



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO



2020-2021

Handbook

Student

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY- SAN ANTONIO STUDENT HANDBOOK 2020-2021

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WELCOME

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT of STUDENT SUCCESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Dear Students,

On behalf of the Division of Student Success and Engagement, welcome to Texas A&M University-San Antonio. What an exciting time to be a Jaguar! You are a pioneer in the development of a world-class university. All around campus you can feel the excitement as we work together to build academic programs, traditions, pride and spirit.

We have a rich heritage in South San Antonio, and being a member of this community is one that carries a sense of prestige and honor. All Jaguars value integrity, leadership, inclusion, trust, respect, and responsibility. We celebrate and advocate the differences in culture, history and thought that each of you brings to the university community.

In this student handbook, you will find a selection of information that we believe will help you to better acclimate to our community. We understand that these are difficult times and we are all trying to adjust to this new sense of normal. Texas A&M University-San Antonio provides a variety of opportunities designed to help you throughout your time on campus, as well as online. The services and programs outlined in the Student Handbook will help you accomplish the goals you have set for yourself.

Take a few minutes to learn about these programs and services. Our faculty and staff are here to help you and are committed to your success. In addition, The Student Code of Conduct, found in this handbook, outlines the policies and procedures we use to ensure fair treatment to all members of our community, both in the classroom and out.

We know your focus is in attaining academic success and completing your degree. We are here to assist you. The Division of Student Success and Engagement is not only interested in your academic success, but also in your social and professional development. We believe the student is our first priority. We encourage you to become involved in campus events and organizations. Spend time getting to know your faculty and staff. Meet other students and build a support network. Take advantage of workshops, lectures and presentations offered outside of the classroom. All these opportunities will enhance your experience here at Texas A&M University-San Antonio and will make your time here richer.

We truly are glad that you have chosen to pursue your higher education at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and we wish you the very best. Go Jaguars!

Dr. Mari Fuentes-Martin

Vice President of Student Success and Engagement

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 MISSION STATEMENT

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is reflective of the diverse and heritage rich community it serves. University and community partnerships provide a strong foundation for student and academic success and support interdisciplinary teaching and experiential learning. Faculty and staff collaborate to create comprehensive, industry-responsive academic and co-curricular programs that provide a transformative experience for all students. The University's inclusive environment inspires learning and fosters social development using relevant scholarship, research and public service. A&M-San Antonio graduates leave well-equipped with knowledge and marketable skills that prepare them for rewarding careers, responsible global citizenship and lifelong learning.

1.2 VISION

A&M-San Antonio serves as an economic, research and social catalyst that will become nationally recognized for student and academic success, embracing all students, especially those from underrepresented communities

1.3 CORE VALUES

Excellence

We strive for excellence above all else. Those who represent the A&M-SA family—faculty, staff, students and alumni—do so with the highest standards of integrity and characterize the grit, honor and traditions of the campus community.

Student Focus

We use a number of co-curricular activities, including experiential learning, as catalysts to achieve active student learning. We use intentional and innovative teaching and applied learning methods to educate a diverse student body, enhance retention and encourage timely graduation.

Audaciousness

We think big and work diligently to fulfill our aspirations. We are an agile, innovative and entrepreneurial university that prepares students, faculty and staff to create a better future and transform the world, starting with our local community, region and state.

Opportunity

We create opportunities for a diverse student body by embracing the demographics of our region and the military-connected community. We are inclusive of all learners and welcome students where they are, socially, economically and academically. We prepare traditional and nontraditional students with marketable skills and undergraduate research experiences that contribute to a meaningful life and a fulfilling career.

Collaboration

We value interdisciplinary approaches, partnerships and research opportunities that respond to needs across public and private industries, the military community, school districts, other colleges and universities and the Texas A&M University System.

1.4 SCHOOL HISTORY

Texas A&M University-San Antonio was created in 2000 to address an educational need in south San Antonio. The Texas Legislature asked The Texas A&M University System to establish a center that would offer junior- and senior-level courses in south San Antonio, an area that has been historically underserved in terms of higher education. The University, then known as Texas A&M University-Kingsville System Center-San Antonio, was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in January 2000. On May 23, 2009, Gov. Rick Perry signed Senate Bill 629 that created Texas A&M University-San Antonio as a stand-alone university.

1.5 ALMA MATER

Bienvenidos

Words and Music by Jim Cullum

Oh we see the vista loved so, Alma Mater of our dreams.

Our lives blest with learning, our University.

A&M, A&M, we pledge our loyalty.

Bienvenidos, Se'an todos en San Antonio.

As the pow'r of history beckons and our mission makes us free

Thy bright light calls us onward, our road made clear by thee.

A&M, A&M, thy clarion call our guide.

Mil recuerdos nuestros dias en San Antonio.

So we honor all thy grandeur as our song rings out for thee.

We raise forever thy banner with grateful hearts our key.

A&M, A&M, hail our diversity.

Esperanza un futuro en San Antonio. Esperanza un futuro en San Antonio.

1.6 FIGHT SONG

Texas A&M University- San Antonio

Lyrics by: Alyssa De La O

Composed by: Alana Urbano

A&M San Antonio

These Jaguars are coming for
YOU,

To defend our colors,

The Black, The Silver

And remain forever TRUE!

From the City of San Anton'

We stand with great

LOYALTY,

'Cause we are the Jaguars

And we have the pride

That leads to VICTORY!

Chant: VIVA, VIVA,

A&M-SA! (4x)

RAAWWWRR

SECTION 2 TRADITIONS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) has many traditions. As the University grows in stature, these traditions resonate more strongly with students, faculty, staff and alumni as well as members of the San Antonio community.

2.1 GENERAL THE JAGUAR

The official mascot of Texas A&M-San Antonio. General the Jaguar received their name and the rank of Brigadier General on August 27, 2014. General has been a shining point of pride for A&M-San Antonio, delighting all who get a chance to get a picture with the “claw-some” mascot. Texas A&M University-San Antonio has a secret that embodies the Jaguar pride, in that the person playing the General the Jaguar mascot will never be discovered. As an ambassador for A&M-San Antonio, General the Jaguar can be spotted roaming around at many campus events.

2.2 RING CEREMONIES (SPRING AND FALL)

The Ring Ceremony pays homage to each student’s time at the University, including the hard work, sweet successes, and the indelible memories that will last a lifetime. The ceremony is filled with Jaguar pride as the University celebrates the many accomplishments of its students. On the eve of each ceremony, the class rings are stowed in the dome of the Central Academic Building. Legend has it that “at nightfall, before the ceremony, the dome holds the Spirit of the Jaguar” and “the Spirit of the Jaguar illuminates the dome and permeates each class ring”

2.3 JAGUARS REMEMBERED

Hosted by the Student Government Association, the Dean of Students Office and the Office of Alumni Relations, the event commemorates Jaguars who passed away in the last year. Modeled after Texas A&M University’s Muster Roll Call of all students and former students “whom death has taken from our ranks, but whose memory lives on in our hearts.” Jaguars Remembered reinforces A&M-SA’s close ties to the A&M System Family.

2.4 FESTIVAL DE CASCARÓNES

An annual Fiesta event that has music, food, vendors, and of course, cascarónes. The event is hosted at A&M-San Antonio and has had over 7000 attendees. The Jaguar Spirit is on full display with many student groups participating with booths including games, food, music, and fun.

2.5 FALL FEST

The Campus Activities Board brings harvest season to campus during Fall Fest. The event support fundraising efforts of A&M-SA student organizations and includes the naming of Mr. and Ms. A&M-San Antonio, a petting zoo, costume contest, games, a pumpkin patch and much more. Jaguar pride is on full display at the event, with multiple booths for student organizations and many ways to have a great time.

2.6 LIGHTS OF ESPERANZA

The lighting of campus with more than 10,000 LED lights signifies the burning education spirit of A&M-San Antonio. Students and community members come together to enjoy the festive lights on campus, as well as enjoying an ice skating rink, real snow, and a snow slide. Don't forget to get a picture with General Claus.

SECTION 3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Texas A&M University-San Antonio provides undergraduate and graduate level course work in the three colleges of the University. In the tradition of American higher education, Texas A&M University-San Antonio transmits and creates knowledge, provides an opportunity for the personal growth and development of individuals, supports the spirit of free inquiry, and contributes to the improvement of its surrounding society. The University recognizes its special obligation to serve the higher education needs of South Texas, while serving the larger communities of Texas, the United States, and the world.

It should be noted that all students are responsible for keeping abreast of any changes in regulations and/or procedures that may have bearing on their enrollment at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

3.1 SUBJECT TO CHANGE DISCLAIMER

It is the responsibility of the administration, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of and to abide by all approved policies, procedures, rules, and regulations set forth by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents that are posted on the System home page or that are disseminated through handbooks and manuals to all component campuses that make up the Texas A&M University System. The Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook, which contains a description of the rights and responsibilities of all students enrolled at this institution, is posted on the University website for quick reference and easy access to students, faculty, and staff. The information contained in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct is true and correct at the time of publication to the best knowledge of the administration. These provisions are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and University. The regulations and requirements herein, are necessarily subject to change without notice at any time at the discretion of the administration.

3.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following works were used in developing this document.

- Texas A&M University System Policy and Procedure
- Prairie View A&M Student Handbook
- Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi Student Handbook
- Texas A&M University – Kingsville Student Handbook

SECTION 4 INCOMING STUDENTS

4.1 BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

In accordance with Texas Senate Bill 1107 (SB 1107), students must have received an initial bacterial meningitis vaccine or a booster dose during the five-year period preceding and at least 10 days prior to the first day of the semester in which a student initially enrolls at the University. For further information please refer to our website, <http://www.tamusa.edu/welcomecenter/NewStudentChecklist/meningitisvaccine.html>

4.2 ALCOHOLEDU

Everfi AlcoholEdu® for College uses evidence-based prevention methods, personalized to each user, to educate students on their drinking behaviors and to empower students to make healthy choices in regards to alcohol use.

All incoming undergraduate students under the age of 21, including first-year and transfer students, must complete Everfi AlcoholEdu®. The program consists of two parts, both of which must be completed according to the due dates for the first semester of attendance. If either Part 1 or Part 2 are not completed by the assigned due dates, a registration hold will be placed, preventing future semester course registration.

All students who need to complete the Everfi AlcoholEdu® course will first log into their Jaguar email account and register through the course link. After registering by email, students may complete the assigned sections. After students complete Part 1, they must wait 30 days for Part 2 to open and move forward and complete by the deadline.

Section	Fall Due Date	Section	Spring Due Date
Part 1	October 1	Part 1	March 1
Note	Must be completed prior to Spring Registration	Note	Must be completed prior to Summer and Fall Registration
Part 2	November 30	Part 2	April 30
Note	Must be completed prior to future Semester Registration	Note	Must be completed prior to future semester Registration

SECTION 5 STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 PREAMBLE

Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expressions are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in sustained and independent search for truth.

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community. Students should exercise their freedom with responsibility.

The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the academic community. The purpose of this statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for the student freedom and responsibility to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The rights of students are to be respected. These rights include respect for personal feelings; freedom from indignity of any type, freedom from control by any person except as may be in accord with Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and conditions allowing them to make the best use of their time and talents toward the objectives which brought them to this University. No officer or student, regardless of position or rank, shall violate those rights.

Students are expected at all times to recognize constituted authority, to conform to the ordinary rules of good conduct, to be truthful, to respect the rights of others, to protect private and public property, and to make the best use of their time toward an education. Texas A&M University-San Antonio is a part of The Texas A&M University System. All faculty, staff and students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System.

5.2 STUDENT RIGHTS

A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.

Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

5.3 STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and the administration.

A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, University Catalog and students must comply with them and the laws of the land.

A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire university community.

A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.

A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

5.4 FREEDOM OF ACCESS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Within the physical limits of its facilities, Texas A&M University-San Antonio will be open to all students, regardless of race, creed, color, religion, sex, disability, age, or national origin, who qualify according to the admission standards. The facilities and services of Texas A&M University-San Antonio will be open to all its enrolled students, and the University supports equal access for all its students to public facilities.

Students have the right to pursue an education without disruptive interference. No University processes or facilities involved in the student's access to the pursuit of education are to be interrupted by students or other individuals. Any persons involved in such disruption subject themselves to both University disciplinary action and/or legal action.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio does not exclude any qualified individual from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject anyone to discrimination based on their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

5.5 PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

5.5.1 Academic Freedom

Students will be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views in any course of study and to withhold judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.

Students have the right to be evaluated for their participation and work in the classroom in accordance with the parameters as indicated in the course syllabus. A syllabus will be provided to each student at the first class meeting. In the event that the student believes that he/she has not been accorded the proper evaluation, the student may initiate an appeal as outlined in the Faculty Handbook.

5.5.2 Expressive Activity on Campus

A&M-San Antonio Rule 08.99.99.01- For the full text of Rule 08.99.99.01, please see [Appendix 18.4](#).

1. EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY RIGHTS

- 1.1. Any person is allowed, subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, to engage in expressive activities on campus, including by responding to the expressive activities of others.
- 1.2. Student organizations and employees are allowed to invite speakers to speak on campus. In determining the amount of a fee to be charged for use of the university's facilities for purposes of engaging in expressive activities, the university may consider only content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral criteria related to the requirements of the event, such as the proposed venue and the expected size of the audience, any anticipated need for campus security, any necessary accommodations, and any relevant history of compliance or noncompliance by the requesting student organization or employee with this rule and other relevant rules. The university may not consider any anticipated controversy related to the event.
- 1.3. The university may not take action against a student organization or deny the organization any benefit generally available to other student organizations at the university on the basis of a political, religious, philosophical, ideological, or academic viewpoint expressed by the organization or of any expressive activities of the organization.
- 1.4. The common outdoor areas of the university's campus are deemed traditional public forums. Any person is permitted to engage in expressive activities in these areas freely, as long as the person's conduct: (a) is not unlawful; and (b) does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution. Members of the university community are allowed to assemble or distribute written material in common outdoor areas without a permit or other permission from the institution.
- 1.5. Nothing in this rule should be interpreted as prohibiting faculty members from maintaining order in the classroom.

2. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 2.1. Any person who believes that their campus expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule, have been unduly interfered with by a student, student organization, or employee has the right to file a grievance.
- 2.2. Grievances should be filed with the University Compliance Office.
- 2.3. A student, student organization, or employee who is found to have unduly interfered with another person's expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule, is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the university's applicable rules and procedures. The University Compliance Office will investigate the grievance and draft a report summarizing its findings. If a violation of this rule was found to occur the report will be referred to the appropriate office for further action.
- 2.4. The referral office will be determined by the status of the offending individual. Complaints concerning:
 - a) faculty will be referred to the Office of the Provost;

- b) students will be referred to the Student Conduct Office; and
 - c) complaints concerning staff and third-parties will be referred to Human Resources.
3. IMPLEMENTATION
- 3.1. A copy of this rule shall be included in any university published student handbook and personnel handbook.
 - 3.2. A copy of this rule shall be provided to students during the university's new student orientation program.
 - 3.3. A copy of this rule shall be posted to the university's website.
4. EXTERNAL CLIENT EVENTS
- Events organized by an external party and held on campus must be sponsored by a recognized student organization, university academic or administrative unit, or an A&M System member.

5.6 FALSE ALARMS

Pursuant to H.B. 1284 this serves as notice to all enrolled students of Texas Penal Code Sec. 42.06 – False Alarm or Report which states:

- 1. A person commits an offense if he knowingly initiates, communicates or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:
 - a. cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
 - b. place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
 - c. prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, place of assembly, place to which the public has access, or aircraft, automobile, or other mode of conveyance.
- 2. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor unless the false report is of an emergency involving a public or private institution of higher education or involving a public primary or secondary school, public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power supply or other public service, in which event the offense is a state jail felony.

5.7 STUDENT RECORDS (FERPA)

Consent must be obtained to release student records to a third party, with certain exceptions contained in the law. Directory information may be released without permission of the student unless the student has specifically requested that said information not be released.

The following information is considered to be Directory Information at Texas A&M University-San Antonio:

- Name
- Campus Email
- Local Telephone Number
- Permanent Telephone Number
- Dates of Attendance

- Program of Study (college, major, and campus)
- Classification
- Previous Educational Agencies/Institutions Attended
- Degrees, Honors and Awards Received
- Participation in Officially Recognized Activities

Information which may not be released as directory information includes social security number, race/ethnicity or gender.

It is the student's responsibility to inform the Office of the University Registrar of changes in telephone number and/or local address. Students should also maintain current emergency notification information on file so that the University can contact a relative or friend in case of a crisis.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

I. Inspect and Review Educational Records

The University will make educational records available to a student, upon request, within 45 days of the request for access. A student should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. Request to Amend Educational Records

Students can request to amend any of their education records that they believe are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. A student who wishes to ask the University to amend a record should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the University decides not to amend the record as requested, the University will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. Some Control over the Disclosure of Educational Records

Students have the right to provide written consent before the University discloses personally identifiable information from their education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. The University discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests.

A school official is:

- a. A person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff)
 - b. A person or company with whom the University has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using University employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent)
 - c. A person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.
 - d. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the University. Upon request, the University also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. Students may file a complaint if they feel any of these rights have been violated.

Students can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

For more information about student's rights under FERPA, contact the University Registrar at (210) 784-1372.

5.8 STUDENT'S RIGHT TO KNOW AND CAMPUS SECURITY ACT OF 1990

This act is designed to provide prospective or entering students with information concerning

1. Campus security policies and procedures, security services available, campus crime statistics, and alcohol and drug use policies;
2. Completion or graduation rate of full time certification seeking or degree seeking undergraduate students; and
3. Graduation rates of student athletes who receive athletic scholarships.

The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is published yearly by the University Police Department and is available online at [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#).

5.10 DISCLOSURE OF CAMPUS SECURITY POLICY & CRIME STATISTICS

5.10.1 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND TIMELY WARNINGS VIA JagE ALERT

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

During an emergency situation, information will be released to the University community through the JagE Alert System. This is a system that quickly notifies registered users of campus emergencies through text messages, emails and voicemail alerts. JagE Alert is capable of sending alerts via telephone call, email messages and text messages to registered users. Students are able to include several telephone numbers and email addresses allowing notification to parents and/or spouse as well. Because JagE Alert uses data provided by the students, it is imperative that contact information remain up-to-date at all times. In emergency situations, the campus also is equipped with an outdoor speaker system that can broadcast direct commands and sounds to alert the campus to danger and ways to take necessary precautions. The system can also be accompanied by interior signs placed strategically in campus buildings throughout the campus containing content regarding the emergency notification.

The University is equipped with Mass Notification Systems and in the event of an emergency the University community may also be notified via external/internal audible alerts and visual alerts (flashing lights). Additionally, announcements can be made in buildings equipped with public address capability through the fire alarm system. The Main Campus exterior loudspeaker notification system provides direct commands and sounds that alert the campus to danger and ways to take necessary precautions. These visual and audible alerts are located throughout the University campus and buildings. A warning will include a tone and a set of instructions indicating the type of emergency and the type of response to take depending on the situation.

TIMELY WARNINGS

In the event a situation arises on campus, that in the judgment of the Chief of A&M-SA PD or designee constitutes a serious or continuous threat, a university-wide “timely warning” will be issued. It will emphasize the main building or area the incident has occurred/is occurring. The University will issue an alert to give students, faculty and staff as reasonably and timely as possible, notification of a crime that may represent a serious or ongoing threat to the campus community and to heighten safety awareness. A&M-SA PD will then transmit the email containing the timely warning to the University Community as a blast email using the Jag-E Alert System in Outreach Mode. Updates to the A&M-SA community about any particular case resulting in a timely warning also may be distributed electronically in the same manner. A&M-SA PD Social Media sites, University websites and public University monitors may be used as well.

Anyone with information warranting a timely warning should immediately report the circumstances to the A&M-SA PD, by phone at (210) 784-1900 (non-emergency), (210) 784-1911 (emergency), by using the SafeZone App or in person at their office at Room 120 – Frank L. Madla Building, One University Way, San Antonio, Texas, 78224.

More information can be found by visiting our website at <http://www.tamusa.edu/upd/public-safety-systems/index.html> and the [Annual Security Report and Fire Safety Report](#). You can also use the Blackboard My Connect App to add cell phones and other emails.

5.10.2 MISSING STUDENTS

If a person has reason to believe that an on-campus resident student is missing, he/she should immediately notify the University Police Department (UPD) at (210) 784-1911. If a non-resident (resides off campus) student is reported missing to university personnel, UPD will notify the proper law enforcement agency, within 24 hours, and assist with the investigation. If the student is under 18 years of age and is not an emancipated individual, UPD will notify the student's parent or legal guardian and emergency contact(s), as designated in the records of the University, immediately after determining that the student has been missing for 24 hours.

All students have the option to identify an emergency contact person(s). This person will be notified, within 24 hours, if UPD and/or local law enforcement determine the student is missing. This contact information will be confidential and accessible only to authorized university officials and law enforcement personnel involved in an emergency response. Students residing on-campus housing have the option to identify an emergency contact person with on-campus housing at Esperanza Hall. Contact information will be accessible only to authorized campus officials and law enforcement.

5.10.3 ANNUAL SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY REPORT

The Texas A&M University-San Antonio [Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#) is to provide important information about safety on our campus. This report contains information on the resources and services available to students of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. It also contains statistics about certain crimes that were reported to have happened on our campus and adjacent public property or at any non-campus locations owned or controlled by the University that is used for educational purposes. These statistics were gathered for the three previous calendar years.

Students are encouraged to be aware of their personal safety and security and to be responsible in their actions while on campus. Texas A&M University- San Antonio has many programs and procedures in place to contribute to a safe campus environment, and students are encouraged to become familiar with them and review them regularly. Visit <http://www.tamusa.edu/upd>.

5.11 CAMPUS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT (VAWA)

5.11.1 PROGRAMS ON CAMPUS FOR VAWA

Texas A&M University- San Antonio provides ongoing awareness and prevention programming that address dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. Some of these programs include, but is not limited to: New Student Orientation, Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Training, Safety Begins with You, Title IX video and in-person presentations, awareness campaigns, and brochures.

The University offers Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) training. R.A.D. is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. R.A.D. is a comprehensive course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. R.A.D. is not a Martial Arts program. The courses are taught by nationally certified R.A.D. Instructors and provide each student with a workbook/reference manual. The manual outlines the entire Physical Defense Program for reference and continuous personal growth, and is the key to the free lifetime return and practice policy for R.A.D. graduates.

The University also offers 'Safety Begins with You' presentation. This program offers a description of educational programs to promote the awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, and other forcible and non-forcible sex offenses. It also reviews stalking, domestic violence, dating violence and crime prevention awareness and safety tips.

For more information, please visit the University Police Department Webpage at <http://www.tamusa.edu/upd/> and the Title IX website at <http://www.tamusa.edu/titleix/>.

5.11.2 SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

The Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act is a federal law that provides for the tracking of convicted, registered sex offenders enrolled as students at institutions of higher education or working or volunteering on campus. The act requires sex offenders to provide notice, as required under state law, to each institution of higher education in that state at which the person is employed, carries out a vocation, or is a student. The act also requires that state procedures ensure that this registration information is promptly made available to law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction where the institutions of higher education are located and that is entered into appropriate state records or data systems. For more information about the Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act, please visit the University Police Department.

In compliance with state and federal law, information to registered sex offenders may be obtained through the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Police Department or searched at the Texas Department of Public Safety Sex Offender Database website at <https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/DpsWebsite/Index.aspx>.

SECTION 6 STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

6.1 INTRODUCTION TO GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing an educational climate that is conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual. In order to ensure that commitment, the university has developed procedures for students to pursue grievances within the university community, should such action become necessary.

6.2 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Informal complaints may be filed, verbally or in writing, with offices across campus. The process to file a formal complaint, or grievance, is outlined below. The decision as to which procedure to utilize for a grievance filed by a student shall be made solely by the university and shall be based on the fact pattern of each particular case.

Due to their special nature, certain issues are handled by specially designated hearing bodies or offices.

If a complaint specifically addresses sexual harassment, discrimination, employment, admissions, student conduct, parking citations, academic matters (such as grade disputes), and disability accommodations, then the complaints and grievances must go through established university procedures. More information is provided in the Student Handbook or at <http://www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess/StudentRightsAndResponsibilities/index.html>

6.3 STEPS FOR REDRESS OF A NONACADEMIC-STUDENT GRIEVANCE

Students with an issue of a nonacademic matter are encouraged to first attempt to resolve any issues where they arise with any appropriate offices or parties involved. This procedure provides students with a process for addressing complaints not addressed by other established complaint procedures. Open communication between students, staff and faculty members is encouraged so that resorts to the formal nonacademic complaint procedure will not be necessary. Students found to have intentionally made false or materially misleading allegations under this procedure will be subject to discipline in accordance with Student Code of Conduct. Students shall have protection from retaliatory action based upon the filing of a complaint and/or participation of a witness.

- A. **Step 1:** Students are encouraged to attempt to resolve complaints informally with the staff member to facilitate resolution of their concerns and/or complaint.
- B. **Step 2:** If a satisfactory resolution cannot be found at the student-staff level, or if the staff member is unavailable or no longer with the university, the student shall submit the complaint in writing within five (5) business days to the appropriate department supervisor. Complaints against supervisors will be submitted directly to the next level supervisor in the leadership chain. More information can be found <http://www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess/StudentRightsAndResponsibilities/index.html>

The complaint should be as specific as possible and use the following guideline:

- a. Identify the specific nature of the nonacademic grievance
- b. Explain the grounds for the nonacademic grievance and whether the basic justification for it is based on a claimed violation of a university rule, policy or established practice.
- c. The name of the person whose decision is being disputed, the dates of occurrence, and the name, current address, and phone number of the complainant.
- d. Attach any supporting documents or evidence, names and contact information of witnesses and short statements summarizing the testimony that the witnesses may present.
- e. The resolution sought (i.e. explain how you would like to see it resolved).

