

# Special Services and Opportunities

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## Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Located on the second floor of the McDowell Administration building (BA 296), the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students is responsible for supporting the goals of the University as the senior student affairs officer by providing vision, leadership and supervision for personnel, facilities, programs, and other resources to ensure an atmosphere conducive to the holistic development of students.

### Concern and Incident Reporting Forms

The Dean of Students office is available to help with a number of student-related issues and address student behavior. To find the appropriate forms, please visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>. Once the report has been filed, it will be directed to the appropriate department for follow-up.

If this is an emergency, please contact our University Police Department at 911 or 903-886-5111, then complete the report.

## Campus Recreation

Campus Recreation educates, connects, and inspires people for lifelong activity and well-being. They offer a variety of ways to be physically active and improve your well-being. Most students pay a Recreation Center fee in their tuition that covers the costs of these opportunities. Over a dozen intramural sports are offered every semester, ranging from basketball, flag football, and volleyball to tennis, cricket, pickleball, and table tennis. Club sports are organized by students who practice and compete against other universities on regional and national levels. With over 20 different group fitness sessions offered weekly, you can find ways to stay active with Zumba, yoga, cycling, strength training, and more. Outdoor adventure opportunities are also offered, such as trips around the region to hike, bike, kayak, rock climb, and much more. In addition to these programs, students can come to the Morris Recreation Center (MRC) to play basketball, volleyball, racquetball, and other sports. The MRC also includes weight and cardio rooms, an activity room, an outdoor leisure pool, and an indoor rock wall. Check out all these options and more on the Campus Recreation website: <https://tamuc.edu/CampusRec> or by calling 903-468-3181.

## Counseling Center

The Counseling Center provides free mental health and well-being services to currently enrolled University students. Counseling is available face-to-face or by teletherapy, and individual, couples, and group counseling is provided. The Counseling Center offers a warm and welcoming environment with programs and services to help maximize students' potential for academic and personal success. Confidentiality is respected, and counseling records are not included in a student's academic record. They also provide consultations and referral services for students, faculty, and staff; educational outreach and prevention services; and crisis intervention services 24/7. Psychiatric evaluation and medication management are available for students utilizing

counseling services. We encourage all students to take advantage of the services the Counseling Center has to offer. For more information visit our website at <https://www.tamuc.edu/counseling-center/>. To schedule an appointment, come by the Counseling Center in the Halladay Student Services Building, Room 203, or call 903-886-5145.

## Intercultural Engagement & Leadership

Through the Office of Intercultural Engagement & Leadership, you will learn how to drive positive change in your community on a global scale. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, intercultural leadership fosters the ability to inspire and guide you toward shared objectives. They want to help you find your passion and create sustainable change in our complex world. Become a changemaker by working with the Office and learning to create a better world. Programs will immerse you in experiential learning and develop your leadership and cultural competency through co-curricular experience.

The Office also provides a space that students can call "home," equipped with a relaxation lounge, study space, conference room, and staff that are great resources for on and off-campus information.

Meet us on the 2nd floor of the Rayburn Student Center to learn more about cultural awareness, leadership, social justice, and community engagement. Visit our website: <http://www.tamuc.edu/IEL>, or call 903-468-3046 for more information about your Intercultural Engagement and Leadership options.

## The Office of International Programs

The Office of International Programs assists international students and exchange visitors regarding academic, personal, and immigration-related concerns. Services include issuing I-20's/DS-2019 documents, new international student orientation, and coordination of global activities for the university community. Other services include communication with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors, re-entry authorization for traveling outside the United States, employment authorization, and extension of stay. The Office is located in the Ferguson Building, 2nd floor, Rooms 220 & 221. Visit our website at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-international-programs/>

## Rayburn Student Center

The Rayburn Student Center (RSC), the heart of campus, provides programs, activities, and facilities for the campus community to gather, connect, and engage. The Rayburn Student Center features 120,000 square feet of modern meeting rooms, a food court, Chick-Fil-A, a Mane Cafe, a University Bookstore, a Student Club, graphic design and campus marketing services, informal lounges, patios, and ATM. The RSC is located on the corner of Neal and Stonewall Streets right across from the McFarland Science Center. For more information, please visit our website: <http://tamuc.edu/RSC> or by calling 903-886-5400.

