

# General Information

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## University Purpose

### Our History

East Texas A&M University began as East Texas Normal College in 1889 when founder William Leonidas Mayo opened the doors to a one-building campus in Cooper. After the original campus was destroyed by fire in 1894, Professor Mayo moved the college 16 miles to Commerce, Texas to take advantage of westward railroad lines to Dallas and other parts of the state. His creed, which continues today, was "ceaseless industry, fearless investigation, unfettered thought and unselfish service to others." The State of Texas took over the campus in 1917 and the name was changed to East Texas State Normal College. In 1923, the school was renamed East Texas State Teachers College. The graduate program was added in 1935, and in 1957 the Legislature, recognizing that the purpose of the institution had broadened from teacher education, changed the name to East Texas State College. Following the inauguration of the first doctoral program in 1962, the name was changed once more to East Texas State University. The name change to East Texas A&M University occurred in 1996, when the university joined The Texas A&M University System. Today, the University meets the undergraduate, graduate, and professional needs of the citizens of Northeast Texas and beyond through its main campus in Commerce, various off-campus instructional sites, and state-of-the-art distance learning. Its mission is achieved through teaching, scholarship, and service activities on its campuses, and in the community and region. Over the past few decades, the University has grown in both stature and student population, significantly expanding its foundations.

### Characteristics

Located only 60 miles northeast of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, East Texas A&M University offers a small-town atmosphere ideal for living, learning, teaching, and research. As one of the largest members of the prestigious Texas A&M University System, East Texas A&M University is home to approximately 12,000 students, more than 130 degree programs, six academic colleges, and two schools.

The majority of students attending the University are Texas residents, many coming from the counties surrounding East Texas A&M University. There are five off-campus teaching sites in the DFW Metroplex and beyond. Known for its care of and support for its students, East Texas A&M University also attracts many students from out-of-state who are enrolled in online degree programs as well as more than 500 international students. The founder of East Texas Normal College, William L. Mayo, was committed to providing affordable educational opportunities to first-generation college students. East Texas A&M University was recently recognized as having the "Most Military Friendly" online master's program. The University has a large number of graduate programs for a university of its size. Student access and success are the hallmarks of the University. East Texas A&M University is recognized as a pioneer, innovator, and leader in distance education.

### Our Vision

East Texas A&M University strives to:

#### **TRANSFORM LIVES**

by providing an excellent, relevant and personalized education to diverse learners

#### **ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE**

and pursue impactful research

#### **SERVE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY**

where all are valued

#### **FOSTER COLLABORATION**

to solve contemporary problems

### Our Mission

Educate. Discover. Achieve.

## The Campus

East Texas A&M University covers 2,011 acres of land in and near Commerce. The University is located eight blocks southwest of Commerce's business center, and has a book value in excess of \$255 million.

## Velma K. Waters Library

### Facility

Located in the center of the East Texas A&M University campus, the Velma K. Waters Library (main campus) occupies five floors and 120,853 square feet of the library building. The library has 495 seats and users have access to 29 study rooms and 122 networked desktop computers. The library provides 72 laptops available for student checkout, multimedia equipment, 2 KIC scanners, and 3 black/white and color copy machines. An account management kiosk for university Lion Cards is also located in the library.

In addition to housing the physical collections, the library also provides space to the Academic Success Center, Student Disability Services, Office of Career Development, College of Innovation and Design, Assistive Technology Lab, and Starbucks for the university community. The total square footage of the space partners is 14,040 sq. ft. The library is open a total of 111 hours, 7 days a week. During final exams week, the library provides additional extended hours by staying open 24 hours a day.

### Instruction

The library offers a variety of instructional services aimed at teaching users how to find, select and evaluate appropriate print and electronic resources, develop effective search strategies, correctly cite sources to avoid plagiarism, and recognize the social implications of information, as it pertains to information and copyright literacy. Librarians are available for individual and group consultations by phone, email, chat, in-person, and video conferencing. Librarians regularly provide course specific instruction sessions and online guides (LibGuides) for the campus and remote instruction sites. Librarians are available during all operating hours and monitor the virtual help desk on weekends and during holidays. Appointments may also be scheduled with individual librarians for one-on-one research assistance. In addition, a team of systems librarians are available to provide advanced technical support to all library patrons during operating hours in-person, via phone, and email. Further, each college and academic department has a librarian designated as a departmental liaison to assist faculty in building collections to support their instructional and research needs. Faculty and student requests for new materials may be placed via the department liaison or through an online request form.