The department supervisor will review and resolve the complaint within 15 business days. The department supervisor may, at their discretion, meet with the student and/or any other parties involved if deemed appropriate. The student will be notified in writing through their university email address of the final resolution.

Upon completion of the resolution, the department supervisor will inform their respective supervisor and all files will be kept in a secure file.

- C. **Step 3:** If a student believes that the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, the student has the right to submit a formal written appeal request to The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities within five (5) business days from the date the resolution was sent from Step 2 of the nonacademic student grievance process. This can be filed via the online reporting system Maxient at <http://bit.ly/FileAREport> and should follow the guidelines for filing a report in Step 2.

There are three specific criteria that are a valid basis for requesting an appeal. One or multiple criteria in a single appeal may be discussed.

- a. Substantial new evidence not available at the time of the original finding.
- b. Violation of university policies/processes
- c. The finding is inconsistent with the facts presented.
- d. The Office the complaint originated in did not resolve in a timely manner or did not communicate back.

Appeals based on financial considerations, delays in graduating, immigration status, or other personal inconveniences are generally not granted.

When an appeal has been filed, The Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities designee will review all information obtained and determine whether the grounds for an appeal have been met. If the appeal does not meet one or more criteria, the appeal will automatically be denied. If the appeal is accepted based on meeting one or more criteria, the case will be reviewed within 15 business days, or longer based on extenuating circumstances. A notification outlining the outcome shall be sent to all applicable parties.

Following Step 3 appeal, the matter shall be considered final and binding on all parties involved and the decision is final.

SECTION 7 CAMPUS SERVICES & RESOURCES

7.1 BOOKSTORE

Central Academic Building, Suite 135 / (210)784-1070

The university bookstore provides the campus community with new, used, digital, and rental textbooks, other course-required materials, trade and reference books, office supplies, school spirit clothing, imprinted gift items and academic regalia. The bookstore is located on the first floor of the Campus Academic Building, Room 135. Visit us online at <https://www.bkstr.com/texasamsanantoniostore/home>

7.2 STUDENT BUSINESS SERVICES

The mission of Student Business Services (SBS) is to provide the University's community with the necessary services to fulfill their financial obligations to the University while maintaining the University's commitment to a quality, affordable education. SBS accomplishes this primarily through educating students on financial responsibilities, coordinating collection activities, and by facilitating inter-departmental communications in a professional, courteous, and service-oriented manner.

Our staff is responsible for the billing and collection of tuition and fees along with all University receipting. We accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards and provide payment plans to help our students meet their financial agreements with the University. We are the point of contact for 3rd party contracts such as: Tuition Assistance, employer reimbursements, and we coordinate with Military Affairs for Tuition Assistance, VA 31 and VA 33 Post-9/11. As part of our function, we assist and administer the refunds for Financial Aid. Refunds are processed routinely on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We are here to serve the students of Texas A&M University-San Antonio; our goal is to maintain a professional, courteous, and customer service driven environment that will assist our students with their educational goals. For more information regarding Student Business Services please visit our website at: <http://www.tamusa.edu/sbs/index.html>

7.3 CAMPUS DINING

There are a number of dining locations on the Texas A&M San Antonio campus. The Marketplace and Jaguar Java offer multiple dining options. The Marketplace is located in the Central Academic Building and includes the River City Café, Houston Street Salads & Subs, and the 210 Burger Co. Jaguar Java is located in the Science and Technology Building and offers a variety of Starbucks coffee and drinks.

7.3.1 DINING DOLLARPLANS- RESIDENT AND COMMUTER STUDENT PLANS

RESIDENT DINING DOLLAR PLAN

Students living in on-campus residence halls are required to purchase a resident meal plan. The resident meal plan is required for campus residents both fall and spring semester. All residents will have the dining dollar plan automatically added to their ID card and will activate upon signing the Resident Dining Dollar Meal Plan Agreement.

COMMUTER DINING DOLLAR PLAN

Commuter plans can be purchased via the GET Funds in JagWire. Plans start from \$100 to \$500. Purchasing dining dollars starting at \$200 will provide the customer with 5% in bonus bucks up to 8% for \$500. The plans are attached to the TAMU SA Student ID. Students must have their ID to purchase food. In accordance with University regulations, no one else is permitted to use your ID card at any time. This includes meal plan purchases.

Meals may be purchased for retail price at the Marketplace, Jaguar Java Coffee Shop or from our food truck partners in the Food Truck Park located on the walkway to the Madla Building. There are no set number of required meal purchases per day or per week. There are no all-you-can-eat options.

It is each student's responsibility to budget the funds in their account. Students can always add additional funds to their account by visiting the GET Funds website in JagWire.

Dining dollars cannot be converted to cash. Any unused meal plan funds from the fall semester will be rolled over and added to the spring semester meal plan funds. All meal plan funds expire at the end of the spring semester and are not refundable. Resident meal plan funds do not roll over to the summer semester.

In the event that an on-campus resident withdraws from the University, and is released from their housing contract by the University, the student may request a resident meal plan refund. The refund will only be for the unused balance in the student's meal plan account.

University Dining will make every reasonable effort to continue dining operations during weather emergencies or power outages. During emergencies, business hours are subject to change. Advance notice of schedule changes will be given when possible. Please visit <https://new.dineoncampus.com/tamusa> for updated hours.

For students who have special dietary needs, Dining Services has a registered dietician available for private phone conversations, nutrition consultation and support. For more information, please contact the Dining Services Director at (210) 784-2017.

7.4 COMPUTER LABS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio has computer labs for students to use. For more information visit: <http://www.tamusa.edu/its/tech-support/studentresources/computerlabs.html>

7.5 COMMUNICATION AND NOTIFICATIONS

All official communications from the University will be distributed through Jaguar email accounts. It is the responsibility of each student to obtain a Jaguar email account and check that address on a regular basis. Students are issued a Texas A&M University-San Antonio Jaguar email account through the Office of Information Technology Services and this email address can be verified through JagWire. The Jaguar email can be configured on any personal device by downloading and configuring the Microsoft Office Outlook App. Failure to keep up with Texas A&M University-San Antonio Jaguar email will not be an excuse for being unaware of announcements, deadlines, or other pertinent information to students. www.tamusa.edu/jagwire.

7.6 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Central Academic Building, Suite 223 / (210)784-4357

Information Technology Services (ITS) provides a wide variety of technology services to Texas A&M University-San Antonio, including maintenance of technical resources used by students, faculty, and staff for a wide variety of teaching, learning, and research needs. Services such as open access labs, university email and file storage, wireless internet access, technology-enabled classrooms, and conference room spaces are all centrally supported by ITS. The department is also responsible for supporting software licensing and applications, ensuring information security standards are upheld, providing project management support, organizational change management consulting, and university process innovation recommendations. With a focus on customer success, the evolving ITS Department seeks to bridge the technical with the functional to create a comprehensive approach to technology and related initiatives.

Located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 233, ITS staff members stand ready to provide in-person and remote service and support to students, faculty, and staff. The ITS Helpdesk can also be contacted by phone at 210-784-HELP (4357) or via email at helpdesk@tamusa.edu. And, for those common requests (including password resets), ITS also provides several user self-service options. These resources, ITS Helpdesk office hours, and other helpful information are available through the ITS website at <http://www.tamusa.edu/its>.

7.6.1 TECHNOLOGY MONITORING

The University continuously monitors activity on the campus network to ensure security and prevent misuse of The University Information Technology Infrastructure. Any security violations or misuse will be reported by the Information Security Office to the appropriate entity to handle the violation.

7.6.2 TECHNOLOGY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The University reserves the right to limit the speed of certain services (i.e. streaming media) to preserve network functionality for education.

7.6.3 DIGITAL MILLENNIUM COPYRIGHT ACT

Students are being taken to court, fined and sued for copyright violations. Anti-piracy scanners target universities to catch users who violate the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). If a student intentionally downloads or shares copyrighted material without the rights to do so, a court could levy a fine up to \$150,000 per work. Fines can also include court costs and attorney's fees. Intentional infringement could also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fine of up to \$250,000 per offense.

When the University receives a claim of copyright infringement it is forward to the identified student. The student must respond if they receive a notice from the University about copyright infringement. They will be required to delete any media they are not licensed to have, and stop sharing any media that they do not have permission to share. Any additional claims can be subject to more aggressive sanctions imposed by the university. For questions, contact the Dean of Students at dos@tamusa.edu.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

1. Download media from legal sources like iTunes, Amazon Music, etc. For a list of legal choices visit: <http://www.educause.edu/legalcontent>.
2. Be careful because file sharing programs can share copyrighted material from your computer, possibly without your knowledge.

For more information please see the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov, especially their FAQ's at www.copyright.gov/help/faq.

7.7 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS JAGUAR STUDENT MEDIA

Jaguar Student Media is home to A&M-San Antonio's student-produced media outlets, which provide news, information and entertainment to the campus and surrounding communities. Our five organizations offer students hands-on experiential learning opportunities with an emphasis on community-driven reporting, storytelling and journalism education. Students are given the opportunity to study, intern or receive a paid fellowship in one of our two newsrooms. Our innovative educational programming includes newsroom workflow and production, leadership training, team management, budget and financial training, advertising development, and social media research and application. We provide students two state-of-the-art agency settings to develop production skills, business and financial literacy, and portfolio development to help better prepare graduates for entry-level positions in media and communications.

Our student-run media organizations include three award-winning media outlets:

- The Mesquite, a daily digital news outlet, <http://www.mesquite-news.com/>
- El Espejo magazine, an annual print magazine, <https://www.elsespejomag.org/>
- Enlace, a weekly newscast produced by students enrolled in the Univision Media Lab Capstone
- Experience at Univision/KWEX, available for view on our YouTube channel

We also offer two campus-recognized student organizations for all majors:

- The Society of Professional Journalists Student Chapter
- Jaguar Multimedia Production Association

For more information, please call the student newsroom at 210-784-1050.

7.8 UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Central Academic Building, Suite 202 / (210) 784-1500 / library@tamusa.edu

The University Library at Texas A&M University-San Antonio fosters collaboration among faculty, staff, and students to create an atmosphere of academic excellence and provides the university community with tools for lifelong learning. The library is actively engaged in the teaching, research, and outreach activities of A&M-SA. Library staff promote an inclusive culture through our services, resources, and support.

Research help and instruction

The University Library's professional librarians and staff offer you individualized research help and advanced research consultations in person, over the phone, by text message or e-mail, and via the web whenever the library is open. Working with faculty, the librarians also provide course-specific instruction to aid you in successfully completing course assignments involving research. You can access tutorials and subject-specific guides to resources on the library's website and through the "Library Research Guide" link in your Blackboard courses.

Information resources

The University Library provides you with the information resources you need to be successful as a student. Whenever possible, librarians select materials in an electronic format, which you can use from any computer at any time. The onsite print and media collection consists of materials that directly relate to A&M-SA academic programs, course reserves, and K-12 curriculum support materials. If the library does not own a book, journal article, or other item that you need, you may request the library borrow it for you through ILLiad, the interlibrary loan service. Students looking for textbooks should also inquire with the library about their course reserves, as some faculty provide personal copies of textbooks for short-term student use. A TexShare card provides you with borrowing privileges from more than 500 participating libraries across the state. For more information on the TexShare card, ask at the information desk.

Library facilities

You have free access to computers, color printers, print and media collections, and open study space. Hours are posted on the University Library's website. You can borrow study rooms for yourself or as part of a group on a first-come, first-serve basis. You can reserve some rooms in advance from the library's home page. All study rooms are equipped with white boards and display panels for your laptop. If a room is unavailable, you are always welcome to work with others in our open Collaborative Zone. The library also has a family study room complete with toys for children. The library circulates laptops, headphones, and video cameras to students. You can create posters and other innovative projects for your classes in the library's makerspace room. The library also offers you laminating services. For more information, call (210) 784-1500, text (210) 802-2ASK or (210) 802-2275, email, or visit our website at <http://www.tamusa.edu/library/>.

7.9 UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Located downtown in the Bexar County Archives Building (126 E. Nueva St.), the University Library's Archives & Special Collections provides access to historical treasures, such as Texas history resources dating back to 1517. Researchers can find manuscript collections, photographs, maps, artwork, books, newspapers, and more. Staff provide one-on-one research guidance to students, faculty, staff, and the general public by appointment. In addition, the Presidio Gallery showcases themed history exhibits, which are free and open to the public. For more information call (210) 784-1512 or email archives@tamusa.edu.

