In keeping with the diversified and expanded character of the institution, the 58th Legislature of Texas, on August 23, 1963, changed the name of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas to Texas A&M University. With the name change, the Graduate School was designated the Graduate College. It was renamed the Office of Graduate Studies in 1987, and in 2013 the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, and is administered by the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies under the Division of Academic Affairs.

In 1936, the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas approved “certain programs of study and research leading to the doctorate.” In the same year the Academic Council of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas delineated qualifications required of the faculty for participation in graduate instruction, thereby establishing the graduate faculty. The first Ph.D. was awarded in 1940. In the 1960’s, the Board of Regents envisioned a broader role for graduate studies and created programs of graduate instruction in all of the academic colleges throughout the University.

As the State of Texas grew, so did its land-grant institution. Texas A&M now has a physical plant valued at more than $1 billion. The campus in College Station includes 5,200 acres and is one of the largest campuses of any major institution of higher education in the nation.

On September 17, 1971, the designation “sea-grant college” was assigned to Texas A&M in recognition of its achievements in oceanographic and marine resources development. Texas A&M was one of the first four institutions nationwide to achieve this distinction. Patterned after the century-old, land-grant idea, sea-grant colleges are federal-state partnerships for furthering marine work through practical research, education and advisory services. The designation clearly establishes the University’s leadership relative to marine affairs of the state.

Texas A&M added a third special designation on August 31, 1989, when it was named a “space-grant college.” This new designation, bestowed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, came to the University based on its continuing commitment to space research and its participation in the Texas Space Grant Consortium, a group of 24 higher education institutions, 22 corporations, two non-profit groups and three state agencies under the leadership of Texas A&M and The University of Texas at Austin.

In addition to its traditional strengths in agriculture and engineering, Texas A&M is an established leader in areas such as the space, nuclear, computer, biotechnological, oceanographic and marine resources fields. It also has placed added emphasis on the arts and sciences and business, and continues to enhance its prominent role in these fields.

A mandatory military component was a part of the Land Grant designation until the 1950’s, and the Corps of Cadets has played an important part in Texas A&M’s history and development. Even though membership in the Corps of Cadets became voluntary in 1965, Texas A&M historically has produced more officers than any other institution in the nation, with the exception of the service academies. The University is one of only three institutions with a full-time corps of cadets, including ROTC programs, leading to commissions in all branches of service—Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Texas A&M offers a variety of programs in undergraduate and graduate studies through its academic colleges and schools—Agriculture and Life Sciences, Architecture, the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Mays Business School, Education and Human Development, College of Engineering, Geosciences, Liberal Arts, Science, and Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, as well as degree programs from the
Texas A&M University Health Science Center, with locations across the state, and Texas A&M School of Law, in Fort Worth.

Texas A&M has two branch campuses: a marine and maritime campus on Galveston, Texas A&M University Galveston campus, and an engineering campus in the Middle Eastern country of Qatar, Texas A&M University Qatar campus. In addition, Texas A&M’s extensive research efforts in all fields, in conjunction with the agricultural and engineering experiment stations, resulted in annual expenditures of more than $866 million in 2014, ranking the University 17th nationally by the National Science Foundation.

Classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a Research Intensive University (very high research activity), Texas A&M embraces its mission of the advancement of knowledge and human achievement. The research mission is a key to advancing economic development in both public and private sectors across Texas and the nation. In addition, research-intensive experiences prepare students to compete in a highly competitive, knowledge-based, global society and to continue developing their own creativity, learning and skills throughout their lives.

In 2001, Texas A&M became one of only 62 members of the Association of American Universities, a prestigious organization that restricts its ranks to the premier public and private institutions of higher learning in the United States and Canada. In 2004, the Kappa of Texas Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa was installed at Texas A&M.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student learning outcomes summarize the knowledge and skills Texas A&M expects students to gain during their educational experience as Aggies. These learning outcomes ask students to connect their course- and degree-level learning to their overall goals as they take on leadership positions in their professions and communities, and prepare them to engage in learning for a lifetime.

First and foremost, Texas A&M expects students to have mastered the material presented in their individual courses, from entry-level general education courses required of all undergraduates, to capstone courses restricted to seniors in a major, to specialized graduate seminars.

The broader institutional student learning outcomes ask students to connect the pieces of their education into a whole that synthesizes what they have learned. Students graduate not only knowing facts and understanding basic concepts, but also demonstrating an ability to apply and explain those facts and concepts creatively in new situations. Through this process, students gain the skills and knowledge that allow them to thrive in our complex world.

Master’s

A student who graduates from Texas A&M with a master’s degree will:

- Master degree program requirements, including theories, concepts, principles and practice, and develop a coherent understanding of the subject matter through synthesis across courses and experiences.
- Apply subject matter knowledge in a range of contexts to solve problems and make decisions.
- Use a variety of sources and evaluate multiple points of view to analyze and integrate information and to conduct critical, reasoned arguments.
- Know how to communicate effectively.
- Use appropriate technologies to communicate, collaborate, conduct research and solve problems.
- Develop clear research plans and conduct valid (data-supported), theoretically consistent and institutionally appropriate research.
- Choose ethical courses of action in research and practice.

Doctoral

A student who graduates from Texas A&M with a doctoral degree will:

- Master degree program requirements, including theories, concepts, principles and practice; develop a coherent understanding of the subject matter through synthesis across courses and experiences; and apply subject matter knowledge to solve problems and make decisions.
- Apply a variety of strategies and tools, use a variety of sources and evaluate multiple points of view to analyze and integrate information and put forth critical, reasoned arguments.
- Communicate effectively.
- Develop clear research plans, conduct valid, data-supported, theoretically consistent, and institutionally appropriate research and effectively disseminate the results of the research in appropriate venues to a range of audiences.
- Use appropriate technologies to communicate, collaborate, conduct research and solve problems.
- Teach and explain the subject matter in their discipline.
- Choose ethical courses of action in research and practice.