### Collections

The library's collection includes over 304,000 print books, 255,000 online journals, 938,685 eBooks, and 294 research databases.

### Access

Access to the print collection, including course reserves, is available during operating hours. Faculty, staff, and students may check out library materials using their East Texas A&M University campus ID. The Library's electronic resources are available on a 24/7 basis from anywhere in the world to all East Texas A&M University faculty, staff, and students. All students enrolled in classes of all delivery methods and at any off-campus instructional site are able to access the Library's extensive collection of online materials, including e-Books, journals, and research databases 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Access is provided via the Library's website at <http://www.tamuc.edu/library> (<http://www.tamuc.edu/library/>).

### Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery

In support of undergraduate and graduate programs, the library offers interlibrary loan services, which provides users with access to books, journals, and articles not available in the collection, from other libraries throughout the United States. Document delivery services provide free electronic delivery of articles and book chapters from the Library's print collection to East Texas A&M University faculty, staff, and students. Books and other library materials can also be delivered to the home address of members of the university community. Materials are shipped via USPS and include a return-address and pre-paid postage. Eligible users must complete an online form for materials they wish to request via interlibrary loan and document delivery.

### Consortia

A TexShare Card provides East Texas A&M University faculty, students, and staff with access to print collections at public and academic libraries in Texas, as supplementary resources to the Library collection. The Library also participates in the Texas A&M University System Libraries, Greater Western Library Alliance, and TexShare consortia to negotiate research database purchases, increasing access to informational resources.

Additional information is available at the department's website: [www.tamuc.edu/library/](http://www.tamuc.edu/library/) (<http://www.tamuc.edu/library/>) or by calling 903-886-5718.

## Administration Building

The Offices of the President, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Finance & Administration, Vice President for Philanthropy and Engagement, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, are housed on the second floor of the McDowell Administration Building. The Offices of the Graduate School, Center for IT Excellence, Chief Information Officer, Procurement Services, Contract Administration, Bursar, and Financial Services are located on the ground floor. The Office of Philanthropy Operations is on the third floor. The College of Business is located in the eastern portion of the building.

## Student Services Building

Built in 1970, the three-story D. Whitney Halladay Student Services Building houses the Lion Card Office, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Counseling Center, Residential Living & Learning, and TRiO Programs.

## Rayburn Student Center (RSC)

The Rayburn Student Center provides 120,000 square feet of modern meeting rooms and conference spaces, a food court, University Bookstore, student club, informal lounges, patios and is home to several departments. Student organizations, departments, and outside organizations can all reserve the RSC for meetings, conferences, events, luncheons, and programs. Dining options include the Lions Mane Café, Lion's Lair food lockers, and Chick-fil-a. The University Bookstore offers textbooks, TAMUC apparel, merchandise, electronics, and supplies. Departments that call the RSC home are Intercultural Engagement & Leadership, Office of Student Engagement, and RSC operations and scheduling desk. The RSC is also the hub for all student organizations, Student Government Association (SGA), Campus Activities Board (CAB), and fraternities and sororities. Next to Chick-fil-a, The Club hosts a variety of programs and events including cultural showcases, silent discos, gameday watch parties, and bands. This combination of events, food, and connection really makes the Rayburn Student Center the heart of campus.

To reserve space in the RSC, please submit a reservation request: <https://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/Reservation-Request> (<https://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/Reservation-Request/>). For information about RSC hours, operations, and staff, please visit: <https://www.tamuc.edu/rayburn-student-center/>. The Rayburn Student Center is located on the corner of W Neal St and Cooper St, right across from the McFarland Science Center.