SECTION 8 ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

8.1 WELCOME CENTER

Senator Frank Madla Building, Suite 111 / (210) 784-1397 / military@tamusa.edu

The Welcome Center is a one-stop shop where students receive personalized assistance with applying for admission, completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and so much more. The Welcome Center staff is available to assist students in all areas of enrollment and student services such as enrollment, admissions, student accounts, scholarships, financial aid, registration and graduation.

Our friendly and professional staff are always ready to help facilitate the transition to Texas A&M University-San Antonio for all students! Our hours are Monday to Thursday, 8am to 6pm and to 5pm on Fridays.

8.2 IDENTIFICATION CARD

The Texas A&M University-San Antonio Jaguar Card is the official identification card for students of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Jaguar Card allows access to services, the library, computer labs, and other academic resources. Each student is given a \$25.00 credit each semester for copies and the card may be recharged at the pay stations located on each campus. For more information please visit us at <http://www.tamusa.tamus.edu/businessaffairs/jaguarcard.html>

8.3 ADMISSIONS

The Office of Admissions is responsible for the recruitment of new students, for processing and inputting transfer credit received at other institutions into the student information system, and maintaining and storing academic records of applicants and newly admitted students. Office personnel strive to maintain a high quality of service to all and to maintain and protect the academic integrity of the student record in accordance with University, state and federal guidelines. For more information, please visit <http://www.tamusa.edu/admissions/index.html>

8.4 FINANCIAL AID

The Texas A&M University-San Antonio Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships is here to assist students in obtaining financial assistance in order to supplement their own contribution to a college education. Texas A&M University-San Antonio offers a variety of federal, state, institutional, and private funds to assist eligible students in funding their education. The financial gap between the cost of an education and monies available from the family can be complemented by grants, loans, scholarships and/or student employment. This office updates the types of aid available annually and therefore it is encouraged for students to periodically check on their financial aid status.

For more information regarding financial aid please visit our website at <http://www.tamusa.edu/financialaid/>.

8.5 REGISTRAR

The Office of the Registrar at Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing efficient and courteous service to all students, faculty and staff. The office also acts as a resource for students and faculty regarding course enrollment, grading, and record maintenance in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and is responsible for registration items, enrollment and degree verifications, final grades, the creation of class schedules, the graduation application process, and transcript requests.

The Office strives to provide:

1. a welcoming and supporting environment, in person and via other modes of contact;
2. accurate and timely processing of information related to course offerings, registration, and academic records;

3. support and advice regarding academic policies and procedures;
4. security and privacy for the University's academic records, including advice and training for faculty and staff on privacy issues;
5. partnership in the areas of technological development related to student administrative services and systems

The Registrar's Office supports the overall educational goals of the University and acts as a "behind the scenes" facilitator for faculty, students, and staff. Please visit the Welcome Center, Senator Frank L. Madla Building, for transactions related to the Registrar's Office. Please visit our website at <http://www.tamusa.edu/registrar/>.

8.6 STUDENT INSURANCE

Student insurance plans are available through Academic Health Plans (AHP). AHP provides customer services, plan consultation and enrollment services for students who are interested in getting a plan. For more information on student insurance, visit: <http://www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess/studentinsurance.html>.

SECTION 9 OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND ENGAGEMENT

9.1 MISSION STATEMENT

The Division of Student Success and Engagement is committed to creating opportunities for transformative personal, professional and social growth. We facilitate empowerment through a holistic approach to bridge learning, engagement and social responsibility.

Student Success and Engagement values the following:

Integrity – We hold ourselves responsible to offer best practices for our students.

Leadership – We value the importance of leadership opportunities in the development of our students and staff.

Inclusion – We celebrate and advocate the differences in culture, history and thought that each individual brings to the university community.

Empowerment – We open avenues for students to reach their full potential through interactive engagement processes that challenge and support the student.

Student Centered – We believe that the student is our first priority. We are advocates for the student and develop our services with this in mind.

SECTION 10 STUDENT SUCCESS AND ENGAGEMENT

10.1 DEAN OF STUDENTS

The [Dean of Students Office](#) plays an important role in helping students navigate the campus environment and in providing programs and services that enrich students' personal and educational development. The Dean of Students serves as an advocate for students on a wide range of topics and assist students in making positive connections with staff, faculty, other students and services. Students are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students if they have question or concerns related but not limited to:

- Medical or Mental Health Withdrawals
- Behavioral Concerns and Crisis through the Behavioral Intervention Team
- Parenting and Pregnancy
- Facilitating accommodations with Title IX Coordinator for student impacted by sexual misconduct or assault
- Student Deaths

10.2 BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION TEAM (BIT)

The purpose of the BIT Team is to review behavioral incidents and ensure a systematic response to students whose behavior may be disruptive or harmful to themselves or the Texas A&M University-San Antonio community and to assist in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of students and other members of the Texas A&M University-San Antonio community. Members of the University community may report concerns to <http://bit.ly/FileAReport>.

Specifically, the charge for this team is to:

1. Assess situations involving a student who poses a potential risk of harm to persons or property in the University community or is of substantial disruption to University activities in accordance with policies stated in the Student Code of Conduct.
2. Consult with administration, faculty, staff and other students affected by the inappropriate behaviors of a disruptive student.
3. Coordinate the University response to a violent, threatening, or significantly disruptive student.
4. Develop a specific strategy to manage the threatening or disruptive behavior with regard to the safety and rights of others and to minimize the disruption to the University community.
5. Make recommendations to responsible University officials on appropriate action consistent with University policy and procedure statements and with state and federal law.

The BIT Team will have monthly meetings scheduled throughout the academic calendar. Please contact the Dean of Students (dos@tamusa.edu) for more details on attending a BIT meeting.

10.3 DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Central Academic Building, Suite 210 / (210) 784-1335

Disability Support Services (DSS) provides innovative services that empower and inspire student learning, development, and independence by facilitating equal access through reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. DSS collaborates with the diverse Texas A&M University – San Antonio campus community to offer guidance, support, and advocacy promoting equality for all. For more information, please call or visit our website at <http://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html>.

10.4 HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

Esperanza Hall / (210) 784-1717

The mission of Housing and Residential Life is to offer our students an on-campus, engaging living experience. Esperanza Hall opened in Fall 2017 and is the first residence hall on-campus. It currently serves up to 376 students, and strives to engage, challenge and grow together as a community while cultivating an environment where students feel respected and supported. Esperanza Hall provides a cost effective, quality living environment, housing option.

For more information, please call or visit the website at:
<http://www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess/student-housing.html>.

10.5 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Senator Frank Madla Building, Suite 309

The mission of the International Affairs Office (OIA) is to enrich and foster the educational and work experience of Texas A&M University-San Antonio's international community. The OIA serves as a welcoming presence for A&M-SA's international students, faculty and staff. The role of the OIA is to provide international admissions and immigration support to international students seeking an education at A&M-SA, and to facilitate in the immigration processing of foreign faculty hired at A&M-SA. The OIA protects the integrity of the university through upholding institutional policies, and compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

10.6 MILITARY AFFAIRS

Patriots' Casa, Suite 202 / (210) 784-1397 / military@tamusa.edu

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is a Military EmbracingTM institution. The Office of Military Affairs is a point of contact for our students who have served our country or currently serving on active duty, reserve, National Guard, along with their dependents (spouses and children). We expand our military-embracing services and programs for America's finest who are returning home from overseas by providing our military-connected students with information on educational benefits including assisting with receiving federal and state veteran education benefits. Our office is a resource to ensure our students pursue and achieve their educational goals, along with professional and vocational objectives. Our mission is to provide quality service in assisting our military service members, veterans and their families ensuring a smooth transition from military to academic life. We are located in the Patriots' Casa, Suite 202 and can be reached via email at military@tamusa.edu, or by phone at (210) 784-1397. Visit us online at www.tamusa.edu/militaryaffairs.

10.7 RECREATIONAL SPORTS

The Department of Recreational Sports provides an inclusive environment for the campus community that encourages the lifelong pursuit of healthy living and learning. Our facilities and programs offer an outlet that accentuates the educational core of the university, while enhancing the capacity for intellectual and emotional wellness.

Recreational Sports is responsible for providing various recreational activities in an informal and structured environment. The department is responsible for providing a variety of fitness, wellness, and competitive programs.

Recreational Sports offers an assortment of group fitness programs for students at no additional charge. These classes are offered at a wide variety of times to accommodate the academic schedules of our students.

Students are also able to participate in organized activities such as Intramural Sports and Sport Clubs. Intramural sports are conducted in the Jaguar Game Room, the Multipurpose Fields and Kinesiology Pavilion on campus.

Sport clubs are organized sporting events between A&M-SA students and students from other universities and colleges. The competition is at a non-varsity level and students are responsible for organizing and governing of their respective teams. For information regarding starting or joining a Club Sport contact the Competitive Sports Coordinator at (210)-784-1346.

Recreational Sports is proud to announce that competitive intercollegiate esports will be offered beginning Fall 2020. The program will field competitive teams in Overwatch, Call of Duty: MW, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, and Valorant. Competitions will be streamed live for viewing. Student volunteer positions will be available for those interested in assisting and learning about esports.

For information regarding programming schedules please visit our webpage:

<http://www.tamusa.edu/recreational-sports/index.html>

Recreational Sports offers activities in the following locations on campus:

The Jaguar Fitness Center

Senator Frank L. Madla Building, Room 128

(210) 784-1360

The Game Room and Lounge

Central Academic Building, Room 105

(210) 784-1389

Multipurpose Field

210-784-1346

Kinesiology Pavilion

210-784-1346

10.8 STUDENT COUNSELING AND WELLNESS SERVICES

Modular C / (210) 784-1331

The Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC&WS) provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management and prevention services. Brief therapy is defined as engaging with students on a bi-weekly basis over the course of a semester or two during a student's academic tenure. For more information, please call or visit our website at

<http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>.

SC&WS services can help facilitate students' academic and life goals as well as enhance their personal growth and well-being. Our staff, of licensed mental health professionals work with students to identify treatment goals and effective strategies to cope with difficult situations. All mental health services provided by the Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record.

All enrolled A&M-SA students are eligible to receive an initial consultation (ICON) appointment to assess their needs. The ICON is used to make treatment recommendations based on individual symptoms, severity, appropriateness of services, and availability of resources. At the conclusion of the ICON appointment, the licensed provider will render a clinical recommendation based on services that are best suited to meet individual needs.

10.9 STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Central Academic Building Suite 103 / (210) 784-1329.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio values student development both inside and outside of the classroom. The Office of Student Involvement focuses on the students' total educational experience, by providing opportunities for engagement both on campus and virtually including, but not limited to: student events, clubs/organizations, university sponsored groups (Student Government Association, Campus Activities Board, Jaguar Ambassadors), lectures, live performances, special events and more. Our goal is to get all students involved and engaged on campus. Learn more about what we offer by checking out our [website](#), [JagSync](#), visiting our office, or giving us a call.

10.9.1 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the importance of student organizations. These organizations help students develop social, leadership, and team building skills. They are an integral component of the total educational experience which promotes personal and professional development. If students are interested in joining a group, login to JagSync (our student organization portal) at <https://jagsync.tamuse.edu>.

For a complete list of organizations visit:

www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess/studentlife/studentorganizations/index.html.

10.9.2 STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Texas A&M University-San Antonio understands the importance of building strong leaders. We recognize the importance of the student's participation in leadership development opportunities. The Office of Student Involvement provides students with a variety of programs, organizations, and opportunities that inspire them to get involved and grow into the leaders of tomorrow. Our programs include the Student Government Association (SGA), Campus Activities Board (CAB), Jaguar Ambassadors, the Cisneros Emerging Leaders Certificate, and many other student organizations and programs on campus or virtually.

To learn more about what we have to offer, visit our website:

www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess/studentlife/index.html or stop by the Office of Student Involvement in the Central Academic Building, Suite 103.

10.9.3 JAGSYNC

Is a portal where students can find information about student organizations, campus events, recreational sports and other opportunities for engagement with the campus community. Student organizations will have access to University policies and procedures related to student organizations, University forms and group rosters. Within the portal, student groups can complete University forms, reserve spaces, and request approval for any event held on and off-campus. This is also the location where students will create their A&M-SA Experience Transcript which verifies out-of-classroom involvement and experiences.

