

# Special Services and Opportunities

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## The Division of Student Affairs

Student Affairs supports the University's mission by creating a collaborative, student-centered university that fosters student success and well-being, a culture of inclusion, and transformative experiences.

## 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

The mission of Campus Recreation is to educate, connect, and inspire people to lifelong activity and well-being. We offer a variety of ways to be physically active and improve your wellbeing. 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 and they practice and compete against other universities on a regional and national level, with opportunities such as fishing and table tennis. With over 20 different group fitness sessions offered every week, you can find ways to stay active with Zumba, yoga, cycling, strength training, etc. Outdoor adventure opportunities are also offered with 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 many other sports. The MRC also includes weight and cardio rooms, activity room, outdoor leisure pool, and an indoor rock wall. Check out all these options and more on the Campus Recreation website: <https://tamuc.edu/CampusRec> (<https://tamuc.edu/CampusRecor%20by%20calling%20903-468-3181/>) or by calling 903-468-3181

## Children's Learning Center

The nationally accredited, four-star designated Children's Learning Center (CLC) is located on campus and serves children six weeks to five years of age. The CLC also offers an after-school and summer KID CAMP program for children ages 6-12. The Children's Learning Center provides the latest in curricula and educational play experiences and now offers a Nature Learning Environment which allows for outside gardening and working in the

outdoors to learn about nature. The CLC prides itself on exceptional, quality care in an academic environment. For more information please visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/childrens-learning-center/> or by calling 903-886-5769.

## 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 that offers programs and services to help maximize students' potential for academic and personal success. Confidentiality is respected and counseling records are not included as part of a student's academic record. We 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 is available for students utilizing counseling services. We encourage all students to take advantage of the services the Counseling Center has to offer. Our mission is to *support, connect, and empower*. 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

Intercultural Engagement and Leadership serves as the hub for social justice, experiential leadership, service and inclusion programs and initiatives. 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.

IEL's mission is to develop global leaders committed to service, lifelong learning, and inclusion by providing a supportive environment of co-curricular excellence and transformative experiences. 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> ([https://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/Intercultural\\_Engagement\\_and\\_Leadership/default.aspx](https://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/Intercultural_Engagement_and_Leadership/default.aspx)) or call 903-468-3046 for more information about your options in Intercultural Engagement and Leadership.

## Latinx Engagement & Outreach

Located in the Sam Rayburn Student Center, Suite 113, Latinx Engagement and Outreach (LEO) helps advance, empower and engage Latinx students while facilitating academic excellence, cultural acuity, global awareness and community impact. We believe in equitable access to every resource, for every student, in every opportunity, both on and off our campus. We provide bilingual support, scholarships, family engagement and outreach to the Hispanic/Latino communities in our region. Our office is responsible for coordinating and implementing various outreach activities and educational programs in an effort to enhance the university's diverse student enrollment and retention efforts. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-latinx-engagement-and-outreach/> or call 903-886-5067.

## Rayburn Student Center

The Rayburn Student Center (RSC), which is 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, cafeteria, University Bookstore, Student Club, graphic design and campus marketing services, informal lounges, patios, and ATM. The RSC student center 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> (<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/studentCenter/default.aspx>) 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 Texas A&M University–Commerce and promotes the unique, personal development of each resident 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. Special Living and Learning Communities (LLCs) are also offered within various residence halls and apartments: Honors College, African American Male Mentorship Program, Latino American Mentorship Program, Sista2Sista, Mujeres de Accion, STEM, Nursing, and Transfer House.

Residential Living and Learning serves both undergraduate and graduate single students. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/residential-living-learning/> or by calling 903-886-5797.

- **Residency Requirement:** All single, first-year undergraduate students who are not commuting from the home of their parents or legal guardians must reside in University housing (residence halls) and all first-year and second-year residents are required to purchase the 19 Meal Plan for the full academic year. This policy covers all beginning students who are starting college in the same year as their date of graduation from high school. Students who have been out of high school for one year or more are exempt from this policy. Students planning to live at home in Commerce or the immediate vicinity are required to file a Commuting Authorization form with the Department of Residential Living and Learning. Students must notify Residential Living and Learning of any change in name or address. For cost information please contact the Residential Living and Learning, call 903-886-5797. Additional information is available at the department's website at <https://www.tamuc.edu/residential-living-learning/>.
- **Housing:** Single student housing provides students with the opportunity to experience the advantages of on-campus living. Single students will have the opportunity to select from various residence hall options such as: shared or private rooms, co-ed or single-sex floors, gender inclusive housing, residence hall or apartment, Living and Learning Communities (LLCs) or sorority housing. Each facility offers unique opportunities for students.

## 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 which may include homelessness, family crisis, food insecurity, or any number of things. 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. Location is Halladay Student Services, 103. Contact us at [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.
- **Student Advocacy and Support Case Managers** 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 disabled students that is fully inclusive and accessible. Disabled students at Texas A&M University-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 please contact: 903-886-5150 or [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 Texas A&M University-Commerce experience through student organizations, campus activities, fraternity and sorority life and special events and programs such as Lion's Roar Weeks of Welcome and Homecoming. Check out all of these options and more on the Student Engagement website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-affairs/student-engagement/> or by calling 903-468-5818

### Campus Activities Board

The Texas A&M University-Commerce Campus Activities Board strives to provide a diverse range of student-led entertainment and events to the university community. Our Programs complement, cultivate, unify, and contribute to the efforts of Texas A&M University-Commerce. We remain true to our founder William L. Mayo's creed of "ceaseless industry, fearless investigation, unfettered thought, and unselfish service to others." Some of our well-known events you can expect to see are the Haunted House, Homecoming Talent Show and CABFEST!

### Fraternity and Sorority Life

The purpose of Fraternity & Sorority Life at Texas A&M University-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 their own way, we, as a community, strive to uphold our pillars, scholarship, leadership, service & philanthropy, and brotherhood/sisterhood. For more information about this please 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 Hot Dog Spirit Rally, bon-fire and of course the homecoming football game. For more information please 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 Texas A&M University-Commerce spirit and traditions and make connections with student leaders. For more information please 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 where you are invited to events throughout the day which encourage you to meet other students, discover campus organizations and make important connections. You'll have opportunities to get connected 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 serves and represents the student body through outreach, engagement programs, and meeting with students. Stop by our office on the second floor of the Rayburn Student Center to meet with our Executive Officers or Senators. Join us for meetings on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in RSC Legacy A&B. We have many committees, such as campus life and academic affairs that work to enhance the collegiate experience. We also have leadership positions available if you are interested in serving as a Senator or Officer; applications are available on our website [www.tamuc.edu/sga](http://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 programmatic experiences and make the campus vibrant. If you are interested in starting an organization, visit the Office of Student Engagement located on the 2nd floor of the Rayburn Student Center or visit our 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 Texas A&M University-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 please visit our website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-health-services/> or by calling 903-886-5853.

## **Student Legal Services**

At Texas A&M University-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 otherwise 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, please 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) to all students, faculty and staff. Limited hard copies of the guidebook 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 that is focused on students of concern and students in crisis. The focus of BIT is to focus on prevention and timely intervention before a crisis arises. The office BIT addresses issues of both undergraduate and graduate student populations. For more information about the BIT, please visit: <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/behavior-intervention-team/>.

## 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 a 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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/tuitionCosts/financialaidandscholarships/satisfactory-academic-progress/default.aspx>).

## 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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/tuitionCosts/financialAidandScholarships/>) 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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/tuitionCosts/financialAidandScholarships/>).