## Residential Living and Learning

Residential Living and Learning (RLL), located in the Halladay Student Services building, is committed to the educational philosophy of A&M-Commerce and promotes each resident's unique personal development by providing them with a safe, secure, and reasonably priced living/learning environment. Each residence hall offers activities and events that engage the student in their living communities as well as the University community. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/residential-living-learning/> or call 903-886-5797.

## Student Advocacy and Support

### Student Advocacy and Support

Student Advocacy & Support provides holistic services to aid, educate, and advocate for students when encountering life's challenges. The department consists of Case Management, Victim Support Services, The Lion Food Pantry, The Lion Wardrobe, and Foster Care Liaison Services.

- **Case Management** assists with challenges that may include homelessness, family crises, food insecurity, or any number of other issues. If you are experiencing an issue that is not listed, please reach out to us at [CARE@tamuc.edu](mailto:CARE@tamuc.edu) so that we can assist you or connect you to the correct resource.
- **The Lion Food Pantry** is a direct response to the hunger gap found in many communities. The pantry helps students access tangible resources, such as food and toiletry items, to ensure student wellness so that they can focus on their academics. [LionPantry@tamuc.edu](mailto:LionPantry@tamuc.edu).
- **Victim Support Advocates** provide support, resource information, and advocacy services to survivors of crime to assist in the journey after trauma. Our advocates provide information about rights, legal processes, and options available to the individual, as well as accompaniment to any legal or Title IX interviews. Victim Advocates are a confidential reporting option.
- **Foster Care Liason Services** work to identify and assist students who have been impacted or involved with the foster care system or were adopted to ensure they are supported and have access to the resources and benefits they qualify for.
- **The Lion Wardrobe** is a student-run professional clothing shop maintained by the Office of Student Advocacy & Support.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-advocacy-support/> or call 903-886-5736.

## Student Disability Services

Student Disability Services (SDS), located in Velma K. Waters Library, room 162, is committed to promoting an academic, recreational, and social experience for students with disabilities that is fully inclusive and accessible. Students with disabilities at A&M-Commerce are encouraged to participate

in all aspects of campus life. SDS offers accommodations counseling, disability-related resources, access to adaptive technology, assistive equipment, and academic/non-academic accommodations.

All students with disabilities who need accommodations must file an application for eligibility, as well as provide current documentation of disability. Applications can be completed in the SDS office or online at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>. For more information, contact 903-886-5150 or email [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu).

## Student Engagement

Student Engagement is the center of your college experience. We can help you make the most of your A&M University-Commerce experience through student organizations, campus activities, fraternity and sorority life, special events, and programs such as Lion's Roar Weeks of Welcome and Homecoming. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-affairs/student-engagement/> or by calling 903-468-5818.

## Fraternity and Sorority Life

The purpose of Fraternity & Sorority Life at A&M-Commerce is to stimulate the intellectual and personal growth of each of its members, to challenge its members to be the best versions of themselves and live purposeful, fulfilling lives, to give back to the community through education, service & philanthropy and to enrich the overall college experience. With nearly 400 members at 21 chapters, Fraternity & Sorority life makes up about 7% of the student population at A&M-Commerce. While each chapter is unique in its own way, we, as a community, strive to uphold our pillars: scholarship, leadership, service & philanthropy, and brotherhood/sisterhood. For more information about visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/fraternity-sorority-life/>

## Homecoming

Homecoming is a time when current students, faculty, staff, and alumni come together to celebrate the life-long community that comes with being a Lion. A&M-Commerce has stood proudly since 1889, leaving its legacy in Texas over the past 100+ years. Join us for some of our most beloved homecoming traditions, such as the Hot Dog Spirit Rally, bonfire, and the homecoming football game. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-engagement/homecoming/>

## Lion Camp

Lion Camp is an opportunity for our newest members of the Lion Family to become immersed in our Lion Culture. Lion Camp is an off-campus transition camp designed to help our newest students meet new friends, learn about A&M-Commerce spirit and traditions, and make connections with student leaders. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/lion-camp/>

## Lion's Roar Weeks of Welcome

One of our oldest traditions on campus, Lions Roar, is our fall/spring welcome week. You are invited to events throughout the day that encourage you to meet other students, discover campus organizations, and make important connections. You'll have opportunities to connect with peers, departments, and the Commerce community during the first week of school. Kick-off this exciting chapter in your life as a member of your Lion Pride with lots of free food, fun, and giveaways!

## Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) serves and represents the student body through outreach, engagement programs, and meetings with students. Stop by the Office on the second floor of the Rayburn Student Center to meet with the Executive Officers or Senators. Join SGA for meetings on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Rayburn Student Center Legacy A&B. There are many committees that work to enhance the collegiate experience. SGA also has leadership positions available if you are interested in serving as a Senator or Officer; applications are available on the SGA website [www.tamuc.edu/sga](http://www.tamuc.edu/sga).

## Student Organizations

We offer over 100 student organizations that provide developmental opportunities to connect and engage with other student leaders. Our student organizations offer students programmatic experiences and make the campus vibrant. If you are interested in starting or joining a student organization, visit the Office of Student Engagement on the 2nd floor of the Rayburn Student Center or visit their website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-organizations/>.

## Student Health Services

Student Health Services, located in Henderson Hall, offers students affordable medical care to undergraduate and graduate students of A&M-Commerce. Some of the primary health care services include acute care, minor injuries, allergy injections, birth control, EKG's, immunizations, flu shots, TB testing, lab testing, minor surgical procedure, physical exams, splints, STI testing & treatment, stitches, women's health, wound care, asthma management, X-Rays, and telemedicine. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-health-services/> or by calling 903-886-5853.

## Student Legal Services

At A&M-Commerce, we are dedicated to improving the lives of those around us. Student Legal Services offers a wide variety of legal guidance. Our attorney provides consultation, advice, and outreach to A&M-Commerce students. Student Legal Services may write letters, draft legal documents, or attempt to resolve legal problems. While general advice may be available, Student Legal Services does not represent students in criminal matters (including traffic tickets). Student Legal Services is available for in-person and virtual appointments. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact [StudentLegal@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentLegal@tamuc.edu).

## Student Rights & Responsibilities

Located in the Halladay Student Services building, Suite 201, Student Rights & Responsibilities fosters learning and personal accountability by educating the University community on behaviors that promote civility and ethical standards. The office addresses behavioral misconduct, provides a resource for students concerning their rights and responsibilities and provides assistance to faculty, staff and students regarding student conduct matters. The office addresses issues of both undergraduate and graduate student populations.

Students are informed about their student rights and responsibilities primarily through the Student Code of Conduct which is produced by the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities annually. The Code of Student Conduct is applicable to every student enrolled at the University, whether the student is in residence, participating in study abroad, or completing coursework at an off-site location or online. Each student is expected to be fully acquainted with and held responsible for compliance with all published University policies. The student code of conduct is available online [http://www.tamuc.edu/student\\_guidebook/Student\\_Guidebook.pdf](http://www.tamuc.edu/student_guidebook/Student_Guidebook.pdf) (<https://issuu.com/docs/25e55b4d3078ed6ae51aa88b86c13cf9/>) to all students, faculty and staff. Limited hard copies of the student code of conduct are available in the office of Student Right & Responsibilities.

For more information please visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/> or call 903-886-5195.

## Behavioral Intervention Team

The Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) is an advisory group to the Dean of Students focused on students of concern and those in crisis. BIT focuses on prevention and timely intervention before a crisis arises. BIT addresses issues of both undergraduate and graduate student populations. For more information about the BIT, visit: <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/behavior-intervention-team/>

## Student Career Preparedness

Student Career Preparedness is located on the second floor of the Library, Suite 225. Career Preparedness develops relationships with employers resulting in career opportunities for students/alumni, while providing quality career preparation tools to develop the essential skills needed to compete in the job market. The office provides a number of programs and services throughout the year for students as they prepare for a successful transition into their careers.