Connect to JagSync at <https://jagsync.tamusa.edu/>

10.9.4 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)

(210)784-1333 / SGA@jaguar.tamu.edu

The Student Government Association's mission is to serve as the main governing body for the students of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. SGA represents the student voice by actively identifying and representing all students' interests. SGA promotes, seeks, and strives for student participation in the University policy and decision-making processes to enhance the overall quality and scope of education and general welfare of our students. SGA is the bridge between the student body and faculty/administration and focuses on communicating and addressing concerns, issues, or ideas of students. Contact us by phone, email, or on JagSync:

<https://tamura.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/student-government-association>

10.9.5 CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD (CAB)

(210)784-1391 / cab@jaguar.tamu.edu

The Purpose of CAB shall be to create and support programs and activities that appeal to the student body by providing an array of diverse activities throughout the year in which all students are encouraged to attend. Our mission is to provide high-quality educational, social, and entertaining programs that enhance student life at Texas A&M University – San Antonio and contribute to the overall development of the students. Contact us by phone, email, or on JagSync:

<https://tamura.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/campus-activities-board>

10.10 NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

The New Student Orientation Program is designed to provide students with important information to assist in making a successful transition to our institution. New Student Orientation is required for all new first-time students and transfer students. A nonrefundable \$75 orientation fee is required to secure orientation. Payment can be made online by logging into JagWire or in-person at Student Business Services. No refunds will be issued for students who do not enroll at A&M – San Antonio. To find out the orientation format that students will be required to complete, please visit our website at <http://www.tamura.edu/nso>.

10.11 JAG X

JagX is a mandatory program for all first-time students, before the fall semester. JagX is designed to welcome the student to Texas A&M-San Antonio and prepare them for a smooth transition by addressing their academic, social and personal needs.

JagX jump starts a student's transition to college and prepares new Jaguars for the life-changing experience that lie ahead. As a key part of the professional journey, JagX contributes to retention efforts by introducing new undergraduates to university expectations and culture through an emphasis on the professional, intellectual and life skills that will enable participants to be successful as university students. JagX is held prior to the first days of class and allows students to meet fellow Jaguars, interact with faculty and staff, and feel a connection to the University. For more information, the JagX website is located at: <http://tamura.edu/nso>

10.12 OFFICE OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Senator Frank Madla Building, Suite 311 / (210) 784-1353 / studentrr@tamusa.edu

The mission of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities is to promote a campus environment of student success and retention. We focus on a holistic approach to student rights and responsibilities in order to uphold the highest academic and behavioral standards as articulated in the Student Code of Conduct.

The main role of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities is to oversee the student conduct process, and be an advocate for students who may have questions regarding community standards. Staff members strive to promote a campus climate of integrity, service, commitment, and excellence by focusing on promoting a holistic approach to student rights and responsibilities. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/TAMUSAStudentRR>

SECTION 11 MAYS CENTER FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Science and Technology Building, Suite III / (210) 784-1356 / mays@tamusa.edu
<http://www.tamusa.edu/mays>

The Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement (Mays Center) provides enhanced learning opportunities and access to resources and relationships in order to develop students into career-ready and community-minded graduates. Programs and services provided by the Mays Center include:

11.1 CAREER SERVICES

Career Services works directly with students, faculty, staff, and other leaders on campus to assess students' unique needs and to plan innovative and creative strategies to offer 'best practice' services and programs to current Jaguars and Alumni. This area also works with many employers from various industries and from all across the nation who are interested in recruiting college-level talent. The intention is to be a connection point for both students and for employers. Career Services provides individual and group career advisement, professional correspondence services (resume building, cover letter writing, and application troubleshooting), career-driven workshops, career fairs, on-campus interview opportunities, and the interpretation of career assessments.

11.2 CAREER CLOTHES CLOSET

The Career Clothes Closet is a resource for current students who are in need of a professional outfit, whether they are attending a career fair, job interview, or other professional event. As a student, one may come in the closet and pick out one outfit to keep. This resource includes the following items: suits, shirts, pants, skirts, jackets, and ties. Items are available year round, and we work to accommodate our students and their needs to make a strong professional impression.

11.3 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic Engagement is working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. The Mays Center supports students through educational programming that encourages community engagement.

11.4 COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service is one of the avenues where students can gain experience in their major or an area of interest. The Mays Center staff assists student organizations as well as individual students to coordinate community service opportunities. Students are encouraged to document all civic engagement, community service, and service-learning hours in GivePulse, an online system accessible via JagWire.

11.5 EXPERIENCE TRANSCRIPT

The A&M-SA Experience Transcript is a reflection of a student's involvement in learning experiences developing their marketable skills. Experiences recorded on the transcript will be listed under one of eight categories, including leadership experiences, internships, service, and other key areas. Students are able to request a copy of their own personal Experience Transcript via JagSync.

11.6 EXTERNSHIPS

Similar to job shadowing, externships are short term experiences in a professional working environment that provide students with practical experiences in their field of study. The Mays Center coordinates several externship opportunities each year, across a variety of disciplines.

11.7 FINANCIAL LITERACY AND MONEY COACHING

The Mays Center is home to the Financial Literacy Fellows, a peer-led mentorship program in which upper-level business and accounting students offer in-class and extra-curricular presentations and workshops on a variety of financial topics including savings, budgeting, credit, and loans. Additionally, Fellows are trained as Money Coaches and can meet with students one-on-one to strategize and implement plans to meet a student's individual financial goals.

11.8 GENERAL'S STORE

General's Store is an on-campus food pantry that serves the members of the university community that are experiencing food insecurity. The General's Store also provides community service and experiential learning opportunities for students. For more information, email foodpantry@tamusa.edu or visit <http://www.tamusa.edu/mays/generals-store>.

11.9 HIRED! STUDENT EMPLOYEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The HIRED! program is an engaging professional development series for current A&M-SA student employees. The ultimate goal of this program is assisting students to enhance skills and become more career-ready throughout the year. These trainings are conducted to enhance their skill sets, knowledge base, and leadership potential so they can excel in their current positions as well as within their future career! All on-campus student employees are eligible to join the HIRED! program.

11.10 INTERNSHIPS

Internships are a form of experiential learning that integrate knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills developed in a professional setting; typically internships are for a semester period or longer. Students are also encouraged to search for internship opportunities in Handshake, our online jobs portal.

11.11 SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities through volunteer service. Many courses at A&M-SA have a service-learning component supported by the Mays Center.

SECTION 12 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

12.1 ACADEMIC ADVISING

The Undergraduate Academic Advising Center at Texas A&M University-San Antonio seeks to help students develop realistic educational goals and plans, make the most of their educational and extracurricular experiences, and engage with university services that support their academic and personal success. Your academic advisor is here to help you develop an educational plan that supports your academic, personal, and career interests, while ensuring that you meet graduation requirements. Academic advisors help students make decisions by drawing upon their own educational experiences and their understanding of the curricula and academic policies of A&M-SA. As each academic program has unique requirements, a student's assigned academic advisor is based on their major or, in the case of first-year college students, on their classification. Graduate students are advised by professional academic advisors or by faculty within their college or program.

To find your advisor's name and contact information, visit our website at:

<http://www.tamusa.edu/advising/academicadvising.html>. To schedule an appointment with an undergraduate academic advisor, please call (210) 784-1307.

12.2 STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

The Student Academic Success Center takes a developmental approach to help students complete their academic goals from orientation through graduation. The Center offers academic and skills workshops, one-on-one appointments, and online resources to help retention efforts at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The goal of the Center is to help students discover, self-reflect, and become independent learners. For more information, please call (210) 784-1307, email student.success@tamusa.edu, or visit our website: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academic-affairs/student-academic-success-center/index.html>

12.3 TESTING CENTER

The Testing Center provides a broad array of testing services to assist students in achieving their educational, vocational, and personal goals. In addition, the Testing Center strives to reach out to the community by providing testing services to students, graduates, faculty members, professionals, and those from the surrounding area. The services provided by the Testing Center are based on the guidelines developed by the National College of Testing Association's Professional Standards and Guidelines. For more information, please call (210) 784-1366, email TestingCenter@tamusa.edu, or visit our website: <http://www.tamusa.edu/testing-center>.

12.4 THE ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER (ALC)

The ALC is committed to providing peer support for the student learning process by inspiring independent thinking, building confidence and promoting academic success. This process is facilitated by helpful, knowledgeable tutors who excel in their given academic disciplines. Supplemental Instruction, one-on-one, and small group tutoring sessions are available to all currently enrolled Texas A&M University-San Antonio students. For more information, please call (210) 784-1332, email tutoring@tamusa.edu, or visit our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academic-affairs/student-academic-success-center/index.html>

12.5 F.A.T.E. CENTER

The F.A.T.E Center helps former foster and adopted youth with transitioning to college as well as navigating the services that are offered on and off-campus. The Center helps with applying to college, foster/adopted tuition and fee waiver, FAFSA, ETV application and much more. Once on campus, the Center helps students navigate the University. The F.A.T.E. Center also supports students interested in and participating in Supervised Independent Living (SIL). For more information, please call (210) 784-1520, email ndavila@tamusa.edu, or visit our website: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academic-affairs/student-academic-success-center/foster-care-support-center/index.html>

12.6 DREAMERS RESOURCE HUB

The Student Academic Success Center collaborates with community organizations to provide information, resources, and referrals for all Dreamers at Texas A&M-San Antonio. Student Success strives to provide a culture of inclusiveness and diversity while celebrating the individuality of our students' immigration status. We are committed to helping our students meet their academic goals and aspirations. Housed within the Dreamers Resource Hub is the Dream.US Scholar Program and the DREAM peer mentoring program. For more information, please call 210-784-1352, email dreamer@tamusa.edu, or visit our website: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academic-affairs/student-academic-success-center/dreamers-resource-hub/index.html>

SECTION 13 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

13.1 PURPOSE

Upon admission, students automatically become members of the University community and assume full responsibility for proper conduct until their separation from the institution. Misconduct is not tolerated as it diminishes the overall value of the degrees awarded by Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students at the University should be involved in assuring the honesty of the university community through their individual actions and deeds.

Since students serve as representatives of the university, inappropriate behavior, whether occurring on or off campus, will, at the discretion of the University, be investigated and adjudicated in a manner pursuant with A&M-SA's educational and community development goals. Consistent with this purpose, reasonable efforts will be made to foster the developments of those students who are found in violation of University regulations and/or local, state, or federal law.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities oversees the adjudication of all cases of student misconduct as addressed by the Student Code of Conduct. The Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement shall develop policies for the administration of the conduct program and procedural rules for the conduct of case hearings which are consistent with the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. Conduct standards at the University are set forth in writing in order to give students general notice of prohibited conduct. These rules should be read broadly and are not designed to define prohibited conduct in exhaustive terms. Any questions of interpretation regarding the Student Code of Conduct shall be referred to the Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement. The Student Code of Conduct shall be reviewed annually under the direction of the Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement. In keeping with normal University policy approval processes, the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook may, at the sole discretion of the University, be amended at any time. The newest version of the Student Code of Conduct is the official document regarding student conduct policies, procedures, rules and regulations.

13.2 ARTICLE I: JURISDICTION

The Student Code of Conduct establishes standards of behavior, both scholastic and behavioral, for the student body of A&M-SA. The Student Code of Conduct applies to both on and off-campus conduct and events of all students and student organizations. Students involved in study abroad are also subject to this code. When a student is alleged to have violated the Student Conduct Code, the University reserves the right to investigate and adjudicate. Action may be taken for either affiliated or non-affiliated activities.

Individuals who withdraw from the University during the student conduct process are still considered students.

Action taken by The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities does not preclude prosecution in the criminal courts. Similarly, prosecution in the criminal court does not preclude action taken by the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

13.3 ARTICLE II: DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will be used throughout the handbook.

- a. **Adjudication**- process of resolving a dispute or deciding an outcome.
- b. **Advisor** -one individual selected by each party to provide guidance during the conduct process to offer advice and counsel the party through the student conduct process. For Title IX and Civil Rights cases, the university will appoint an advisor if either party does not have an advisor present. See Section 13.7 Article VI for further information.
- c. **Appellate Authority**- an individual or panel responsible for rendering appeal decisions. The appellate authority will review of the process by which an original decision was reached and render an appellate decision, consistent with the grounds for an appeal.
- d. **Business Day** is any weekday the University is open for normal business hours.
- e. **Complainant**- the individual who is alleged to have been subjected to discrimination.
- f. **Discrimination**- a materially adverse action(s) that intentionally or unintentionally excludes one from full participation in, denies the benefits of, or affects the terms and conditions of employment or access to educational or institutional programs because of an individual's race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law. Discrimination includes harassment (based on both hostile environment and quid pro quo) and retaliation based on legally protected category.
- g. **Faculty Member** refers to any person hired by the University to conduct classroom or teaching activities or who is otherwise considered by the University to be a member of its faculty.
- h. **Student Conduct Process** is the opportunity to present and review relevant evidence before a panel /disciplinary committee or designated hearing officer vested with the authority to conduct such hearings. The hearing is conducted in accordance with the University's hearing procedures. The accused student may present his or her own defense against the charges and may produce either oral testimony or written affidavits of witnesses. If the student fails to attend, the hearing may proceed in their absence.

