee, Alternative Spring Break, Aggie Muster, The Big Event, Career Closet, CARPOOL, COSGA, Gilbert Leadership Conference, Guide, Environmental Issues Committee, Fish Aides, Replant, TAMC, and Traditions Council. Each section of SGA brings new voices to campus, from maintaining our traditions to providing a safe ride home to recruiting new students to Aggieland. To learn more about SGA you can visit their website at sga.tamu.edu.

Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL)
Joining a national fraternity or sorority at Texas A&M provides an opportunity to identify with and participate in the university’s rich traditions while developing close bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood. Nearly 5,000 Aggies are members of fraternities and sororities at Texas A&M and find it to be a rewarding and fulfilling method in which to get involved on campus. There are four governing councils: Collegiate Panhellenic Council (CPC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), and National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). To learn more about these councils and how to get involved, you can visit their website at studentactivities.tamu.edu/get-involved/join-an-organization/#fraternity-and-sorority-life.
Getting Your Aggie Involved

**Organization Search:**
Texas A&M has more than 1,000 student organizations. To make searching easier, you and your student can use OrgSearch, which allows your student to customize a search to find organizations that may interest them. The OrgSearch website is [stuactonline.tamu.edu/app/search](stuactonline.tamu.edu/app/search).

**Memorial Student Center Open House:**
Your student can attend the MSC Open House. It leads to experience and professional networks that help careers get started. For thousands of students every year, involvement begins at MSC Open House, where organizations can reach thousands of students at one time. New students get the chance to see the best student involvement opportunities the Division of Student Affairs and Texas A&M have to offer. MSC Open House consists of two separate events, one in fall and one in spring. Fall Open House is the larger of the two, with over 400 organizations participating last year. Last year over 300 organizations participated in Spring Open House. This semester's MSC Open House will be held September 2 from 1-5 p.m. For more information on this event, visit [mscopenhouse.tamu.edu](mscopenhouse.tamu.edu).

**New Student Handbook:**
Your student can also find out more information about the different opportunities to get involved using the New Student Handbook they received at their New Student Conference. The link to the handbook is here: [newaggie.tamu.edu/publications](newaggie.tamu.edu/publications).
Howdy Week

Howdy Week is Aggieland’s official Week of Welcome. This week is full of events and opportunities for new and returning students to become familiar or reacquainted with the Texas A&M University campus, fellow Aggies, and the Bryan/College Station community. Howdy Week is coordinated by the Office of New Student & Family Programs and takes place just before the fall semester. Howdy Week provides students an opportunity to learn more about the campus and college life in general through a series of educational and social events sponsored by university departments, colleges, student organizations, residence halls, and community members. For more information, visit: howdyweek.tamu.edu.

2018 Signature Events

**Monday, August 20**
Aggie Transition Camp (ATC) Backyard Bash 4:00 – 6:00 PM

**Tuesday, August 21**
Aggie Fest 3:00 – 5:00 PM
GatheRing & Yell Practice 5:30 – 7:30 PM

**Wednesday, August 22**
Ice Cream Carnival 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
University Libraries Open House 1:00 – 3:00 PM
MSC Aggie Cinema Movie Night 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Party on the Plaza 8:00 – 11:00 PM

**Thursday, August 23**
StuAct Block Party 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Rec-A-Palooza 6:30 – 9:00 PM

Download the TAMU Mobile App for information on Howdy Week events, updates, and ways to get involved!
Family Involvement

Not only are there great opportunities for your student to get involved but New Student & Family Programs provides resources for family engagement as well. Below you will find the ways you can get involved as a family member and information on the oldest and biggest traditions here in Aggieland.

Aggie Parent & Family Advisory Council

The Aggie Parent & Family Advisory Council seeks to continually improve the support provided to families by New Student & Family Programs and across the university. Among other duties, the Aggie Parent & Family Advisory Council recommends programming activities for New Student & Family Programs, provides feedback about University programs, discusses issues that are of concern to family members, recommends content for publications, participates in New Student & Family Programs events, and assists with the recruitment of new Aggie Parent & Family Advisory Council members. Council members are expected to make at least two trips to campus each year for meetings and events.

We are currently accepting applications! Apply online by August 31, 2018: aggiefamilies.tamu.edu/aggie-parent-family-advisory-council.

Aggie Moms’ Clubs

The Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers’ Clubs was organized in 1928 and has grown to include 109 individual Member Clubs located across Texas and throughout the nation. Aggie Moms’ Clubs are proud organizations — proud of Texas A&M University and proud of the students they send to Texas A&M. Clubs typically host events for Aggie families, invite speakers from campus, and fundraise to provide scholarships or give financial support to student organizations.