Programming throughout the year includes:

- Workshops, and in-depth career exploration events.
- Career and Internship fairs, industry panels, and networking events.
- Job search workshops focused on professional development, marketable skills, and career readiness.
- One-on-one industry specific Career Coaching in person or VIRTUAL.

Services available to all students include:

- Résumé and cover letter consultation.
- Career assessment and coaching using a robust tool called Focus 2.
- Job search resources including mock interviews (Big Interview), LinkedIn consultations, and applications and letters for professional schools or employment.

All students and alumni have access to the job and internship database, HireaLion, powered by Handshake. Contact Student Career Preparedness at 903-468-3223 or visit the website at [www.hirealion.com](http://www.hirealion.com).

## Veterans and Military Services

Located in the Welcome Center at 2200 Campbell Street, the Veterans and Military Services Office administers Veteran's Administration educational benefit programs for veterans and their dependents that may be eligible to receive benefits under any one of several programs. Applications and further information are available in the Veterans and Military Services Office or by calling 903-886-5123 or visiting our website at: <https://www.tamuc.edu/Veterans-and-Military-Services/>.

## Financial Aid & Scholarship Office

**(903) 886-5096**

Graduate students who have full or conditional admission to a graduate degree program or a teacher certification program may be eligible for several forms of financial aid. These programs include the Texas Public Education Grant, Graduate Tuition Set\_Aside, College Work-Study, the TEACH GRANT

federal direct student loan programs, and private education. Departmental scholarships are available for admitted graduate students with a high GPA.

Admitted students can apply for donor funded scholarships through their myLEO (<https://leo.tamuc.edu/>) portal. Graduate Teaching and Research Assistantship appointments are done by the individual departments and approved through the Provost Office. Graduate students should contact the department directly for Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant appointments. The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships is located in the Welcome Center, with financial aid advisors located within each of the colleges.

#### ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT FOR FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Financial aid recipients must be enrolled in no less than 6 credit hours for most financial aid programs to pay out. There are two exceptions to this requirement. Students who are eligible for TEACH GRANT can receive this grant for less than 6 credit hours. The amount will be prorated before the money is released to the Office of Student Accounts. Students registered in 3 credit hour dissertation 718 course or 518 course can receive financial aid at the same level as if enrolled in 6 credit hours.

#### ACADEMIC AND COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Students must maintain good academic standing according to Graduate School policy regarding GPA. Students must complete 67% of the attempted hours for the semester and cumulatively. Master's level students have six (6) years from start of the program to complete. Doctoral level students have ten (10) years from start of the program to complete. After these time limitations, a graduate student will be on financial aid suspension for future semesters. For specific information please visit our web site; Financial Aid Standard of Progress (<https://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/cost-and-aid/financial-aid/>).

### **Withdrawal Consequences for Financial Aid**

When a student who is receiving Federal Financial Aid withdraws from a semester, the Financial Aid Office is required by the Department of Education to perform a Return to Title IV calculation. This Return to Title IV calculation is used to determine how much Federal Financial Aid the student had earned prior to the withdrawal using the student's last day of academic engagement. If the calculation determines that the student has participated in over 60% of the semester, the student has earned all of their Federal Financial Aid for the semester.

If the calculation determines that the student has not participated in over 60% of the semester, then the Financial Aid Office is required to return any unearned Federal Financial Aid to the Department of Education. This return of Federal funding may result in a balance due to the university and the student would be required to pay this amount to the university.

Withdrawing from the semester may either place students on a Financial Aid Warning or a Financial Aid Suspension, depending on their current Satisfactory Academic Progress status. A student who is considering withdrawing is encouraged to contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for additional information.

Students may visit the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships website (<https://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/cost-and-aid/financial-aid/>) for the most up-to-date information on financial aid and scholarships.

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy**

The Higher Education Amendment Act of 1965, as amended, mandates institutions of higher education to establish a minimum standard of "Satisfactory Academic Progress" for students receiving financial aid.

For additional information visit the Office of Financial Aid website at Financial Aid (<https://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/cost-and-aid/financial-aid/>).