- i. **Hearing Officer** is a University official who is authorized on a case-by-case basis by the Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement to hear a case and impose sanctions upon any student(s) found to have violated the Student Code. It may include, but is not limited to, an administrator, faculty member or professional staff member.
- j. **Misconduct**- an action or actions that violate published behavioral standards.
- k. **Notice/Notification** both the accuser and the accused shall be simultaneously informed, in writing, of
 - 1. the outcome of any institutional disciplinary proceeding that arises from an allegation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
 - 2. the institution's procedures for the accused and the victim to appeal the results of the institutional disciplinary proceeding;
 - 3. of any change to the results that occurs prior to the time that such results become final; and
 - 4. when such results become final.
- l. **Notice to Appear** is a written or electronic notice of charge(s) requiring the alleged violator to meet with The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities or designee.
- m. **Preponderance of Evidence** What is more likely than not to be true, based on the totality of the available evidence. The preponderance of the evidence is the standard of evidence used for all determinations of misconduct.
- n. **Prima Facie** means sufficient at first impression to establish a fact or a case that may or may not be borne out upon more rigorous examination or greater knowledge of the evidence.
- o. **Student Organization** includes all Interest Groups, recognized Organizations, University Sponsored Organizations, and Athletic Teams.
- p. **Reporter**- an individual who observed or was made aware of an alleged violation and who provides an initial oral or written account of the alleged violation.
- q. **Respondent**-an individual who has been alleged to have engaged in discriminatory conduct.
- r. **Sanction** is an outcome imposed for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Generally, sanctions are educational in nature and intended to modify the student's behavior as well as build awareness of personal responsibility and community.
- s. **Student** includes all individuals admitted or enrolled at the University. Individuals who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the University are considered students. This includes individuals who withdraw from the university during the conduct process. Students who are also employees will have their status determined by the context of the allegations and are subject to both student conduct and employment standards.
- t. **University-Affiliated Activity** means any activity on or off campus that is initiated, aided, authorized or supervised by the University or by a recognized student organization of the University.
- u. **University or Institution** means Texas A&M University-San Antonio and other off-campus locations where classes are taught.
- v. **University Official** Authorized individuals employed by the university, including faculty, staff and student workers, either in full or part-time capacity.

- w. **University Premises** includes all land, buildings, facilities and other property in the possession of or owned, used or controlled by the University (i.e., such as during university sanctioned events off campus).
- x. **Will/Shall** are used in the imperative.

13.4 ARTICLE III: CONDUCT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The University reserves the right, through fair process, to impose disciplinary and academic sanctions on students who have violated the Student Code of Conduct. Any student found to have committed the following misconduct is subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in Article VII.

a. **Abuse**

Any conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person and may include physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, coercion. Methods of abuse may include, but are not limited to physical, verbal, written, electronic and/or visual displays. Abuse can include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. **Bullying:** Repeated behavior by a group or individual that is intended to harm, intimidate, offend, degrade or humiliate another person.
2. **Cyber-bullying:** The use of electronic media to bully an individual.
3. **Heckling:** Oppositional behaviors that badger, embarrass, harass, disempower, or challenge people or processes in a manner that undermines their integrity.
4. **Physical Abuse/ Assault:** Any attempt to cause or causing bodily injury or inflicting pain. Also causing physical contact with another when the person knows or should reasonably believe that the other will regard the contact as offensive or provocative. It is not a defense that the person (or group) against whom the physical abuse was directed consented to, or acquiesced to, the physical abuse. The physical abuse rule is not intended to prohibit the following conduct:
 - i. Customary public athletic events, contests, or competitions that are sponsored by the University or the organized and supervised practices associated with such events;
 - ii. Any activity or conduct that furthers the goals of a legitimate educational curriculum;
 - iii. A legitimate extracurricular program or a legitimate military training program as defined and approved by the University

b. **Academic Misconduct**

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. **Bribery:** Providing, offering or taking rewards in exchange for a grade, an assignment or the aid of academic dishonesty.
2. **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise to give an unfair advantage to the student. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Copying from another student's paper or receiving unauthorized assistance during an assignment, quiz, test or examination;
 - ii. Having another person other than oneself attempt to complete an assignment or exam.
 - iii. The acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff;
 - iv. Unauthorized collaboration on assignments and exams;
 - v. Using unauthorized assistance such as books, notes or other devices (e.g. calculators, cell phones, or computers, etc.);
 - vi. Selling, giving or exchanging completed exams to a student who has not yet taken the test;
3. **Collusion:** Intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another individual in progressing forward on academic assignments.
4. **Lying:** Deliberate falsification, in written or verbal form, as it applies to an academic submission.
5. **Multiple Submissions:** Submission of substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from the faculty member for which the student submits the work. Examples include, but are not limited to, (1) Submitting the same academic assignment for credit in two courses, or the same course that has been repeated, without faculty permission; (2) Making minor revisions in a credited paper or report (including oral presentations) and submitting it again as if it were new work.
6. **Plagiarism:** The act of passing off some other person's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Examples include, but are not limited to, (1) The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without acknowledgement, documentation or citation; (2) The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

c. **Alcohol**

Includes, but is not limited to:

1. Use, possession, manufacturing, or distribution of any alcoholic beverage in areas of University property that has not been approved for such activity;
2. Use, possession, manufacturing, or distribution to any person under twenty-one (21) years of age;
3. Public intoxication or drunkenness;
4. Driving while intoxicated or while under the influence of alcohol.

Note: For information regarding reporting amnesty under the 911 Lifeline Law, please refer to Article VI. For more information on Alcohol and other drugs policies, please see General University Rules.

d. Animal Cruelty

Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly torturing or in a cruel manner killing or causing serious bodily injury to an animal, failing to provide necessary food, water or care for an animal in the person's custody, abandoning unreasonably an animal in the person's custody, transporting or confining an animal in a cruel manner, causing bodily injury to any animal without the owner's consent, causing one animal to fight with another animal, or seriously overworking an animal. Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly attacking, injuring or killing an assistance animal or inciting another to attack, injure or kill an assistance animal. The Animal Cruelty rule is not intended to prohibit:

- Killing or injuring an animal within the scope of a person's employment or furthering the goals of legitimate educational curriculum as designed and approved by the University.
- Killing or injuring an animal when the actor had a reasonable fear of bodily injury to self or other person by that animal.

e. Breaching Campus Safety and Security

Includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Creating or contributing to a safety infraction or other health hazard through unsafe actions and/or violation of safety rules;
2. Forcible or unauthorized entry/access to any university or university-related building, structure, construction site or facility ;
3. Unauthorized propping of exterior university doors;
4. Tampering/damaging locking mechanisms, security cameras and/or card access readers, elevator controls and/or equipment and other devices in place for building security;
5. Unauthorized duplicating and/or use of university keys;
6. The placement of equipment or vehicles (including bicycles) so as to obstruct the means of access to/from university buildings and thereby endangering life and safety;
7. Failing to comply with emergency evacuations and/or university emergency response procedures;

f. Complicity

Attempting, aiding, abetting, conspiring, hiring or being an accessory to any act prohibited by this code shall be considered to the same extent as completed violations.

g. Controlled Substance and Illegal Drugs

1. The act of using, possessing, being under the influence of, manufacturing or distributing illegal drugs or illegally obtained/ possessed controlled substances on University property or at University sponsored activities. Individuals may not operate a motor vehicle or other form of transportation while under the influence of drugs.
2. Possession of drug paraphernalia, as defined as object(s) used for or intended to be used for the consumption of prohibited substances.

h. Dating Violence

Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim.

1. The existence of such a relationship shall be based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
2. For the purposes of this definition—
 - i. Dating Violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.
 - ii. Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence. [34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)]
3. Dating violence is explicitly prohibited under this regulation. Aiding another in the commission of dating violence is also prohibited under this regulation. Dating violence is a form of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct.

i. Disorderly Conduct

Conduct (physical, verbal, graphic, written, digital or electronic) that is disorderly, lewd, indecent or a breach of peace on or off university premises or at university-sponsored or affiliated activities.

j. Disruptive Activity

Participation in disruptive activity that interferes with teaching, research, administration, proceedings, other University missions, processes, or functions including public-service functions, or other University activities. Such activities may include, but are not limited to:

1. Leading or inciting others to disrupt scheduled and/or normal activities on university premises.
2. Classroom behavior that seriously interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program.
3. Any behavior in class or out of class, which for any reason substantially disrupts the class work of others, involves substantial disorder, invades the rights of others, or otherwise disrupts the regular and essential operation of the University.

k. Domestic Violence

A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by

1. A current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
2. A person with whom the victim shares a child in a common;
3. A person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner
4. A person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence occurred; or
5. Any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred. [34 U.S.C 12291(a)(8)]

Domestic violence is explicitly prohibited under this regulation. Aiding another in the commission of domestic violence is also prohibited under this regulation. Domestic violence is a form of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct.

l. Endangerment

Includes but is not limited to:

1. Committing or threatening to commit any act of violence or bodily harm.
2. Action(s) that endanger the health, safety, or well-being of one's self or others.
3. Interference with the freedom of another person or group to move about in a lawful manner.

m. Failure to Appear

Failure to appear for a university disciplinary/academic proceeding, respond to allegations or to appear as a witness when reasonably notified to do so. This includes disciplinary hearings, university investigations, and appeals hearings.

n. Failure to Comply

Failure to comply with directions of University officials acting in the performance of their duties.

o. False Reporting

Intentionally initiating or causing to be initiated any false report including, but not limited to, falsely reporting a crime, a conduct violation, and/or safety threat or other emergency.

p. Fire and Safety

1. Improper use or possession of hazardous substances.
2. Knowingly, recklessly, or negligently setting or attempting to set a fire on University property.
3. Creating a fire hazard or endangering the safety of persons or property.
4. Intentionally activating a fire alarm when no emergency exists.
5. Interfering with the response of University or city officials to emergency calls.

6. Misuse or removal of, damage to or tampering with fire prevention or other emergency equipment and/or signage.
7. Use or possession of any electrical appliance which is not authorized.
8. Possession of candles, extension cords, strip plugs without surge protectors, halogen lamps and other potential fire hazards.
9. Refusing to comply with fire alarm and fire drill procedures.

q. **Furnishing False and/or Withholding Information**

1. **Election and Referendum Tampering:** Altering election or referendum information by tampering with the process or data conducted and/or collected by any University entity or student organization.
2. **Fabrication, Falsification or Misrepresentation before a University Official:** Intentionally misleading a University Official regarding the nature of events, information and/or the identity of any individual.
3. **Inaccuracy of Records and Information:** Falsifying, altering, forging, or misusing any University record or official document or knowingly supplying false or misleading information to University officials. The submission of false information at the time of admission or readmission is grounds for rejection of the applications, withdrawal of any offer of acceptance, cancellation of enrollment, dismissal, or other appropriate disciplinary action.
4. **Personal Misrepresentation:** Representing oneself and/or another in person, verbally, in writing or through means of electronic communication, to obtain a benefit, to injure, or defraud.
5. **Registration Tampering:** Tampering with the registration or records of another student or one's own including, but not limited to, dropping and/or adding courses.
6. **Unauthorized Representation:** Alleging to represent the University or any of its organizations without specific prior consent of the respective officials to obtain a benefit or to injure or defraud.

r. **Gambling**

Gambling in any form is strictly forbidden on University-controlled premises, at University-sponsored activities or in any vehicle retained by the University to transport students to and from a University-related event.

s. **Harassment**

Conduct (e.g. physical, verbal, graphic, written, digital or electronic) that is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to threaten an individual or limit the ability of an individual to work, study or participate in the activities of the University.

1. **Sexual Harassment:** See Code of Conduct, _____ Sexual Harassment.
2. **"Protected Status" Harassment:** includes race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

t. Hazing

Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution by one person or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization. Such activities include but are not limited to:

1. any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
2. sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
3. consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
4. any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the law; or
5. coercing the student to consume a drug or an alcoholic beverage or liquor in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated

Note: For information regarding reporting amnesty for hazing incidents, please refer to Article VI.

u. Loitering

Lingering idly or aimlessly in any area of campus without official authority to block the egress to and from buildings, disrupt the flow of traffic or create or cause unusually loud and disturbing noises (between the hours of 11p.m. and 6 a.m.).

v. Misuse of Technology

Abuse or misuse of technology including misuse of computing resources through failure to comply with Laws, Copyrights, License Agreements, and Contracts through governing network, phone, and software and hardware.

Abuse of the University computer use policy includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Any use deemed commercial or for profit
2. Any use that likely, intentionally or negligently causes unauthorized network disruption, system failure, or data corruption, including failure to protect your password or use of your account
3. Any use related to achieving, enabling, or hiding authorized access to network resources, University owned software or other information belonging to the University, either within or outside the University network
4. Any use related to sending/receiving electronic mail that includes, but is not limited to, the following: solicitation or commercial use, forging any portion of an electronic mail message, spamming (bulk unsolicited email), sending of unwanted messages to unwilling recipients, or invasion of privacy.