More details at: aggiemoms.org

Family Weekend: April 12-14

Join us in April for our 100th annual Family Weekend event! Family Weekend is a tradition that has existed at Texas A&M University since 1919. Texas A&M acknowledges the incredible roles that family members take and has given family members a special time to recognize the support they provide in their student’s life. Throughout the weekend, there are plenty of events for family members to enjoy in order to fully get a taste of the Aggie Community. Hotels for this weekend fill up months in advance, so we encourage you to make arrangements as early as possible!

More details at: familyweekend.tamu.edu

Family Weekend: April 12-14
Texas A&M Traditions

12th Man
The story of the 12th Man dates back to January 2, 1922 during a football game between the Aggies from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas vs the Prayin’ Colonels of Centre College Kentucky. The tradition began when E. King Gill left the stands for the sidelines in case the football team needed an extra player. Every player on the Aggie team except for the 11 on the field were injured. Although E. King Gill never played, today the 12th Man symbolizes the support and readiness to go into the game whenever we are needed.

Aggie Ring
The Aggie Ring is a unique representation of achievement by an Aggie. It also symbolizes a senior’s welcoming into the Aggie Network. The Aggie Ring can only be ordered when an Aggie completes 90 hours, 45 of the hours being from Texas A&M University. On Ring Day, thousands of Aggies, family, and friends gather at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center to celebrate achieving an academic milestone and receiving the most visible symbol of the Aggie Network.

Bonfire
Symbolizing the undying desire to beat the Longhorns of t.u., Bonfire was burned before the game each year until its collapse in 1999. The Bonfire Memorial was dedicated in 2004 to honor the Aggies injured or killed in the tragedy.

Gig ‘Em
Gig ‘Em is a universal sign of approval for Aggies. Coined by P.L. “Pinkie” Downs, Class of 1906, at a Yell Practice before the 1930 TCU football game, Downs asked, “What are we going to do with those Horned Frogs?” and answered, “Gig ‘Em Aggies!” while making a fist and extending his thumb up.
Texas A&M Traditions

**Muster**
Muster represents the Aggie Spirit that binds Aggies to their school and to one another. On April 21st each year, Aggie Muster is held all over the world. At the campus Muster, the 50 year reunion class and Aggies from the area come together to reminisce about their days in Aggieland and call roll for the Aggie who have passed away in the past year. Muster is a way for Aggies to renew their loyalty to their school and their friends.

**Silver Taps**
Silver Taps is held for a graduate or undergraduate student who passes away while enrolled at Texas A&M. This final tribute is held the first Tuesday of the month when a student has passed away the previous month. Silver Taps is currently held in the Academic Plaza. Students silently gather at the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross where the Ross Volunteer Firing Squad marches into the plaza and fires three rifle volleys. Buglers then play a special rendition of Silver Taps where it is played once to the north, south, and west. It is not played to the east because the sun will never rise on that Aggie again.

**Reveille**
Reveille is known as the First Lady of Texas A&M and is our official mascot. She is the highest ranking member of the Corps of Cadets and can be seen attending class and university events with the Mascot Corporal, a sophomore from Company E-2. Aggie Legend has it that Reveille came to us in January of 1931 when some cadets found a mutt on their way back from Navasota and proceeded to take her back and hide her since pets were not allowed in the dorm. The next morning when Reveille woke the cadets, she started barking and went wild, giving her the unique name we know her by today.

Learn more about Texas A&M Traditions at tamu.edu/traditions
## Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 24</td>
<td>Last day to register for fall semester classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 27</td>
<td>First day of fall semester classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 31</td>
<td>Last day for adding and dropping courses for the fall semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 15</td>
<td>Mid-semester grades due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8-28</td>
<td>Pre-registration for 2019 spring semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 16</td>
<td>Last day to: drop courses with no penalty; change KINE 198/199 Grade Type; officially withdraw from the University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 18</td>
<td>Bonfire 1999 Remembrance Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 21</td>
<td>Reading day, no classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday-Friday, November 22-23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 3</td>
<td>Redefined day, students attend their <strong>Friday</strong> classes. Does not apply to programs offered by the College of Nursing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 4</td>
<td>Redefined day, students attend their <strong>Thursday</strong> classes. Does not apply to programs offered by the College of Nursing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 5</td>
<td>Last day of classes for fall semester classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 6</td>
<td>Reading day, no classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 10-12</td>
<td>Fall semester final exams for all students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All dates are subject to change. Visit [registrar.tamu.edu/Catalogs-Policies-Procedures/Academic-Calendar](http://registrar.tamu.edu/Catalogs-Policies-Procedures/Academic-Calendar) for the full Academic Calendar.