## Morris Recreation Center (MRC)

Students pay the Recreation Center fee in their tuition, and therefore have access to the Morris Recreation Center (MRC) by tapping in with their Lion Card at the front desk. The MRC includes two multi-purpose basketball courts, a 45-foot climbing and bouldering wall, three lane jogging track, four multi-purpose racquetball courts, a three-tiered space dedicated to cardiovascular & weight equipment and functional training, fitness activity room, classroom, lounge, and men's and women's locker rooms. Also located at the MRC is an outdoor heated leisure pool, two-tier spa, two outdoor basketball courts, covered pavilion, and a sunbathing area. There is also an artificial turf field located at the MRC. The MRC provides full services including equipment checkout, lockers, workout towels, and even hammocks to use at the outdoor hammock grove. The MRC is managed by Campus Recreation, and hours can be found online: <https://tamuc.edu/CampusRec> (<https://tamuc.edu/CampusRec/>) or by calling 903-468-3181.

## Cain Sports Complex

Located west of Highway 11, off of Hubbell Drive, the Cain Sports Complex features two lighted multi-purpose softball fields, three multipurpose Intramural/Club Sports fields, multipurpose green space, four lighted tennis/pickleball courts, and four lighted sand volleyball courts. A variety of equipment is available to checkout for free, using the equipment kiosk at the Cain Tennis Building. The Cain Sports Complex is managed by Campus Recreation, and hours can be found online: <https://tamuc.edu/CampusRec> (<https://tamuc.edu/CampusRec/>).

## Outdoor Adventure Spaces

Located west of Highway 11, off of Culver Street, Campus Recreation manages a challenge course and disc golf course. The reservation-only challenge course offers adventure-based learning opportunities to enhance leadership, decision-making, and communication skills through an interactive process for groups to develop as a team. The challenge course offers 13 low course elements and 18 high element challenges. The 18-hole disc golf course features a mixture of long-open fairways to short-technical holes as it weaves through a thick forest. For additional information on these outdoor adventure spaces, visit: <https://tamuc.edu/CampusRec>.

## Other Recreational Facilities

East Texas A&M University's Memorial Stadium, which seats nearly 10,000, is used for football, track and field and other special events. The Field House, which seats approximately 2,500, is used for athletic and other special events, including concerts and various commencement exercises for the University and local high schools. In intercollegiate athletics, the East Texas A&M University Lions compete in football, basketball, track and field, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, and volleyball. East Texas A&M University is a member of the Southland Conference of Texas and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I.

Imagine learning in the state-of-the-art Keith D. McFarland Science Building, with one of the most technologically sophisticated planetariums in the southwest or performing in the \$29 million Music Building, completed in the fall of 2010. The Music Building includes the Jack and Lou Finney Concert Hall, Recital Hall, four rehearsal halls, classrooms, piano and electronic music labs, studios, and practice rooms. The Department of Music sponsors several instrumental and vocal/choral ensembles, including the "Pride" Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Chorale, Opera Theatre, Jazz Ensembles, Panimation Steel Drum Band, and many more. Also, as an All-Steinway School, the Music Building features Steinway Pianos with Spirio technology that allows for interaction with pianists around the globe and across the span of time through the wireless linking of instruments.

Home to the Department of Theatre, the Performing Arts Center has two modern theatres, a three-hundred-seat Mainstage Theatre and a variable capacity Studio Theatre. The Performing Arts Center also boasts a computerized lighting system, scene shop, costume shop, makeup room, and dressing rooms. The University Playhouse produces a full season of dynamic plays each year in the Performing Arts Center and serves as an important artistic and cultural resource for the campus and its surrounding communities. As well, the twelve-hundred seat University Auditorium is housed in the Ferguson Social Sciences Building.

The University's 100,000 watt public radio station, 88.9 KETR, is an NPR member station providing locally and nationally-produced programming. KETR-FM, heard within 75 miles of Commerce and online at [www.ketr.org](http://www.ketr.org), is the radio home for East Texas A&M University Lions football and basketball broadcasts each fall and spring. The mission of the station, which operates from historic Binnion Hall, is to provide Northeast Texas citizens and the East Texas A&M University community with entertaining, educational, and informative programming, and to serve as a learning environment for students to pursue excellence in broadcasting and journalism. The station is supported by listener contributions, corporate sponsorships, foundation gifts, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.