5. Use of another individual's identification; network, email or other university based account; or related passwords, including charging long distance telephone calls or messages to any telephone on University premises or University-related premises without proper authorization.
6. Unauthorized transfer or entry into a file, to read, use or change the contents; or for any other reason
7. Use of computing facilities or network resources to send obscene, harassing, threatening messages, computer viruses or worms, or to watch obscene content.
8. Illegal downloading, file sharing or digital piracy

w. **Obstruction or Disruption**

Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedure, or other University affiliated activities including its public service functions, or of other authorized activities.

x. **On-Campus Housing Violations:**

1. **Restricted Behavior:** Behavior that is prohibited in the Esperanza Hall Lease Contract
2. **Restricted Possession:** Possession of an item that is prohibited in the Esperanza Hall Lease Contract
3. **Violation of Agreement:** Failure to adhere to the Esperanza Hall Lease Contract

y. **Property**

Behaviors that destroy, damage, or litter any property of the University, of another institution, or of another person. This may include unauthorized use, possession or removal of property from a designated area under the control of the University and/or its community members, guests or vendors.

z. **Reckless Driving**

Driving in a manner that endangers the health and/or safety of oneself or others.

aa. **Retaliation**

Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against an individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured under civil rights laws and regulations, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing. Retaliation is explicitly prohibited under this regulation. Aiding another in the commission of retaliation is also prohibited.

bb. Sexual Harassment

A form of sex-discrimination. Unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex (of a sexual nature or otherwise): (1) by an employee of the University who conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the University on an individual's participation in that unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) determined by a reasonable person to be so severe and pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the University's education program or activity; (3) sexual assault or dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking based on sex.

cc. Sexual Assault

An offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest, or statutory rape as used in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. A sex offense is any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent. These offenses are defined as:

1. **Rape:** The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. The offense includes the rape of both males and females.
2. **Fondling:** The touching of the private parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.
3. **Incest:** Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law
4. **Statutory Rape:** Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Sexual assault is explicitly prohibited under this regulation. Aiding another in the commission of sexual assault is also prohibited under this regulation. Sexual assault based on sex is a form of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct.

dd. Sex-based misconduct

Unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create a work, education, or campus living environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating abusive, or offensive. Sex-based includes, but is not limited to, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking based on sex.

ee. Sexual Exploitation

A situation in which an individual(s) take non-consensual or abusive sexual advantage of another for their own advantage, or to benefit or advantage anyone other than the one being exploited. For example, sexual exploitation could include such actions as secretly videotaping sexual activity, voyeurism, sexually-based stalking, invasion of sexual privacy, exposing one's genitals or causing another to expose one's genitals, and knowingly exposing another person to a sexually transmitted infection or disease.

ff. **Stalking**

Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—

1. Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or
2. Suffer substantial emotional distress.

For the purposes of this definition—

- a. Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about, a person, or interferes with a person's property.
- b. Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
- c. Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling [34 CFR 668.46(a)]

Stalking is explicitly prohibited under this regulation. Aiding another in the commission of stalking is also prohibited under this regulation. Stalking based on sex is a form of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct.

gg. **Theft**

Unauthorized removal or stealing of public or private property or unauthorized use or acquisition of services on University premises or at University-sponsored activities.

This includes knowingly possessing such stolen property.

hh. **Vandalism**

Damage, destruction, or defacement of property, including unauthorized painting or staining, that is under the control of the University

ii. **Violation of Law**

Violation(s) of any federal, state or local law.

jj. **Violation of Published University Rules and Procedure**

Such rules and procedures include, but are not limited to,

1. Violations of rules and procedures within departments/ offices (some examples include Fitness Center, the Library, Tutoring and Testing Center, etc.), student organization policies, Recreational Sports Clubs and Intramurals, rules relating to the use of student identification cards, entry and use of University facilities.
2. Posting of announcements, which do not abide by established University guidelines.
3. Violation of University Motor Vehicle and Parking rules: Repeated or flagrant violations of any regulations related to the use of parking motor vehicles on campus property.

4. Violation of published University rules not otherwise addressed in the Student Code of Conduct.

kk. Violating Terms of Any Disciplinary/Academic Sanctions

Knowingly violating the terms of any disciplinary sanction (including failing to meet deadlines and/or committing a violation of University rules while serving a probationary sanction) imposed in accordance with University rules.

ll. Visitors or Guests

Visitors or guests of a student must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct and University policies. In instances where guests violate rules or policies, the student host may be held responsible.

mm. Weapons and Explosives

Possession or use of weapons, firearms, fireworks, or explosives on University-owned or controlled grounds and property is prohibited. The term weapon may be defined as any object or substance designed to inflict a wound, cause injury or pain, or to incapacitate. Weapons may include, but are not limited to, all firearms, pellet guns, slingshots, martial arts devices, knives with blades 5 ½ inches and over and clubs.

Concealed Handguns: Any violation of University Rule 34.06.03.C1 regarding carrying concealed handguns on campus, including, but not limited to, display of the handgun, carrying in a prohibited area, leaving the handgun unattended and/or possession of the handgun when its placement is not on your person.

13.5 ARTICLE V: PROCEDURES RELATED TO EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES & PUBLIC SAFETY

The University may utilize either one of the following procedures to ensure the safety of members of the campus community and University property. The discretion as to which procedure to utilize rests solely with the University.

- I. **Interim Suspensions:** In certain circumstances, the Vice President for Student Success and Engagement, or designee, may impose a University suspension prior to the hearing.

Interim suspension may be imposed only:

- a. To ensure the safety and well-being of members of the University community or preservation of University property, and/or
- b. If the student poses an ongoing threat of disruption of, or interference with, the normal operations of the University.

During the interim suspension, a student shall be denied access to the campus (including classes) and/or all other University activities or privileges for which the student might otherwise be eligible.

The University may impose an interim suspension without notice or hearing, as long as the notice and hearing follow as soon as practicable (but not less than five days). The interim suspension does not replace the regular process, which shall proceed on the normal schedule, up to and through a hearing, if required. After imposing an interim suspension, the student should be notified in writing of this action and the reasons for the suspension. The notice should include the time, date, and place of a subsequent hearing at which the student may show cause why their continued presence on the campus does not constitute a threat (and at which they may contest whether a campus rule was violated.) An interim suspension shall not last longer than 10 class days.

2. **Maintaining Campus Order During Periods of Disruption:** The Texas Education Code permits the president of a state university to suspend a student for up to 14 days during periods of disruption whenever the president believes there is reasonable cause to demonstrate the student has willfully disrupted the orderly operation of the campus and the student's presence on the campus will constitute a substantial and material threat to the orderly operation of the campus. Texas Education Code §§ 51.231-.244. The statute defines a period of disruption as "any period in which it reasonably appears that there is a threat of destruction to institutional property, injury to human life on the campus or facility, or a threat of willful disruption of the orderly operation of the campus or facility."
If the President of the University invokes this power, they will follow the statutory process requirements.
3. **Parental Notification of Alcohol & Drug Violations:** Changes in the law that govern the privacy of student records, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), permits colleges and universities to inform the parents/guardians of students less than 21 years of age when their son/daughter has been found in violation of university alcohol and drug regulations.
4. **Contacting Parents in Cases of Emergency:** The Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement or designee may contact parents or guardians of a student in cases of emergency. This could include hospitalization, criminal actions leading to jail-time and/or criminal charges, incapacitation, death, etc.

13.5.1 Amnesty Reporting

Pertains to students who report being a victim of or witness to Title IX violations, Hazing, and underage alcohol or drug use/abuse.

- I. **911 Lifeline Law:** In 2011 the Texas Legislature passed a law providing a partial amnesty program for individuals who are under the age of 21 and call 911 because someone might have alcohol poisoning. Texas A&M University-San Antonio holds student safety as the number one priority. In order to ensure that students are able to call for help when needed, the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities may not issue charges under the Student Code of Conduct for alcohol possession or consumption by a minor in certain circumstances. This amnesty may be applied when a student is the first person to contact emergency personnel (911 or 1911 on campus), remains on the scene until medical personnel arrives and fully cooperates with EMS and law enforcement. Charges may still be filed if other code allegations and/or violations of law occurred.

2. **Amnesty for Students Reporting Sexual Misconduct:** In 2017, the Texas Legislature passed a law providing an amnesty program for students who reports incidents of sexual misconduct. Student who, in good faith, report to the institution of being a victim of, or a witness to, an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking may be provided amnesty regarding other potential code violations, including, but not limited to, underage alcohol consumption and use of illegal drugs. Amnesty does not apply to a student who reports their own commission or assistance to the commission of sexual misconduct. For additional information, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.
3. **Amnesty for Students Reporting Hazing:** Students who, in a good faith effort, report to the institution being a victim of, or witness to, an incident of hazing may be provided amnesty regarding other potential conduct violations, including, but not limited to, underage alcohol consumption and use of illegal drugs. Amnesty does not apply to a student who reports their own commission of hazing.

13.6 ARTICLE IV: JUDICIAL AUTHORITY (NON-CIVIL RIGHTS/ TITLE IX VIOLATIONS)

The Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement and Success shall develop policies for the administration of the conduct program and procedural rules for the conduct of conferences, which are consistent with the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. Decisions made by a Student Conduct Officer or designee shall be final, pending the afforded appeal process. This conduct process is for violations of the Code of Conduct that do not fall under Civil Rights/ Title IX. For Civil Rights/ Title IX Process, see Section ____

13.6.1 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Any student whose conduct has been called into question by any member of the University community or who is alleged to have violated the Code of Conduct and/or any regulations of Texas A&M University-San Antonio or the Texas A&M University System will be notified of the charges by university email as per the Student Handbook by the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students at any time may request the Student Code of Conduct to use as guidance or visit the Office of Rights and Responsibilities.

When a complaint is filed, the student or organization named in the complaint will be asked to appear before the Student Conduct Officer or designee who will conduct an investigative meeting to discuss the alleged violation(s) and possible sanction(s). The University will respond to complaints in a prompt and equitable manner. Resolution of complaints will be completed within 60 business days from the date of the original complaint. Reasonable extensions can be made for extenuating circumstances and require the approval of the Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Engagement or designee.

University students do not surrender their individual rights as guaranteed to them by the United States Constitution. These include the right to fair process. The purpose of the University disciplinary system is educationally based and is to decide if the student has abused freedoms and failed to accept responsibility for his or her action; to communicate this failure to the student(s) involved and to permit the student(s) to respond; to determine an appropriate response by the University; and to assist the student(s) to make a constructive response of self-discipline.

The Vice President of Student Success and Engagement or appointee may take immediate interim disciplinary action when he or she believes that the presence of a student on campus poses a continuing danger to persons or property or presents a threat of disrupting the academic process. An administrative hearing will be scheduled as soon thereafter as practical.

13.6.2 STANDARD OF PROOF: PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE

The standard of proof required at Texas A&M University-San Antonio in a University disciplinary case is a preponderance of the evidence. This means what is more likely than not to be true, based on the totality of the available evidence. The preponderance of the evidence is the standard of evidence used for all determinations of misconduct. The standard of proof is intended to assure all concerned that the intensity of the hearing officer belief is uniform in all cases.

13.6.3 RIGHT OF DUE PROCESS

A student alleged to have engaged in misconduct shall have the right of fair and due process and appeal as delineated in this code. Except in the case of the immediate interim suspension of a student for exigent circumstances, these rights include:

1. A written copy of the charge(s) in most cases notification must be at least five business days before any hearing may proceed.
2. A written handout notifying the students of their rights.
3. A fair and impartial hearing. The hearing officials must not have a conflict of interest or bias for either party.
4. Reasonable access to review the case file, which shall be maintained by the University official adjudicating the matter (i.e., hearing officer or designee from The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities).
5. Present evidence and witnesses in his/her behalf.
6. Be accompanied at a hearing by one advisor of his/her choice. An advisor may be present, but is not permitted to represent any student at a University hearing, present the case, or question any parties, witnesses or hearing officers. Request for advisor to be present must be done so in writing a minimum of three (3) business days before the scheduled hearing.

The advisor cannot actively participate in the hearing or ask questions of the witnesses or the hearing body. The advisor's role is to advise the student and observe the process. For non-Title IX/ Civil Rights cases, students who are charged in the same fact pattern, are not eligible to serve as an advisor at conduct proceedings

7. Be present at the hearing during the presentation of any evidence or material on which the decision will be made. If the student fails to attend the scheduled hearing, the hearing will be held in the student's absence.
8. Refuse to answer any question or to make a statement without inference of guilt. However, the hearing officer/body will make a decision on the basis of evidence available at the time of the hearing.
9. Ask questions of anyone presenting oral testimony during a hearing relating to the incident with the exception of sexual harassment and sexual assault cases.

- 10. Right to a notice on the findings of the investigation and/or hearing, an explanation of the decision, any sanctions assessed, if applicable and the next level of appeal.
- 11. Right to appeal the decision through the appropriate administrative officer within five business days of notification of the decision.

