**ORIENTATION**

**Orientation**

**New Student Conferences**
http://newaggie.tamu.edu

- Held each year for undergraduate students entering Texas A&M University. New students are required to register for and attend a conference in order to accept their offer of admission and register for classes.
- During the conference, new students learn about valuable University services and meet with academic advisors for curriculum advisement and selection of first semester courses.
- Additional services and programs from the Office of New Student and Family Programs: http://studentlife.tamu.edu/nsfp
  - Howdy Week: Aggieland’s Week of Welcome - held the week before Fall classes begin
  - Family Member support and outreach including a family listserv open to all Aggie families
  - Publications for incoming students and family members - New Student Handbook and Aggie Family Calendar
  - Family Weekend - held each Spring
  - Advisement of Aggie Orientation Leader Program and Family Weekend Committee

**Aggie Honor Code**

Integrity is a fundamental core value of Texas A&M University. Academic integrity requires a commitment by all faculty, students, and administrators to:

- Remain constantly focused on the quality of the academic programs;
- Achieve and maintain academic excellence in all courses and programs to assure the value of Texas A&M University degrees;
- Demand high academic standards from all members of the Aggie community.

All Texas A&M University students, graduate and undergraduate, part-time or full-time, in residence or in distance education, are expected to follow the guiding rule of the Aggie Honor Code:

*“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”*

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System, which may be found at http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu. A student will be required to state his/her commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System.

The Honor System Office is charged with promotion of the honor code and administration of academic misconduct cases. The Honor Council, comprised of students and faculty from colleges and offices across the University, will investigate all such infractions of the honor code and recommend appropriate sanctions. The office website, http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu, defines the types of infractions and the possible consequences. Students are urged to review this information.

In addition to adherence to the Honor Code, a student (graduate students in particular) who is completing a thesis, record of study, dissertation, and publication may fall under the additional federal requirements promulgated by the Office of Research Integrity (Scientific Misconduct Regulations – 42 CFR part 50), as well as Texas A&M System Regulations and Texas A&M University Rules (Texas A&M System Regulations – Ethics in Research and Scholarship – 15.99.03, and Texas A&M University rules and standard administrative procedures – Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship – 15.99.03.M1, 15.99.03.M1.01-06).

**Aggie Honor System Office**
http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu

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**Extended Orientation**

**ExCEL Program**
http://excel.tamu.edu

Texas A&M University’s Excellence uniting Culture, Education, and Leadership (ExCEL) is a student organization and freshman involvement program designed to help freshmen find academic, social, and personal balance at Texas A&M by fostering a community where they can culturally identify. Since 1987, ExCEL has assisted freshmen in making a smooth transition from high school to college by orienting freshmen to the program through a conference, cultivating relationships between peers and mentors, providing a sense of belonging through cultural communities, offering academic support services, and serving as a resource for transitioning into Aggie life.

ExCEL launches with the ExCEL Conference the Friday before fall classes. During the conference, students become familiar with the year-long program, as they are assigned upper-class peer mentors and a peer group of freshmen. The Conference consists of motivational speakers, dialogue within the ExCEL cultural communities, introduction to developmental series focused on personal development, and meet and greet mentor activities. Following the Conference, academic, social, and cultural activities begin through the close of the spring semester. Activities include cultural community events, seminar series covering various relevant topics, mentor engagement activities, study halls, community service projects, and socials!
While ExCEL is a student-run program, you may also obtain information by contacting the Department of Multicultural Services at 979.862.2000 or in Suite 2200 in the Memorial Student Center.

**Fish Camp**
http://fishcamp.tamu.edu

Fish Camp is a student-run, extended orientation program intended to provide incoming freshman students the opportunity to establish friendships, meet student leaders, become familiar with Aggie traditions, and learn about Texas A&M campus life. Faculty and staff members speak on topics such as study habits, personal goals, Aggie traditions and history, involvement, and campus services. Held during a three-week period preceding the fall semester, each four-day, three-night session is designed to aid students in the transition from high school to college and, particularly, to Texas A&M.

In addition to providing educational programs, group activities, and small group discussions, the camp allows students to get to know each other through recreation, intramural sports, and evening theme mixers. Fish Camp is not just a four-day experience in August; activities and camp hangouts continue into the Fall semester. For more information on Fish Camp and how to register for a session, please visit our website.

**Howdy Camp**
http://atc.tamu.edu

Occurring every January, Howdy Camp is a three-day, two-night extended orientation camp hosted by Aggie Transition Camps for all students entering Texas A&M University in the spring semester.

Howdy Camp is the spring semester’s equivalent to Fish Camp and T-Camp, and offers a great way for incoming students to find community before classes begin. At Howdy Camp, new Aggies are introduced to the many traditions, indescribable spirit, and customs of Aggieland. Additionally, Howdy Camp doesn’t end when the bus leaves camp! Counselors continue to be available and serve as resources during the semester as students complete their transition into Texas A&M. Aggie Transition Camps is a sponsored student organization at Texas A&M University.

**T-Camp**
http://atc.tamu.edu

Held in August each year, T-Camp is a three-day, two-night extended orientation camp experience for transfer and other non-traditional students entering Texas A&M in the summer and fall semesters. Through staff presentations, student skits, and small group discussion time, new students will leave camp with knowledge about Texas A&M campus resources and many new friends.

Additionally, T-Camp doesn’t end when the bus leaves camp! Your counselors will continue to be available and serve as resources as you complete your transition into Texas A&M. Counselors will be at the T-Camp Backyard Bash during G'Em Week, will show you around the MSC Open House, and will plan frequent camp hangouts. Counselors will also coordinate campus tours so that you are not lost on your first day! T-Camp is hosted by Aggie Transition Camps, a sponsored student organization at Texas A&M University.

**Venture Camp: Base Camp**
http://venturecamp.tamu.edu

Venture Camp: Base Camp, the inaugural program under the Venture Camp umbrella, is an outdoor, six-day, five-night extended orientation experience that occurs in July and takes place both on the Texas A&M main campus and also in the Texas Hill Country. A collaborative program hosted by the Departments of Student Activities and Recreational Sports, Base Camp involves numerous outdoor adventures including hiking, rock climbing, camping, and paddling a river. Staff and students from Outdoor Adventures guide the trip activities during the day, and in the evening campers gather back at the campsite to participate in peer-led large and small group discussions about college and life at Texas A&M. No prior outdoor experience is required, but a willingness to be an active participant and a team player is very important! A much smaller program than the other summer extended orientation programs, Base Camp offers a more intimate extended orientation experience while also providing information important to students transitioning into college life.

**Venture Camp: Veterans**

Venture Camp: Veterans is the newest extended orientation program and will launch the first session in August of 2017. A collaborative effort between the Departments of Student Activities, Recreational Sports, and the Veterans Resource & Support Center, Venture Camp: Veterans is a two-day program designed to offer a combination of outdoor experiences such as paddling a river and/or rock climbing off-campus as well as peer-led, on-campus activities designed to create greater senses of confidence and competence for incoming students learning to navigate the Texas A&M campus and community. Interested individuals can learn more by contacting Sarah Edwards at sedwards@stuact.tamu.edu. (sedwards@stuact.tamu.edu)