13.6.4 STUDENT CONDUCT HEARING PROCESS

A University hearing is not a trial or a Court of Law. Any attempt to make the hearing something else would seriously impair the educational function of the hearing which requires open discussion rather than an adversarial debate.

1. Incident or Complaint is filed.
 - a) Based on assessment of violation or crime of violence, emergency measures may be taken by the Vice President of Student Success and Engagement, including but not limited to, Interim Suspension, Suspension or Removal from housing, other Restrictions. UPD may assess duty to warn community.
2. The Office of Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) Student Conduct Officer or designee receives and reviews the Incident Report.
 - a) OSRR will review case for possible Code of Conduct violations; move to Step 4
3. Conduct Investigation occurs.
 - a) If investigation yields possible violation, the student is notified of alleged charges and summoned to appear for student conduct conference; move to Step 4
 - b) If investigation yields no violation, no charges are found; case is closed.
4. Student Conduct Conference is held.
 - a) Adjudication lead by Student Conduct Officer or designee for lower level violations; move to Step 5(a)
 - b) Adjudication lead by Conduct Hearing Panel for higher level violations that may lead to probation, letter of enrollment block, deferred suspension, interim suspension, banishment, suspension, dismissal, or expulsion; move to Step 5(b)
5. Deliberations occur.
 - a) Student Conduct Officer or Representative will make outcome decision
 - b) Hearing Panel will forward recommendation to the Vice President of Student Affairs.
6. Conduct Hearing yields finding.
 - a) Student is found responsible; move to step 7(a)
 - b) Student is found not responsible; move to step 7(b)
7. Outcome sent to student via university email
 - a) Student sanctions are imposed based on outcome findings and notification sent to student; move to step 8(a) or 8(b)
 - b) Case is closed; Student is notified.
8. Student receives outcome email and reviews
 - a) Student must complete university-imposed sanctions within given timeframe.
 - i. Sanctions are received by OSRR, reviewed and accepted. Notification letter sent to student; move to Step 11.

- ii. Sanctions are received by OSRR, reviewed and not accepted. OSRR will notify student for reason why and explain what needs to be completed for acceptance; move to Step 8(a).
 - iii. Sanctions are not received by OSRR in given timeframe. Student is notified and further sanctions are imposed; move to Step 8(a).
- b) Student files an appeal within five (5) business days from date conduct outcome sent*.
 - i. Appeal based on Student Conduct Officer or representative decisions sent to the AVP of SEAS or designee; move to Step 9.
 - ii. Appeal due to suspension will be assessed by the Vice President of Student Affairs or designee for reconsideration of admission; move to Step 9.
- 9. Appeal is reviewed.
 - a) If denied, original case outcome stands; move to step 7(a)
 - b) If upheld based on appeal of sanctions, move to step 7(a)
 - c) If re-opened based on new information, move to step 3
 - i. Case is closed; Student is notified.

13.7 ARTICLE VI: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND RELATED CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

13.7.1 TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATIONAL AMENDMENTS OF 1972

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Source: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681 & 34 C.F.R. Part 106)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational programs and activities at institutions that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX applies to issues of non-discrimination all educational programs and activities that receive Federal funds. Some key issue areas in which recipients have Title IX obligations are: recruitment, admissions, and counseling; financial assistance; athletics; sex-based harassment; treatment of pregnant and parenting students; discipline; single-sex education; and employment.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing a safe work, education, and campus living environment. A&M-SA prohibits sex discrimination in any form, including sexual harassment and is committed to providing a safe work and education environment. Any member of the campus community or public who witness, are subjected to, or are informed about incidents of sex discrimination and/or related retaliation involving faculty, staff, or students may contact the University's Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator or report online at <http://bit.ly/FileAReport>. Faculty and staff of the university have a duty to report.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio will promptly and thoroughly investigate all complaints of sex discrimination and/or related retaliation in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, Texas A&M University System Policy 08.01, Texas A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01, and University rules and/or procedures.

13.8 SEXUAL HARASSMENT, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING, DOMESTIC AND DATING VIOLENCE

Texas A&M University-San Antonio does not to tolerate physical abuse, threats of violence, physical assault, or any form of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other sex-based misconduct, including, but not limited to, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking based on sex. In addition, such acts of sexual violence are considered forms of sexual harassment covered under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and subsequent updates (e.g. Final Rule issues May 2020).

Family Violence (domestic violence) in the [Texas Family Code 71.004](#) is defined to mean an act, other than a defensive measure to protect oneself, by a member of a family against another member of the family that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury or sexual assault, or that is a threat that reasonably places the family member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or sexual assault.

Domestic Violence in The Texas A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01 is defined as a felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by:

- (a) a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
- (b) a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
- (c) a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- (d) a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred; or
- (e) any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred. [34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8)]

Domestic violence is explicitly prohibited under this regulation. Aiding another in the commission of domestic violence is also prohibited under this regulation. Domestic violence is a form of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct.

Dating Violence is defined in the [Texas Family Code 71.0021](#) as an act, other than a defensive measure to protect oneself, that is committed against a victim with whom the actor has or has had a dating relationship; or because of the victim's dating relationship with an individual with whom the actor is or has been in a dating relationship. The act is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury or sexual assault, or that is a threat that reasonably places the victim in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or sexual assault. A "Dating Relationship" means a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature which is determined based on consideration of the length, nature, frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Dating Violence in The Texas A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01 is defined as violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim.

- (a) The existence of such a relationship will be determined based on the reporting party's statement and with consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

(b) For the purposes of this definition:

(1) Dating violence includes, but is not limited to, sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse.

(2) Dating violence does not include acts covered under the definition of domestic violence. [34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10)]

Dating violence is explicitly prohibited under this regulation. Aiding another in the commission of dating violence is also prohibited under this regulation. Dating violence is a form of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct.

Sexual Assault in the [Texas Penal Code Sec. 22.011](#) is defined as an offense if committed by a person that intentionally or knowingly causes the penetration of the anus or sexual organ of another person by any means, without that person's consent; or causes the penetration of the mouth of another person by the sexual organ of the actor, without that person's consent; or causes the sexual organ of another person, without that person's consent, to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor.

"Without Consent" in regards to sexual assault is defined in Texas Penal Code as:

- 1) the actor compels the other person to submit by the use of violence;
- 2) the actor compels the other person to submit by threatening to use violence against the victim or against any other person;
- 3) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unconscious or physically unable to resist;
- 4) the actor knows that as a result of mental disease the other person is at the time of the sexual assault incapable of appraising the nature of the act;
- 5) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unaware that the sexual assault is occurring;
- 6) the actor has intentionally impaired the other person's power to appraise the victim's conduct by administering any substance without the victim's knowledge.

([Texas Penal Code Sec. 22.011](#))

Consent means assent in fact, whether express or apparent (Texas Penal Code Section 1.07(a)(1)).

Sexual Assault in The Texas A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01 is defined as an offense that meets the definition of rape, fondling, incest or statutory rape as used in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting system. A sex offense is any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent. These offenses are defined as:

Rape: The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

Fondling: The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

Incest: Sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape: Sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Sexual assault is explicitly prohibited under this regulation. Aiding another in the commission of sexual assault is also prohibited under this regulation. Sexual assault based on sex is a form of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct.

Consent in The Texas A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01 is defined as clear, voluntary and ongoing agreement to engage in a specific sexual act. Persons need not verbalize their consent to engage in a sexual act for there to be permission. Permission to engage in a sexual act may be indicated through physical actions rather than words. A Person who was asleep or mentally or physically incapacitated, either through the effect of drugs or alcohol or for any given reason, or whose agreement was made by threat, coercion, or force cannot give consent. Consent may be revoked by any party at any time.

Sexual Harassment in The Texas A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01 is defined as a form of sex discrimination. Unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex (of a sexual nature or otherwise): (1) by an employee of the member who conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the member on an individual's participation in that unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) determined by a reasonable person to be so severe and pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the member's education program or activity; or (3) sexual assault or dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking based on sex.

Stalking in the [Texas Penal Code Sec. 42.072](#) is defined as when a person commits an offense on more than one occasion and pursuant to the same course of conduct directed specifically at another person, knowingly engages in conduct that:

- 1) the actor knows or reasonably believes the victim will regard as threatening bodily injury or death for the other person; bodily injury or death for a member of the other person's family or for an individual with whom the other person has a dating relationship; or that an offense will be committed against the other person's property;
- 2) causes the other person, a member of the other person's family, or an individual with whom the other person has a dating relationship to be placed in fear of bodily injury or death or fear that an offense will be committed against the other person's property. Further, it would cause a reasonable person to fear bodily injury or death for themselves; bodily injury or death for a member of the person's family or for an individual with whom the person has a dating relationship; or that an offense will be committed against the person's property.

Stalking in The Texas A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01 is defined as engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- (a) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or
- (b) suffer substantial emotional distress.

For the purposes of this definition:

- (a) Course of conduct means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
- (b) Reasonable person means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
- (c) Substantial emotional distress means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling. [34 CFR 668.46(a)]

Stalking is explicitly prohibited under this regulation. Aiding another in the commission of stalking is also prohibited under this regulation. Stalking based on sex is a form of sexual harassment or sex-based misconduct.

13.8.1 HOW TO REPORT

If you have experienced or observe that someone has been subjected to (1) sexual violence; (2) harassment by a University faculty or staff member third party; or (3) sex- based misconduct or discrimination and/or retaliation under Title IX, you should report it. Those involved in the administration of civil rights and sex-based misconduct complaints receive annual training related sating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and training on conducting investigations and hearing process to ensure consistency, fairness and transparency.Students are strongly encouraged, but not required, to report incident(s) promptly to the University's designated Title IX Coordinator.

University employees informed of possible civil rights or Title IX incidents should immediately advise the reporter that they cannot keep the information confidential and are required to report it. The Office of Student Success and Engagement, counselors, and/or other appropriate University staff are available to assist with necessary outside agency reporting, if requested.

13.8.2 CONTACT INFORMATION:

Campus Title IX Office (Students)

Janice Parten

Campus Title IX Coordinator

(210) 784-2061

TitleIX@tamusa.edu

Compliance Officer (Faculty, Staff, Third Parties)

Martha O. Gonzales (Interim)

Chief Human Resources Officer

(210) 784-2057

Martha.Gonzalez@tamusa.edu

13.8.3 UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Dial 911 (University Phones)

Dial (210) 784-1911 (Non-University Phones)

Texas A&M University-San Antonio police officers are dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for all members of the campus community. To meet this mission, officers will be visible and vigilant in crime prevention. Officers will strive to be fair and courteous in the enforcement of all laws and regulations and professional in the services they provide to the campus community. For more information please visit <http://www.tamusa.edu/upd/> or stop by our offices:

Sen. Frank L. Madla Bldg., Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78224

13.8.4 CONFIDENTIALITY

Persons gathering general information, seeking guidance, or filing a complaint may be concerned about the confidentiality of the information they are sharing. While the University wishes to create an environment in which individuals feel free to discuss concerns and make complaints, the University may be obligated to take action when alleged or suspected illegal discrimination, sexual harassment or related retaliation is experienced or observed by or made known to an employee. Reports of possible violations will be kept private to the greatest extent possible, subject to the need to maintain a safe work and educational environment. An individual's request to withhold his or her name, the name of the alleged violator will be considered in the context of the university's duty to provide safe and nondiscriminatory work and education environment. This may require the university to take actions when the reporter requests no action, if violence is involved, if the threat of violence exists, or when required by law. A request to withhold information or to not investigate the alleged misconduct may limit the university's ability to respond to a complaint.

13.8.5 CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCE

Students may report confidentially through Student Counseling & Wellness Services at (210) 784-1331. Licensed Counselors or Psychologists in Student Counseling and Wellness Services are not required, nor may they report an incident that in any way identifies the student concerned without the student's consent. Licensed Counselors or Psychologists, if and when they deem appropriate, are to inform the persons they are counseling of any procedures to report crimes on a voluntary, confidential basis for inclusion in the annual disclosure of crime systems and under the State of Texas legislation as enacted.

13.8.6 REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Individuals have the option, but cannot be required to, submit a complaint or report to law enforcement authorities including University and local police. Furthermore, victims have the right to decline to notify law enforcement. The University encourages accurate and prompt reporting of all crimes to the campus police and appropriate police agencies, when the victim of the crime elects to, or is unable to, make such a report. If you believe that a sex offense or Title IX violation of a criminal nature occurred and wish to file criminal charges, you are encouraged to immediately contact the University Police Department at (210) 784-1911 or call 911. When a student reports that they have been a victim of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, either on or off campus, an explanation will be given of rights and procedures, options for confidential reporting, victim services, available assistance, supportive measures, available accommodations, and protective measures. An anonymous “Jane/John Doe” report can be filed with the police while deciding whether to pursue criminal charges. When an on-campus crime is reported, UPD will report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator and both a Title IX investigation and criminal investigation may occur simultaneously.

Law enforcement is able to help individuals understand the process of obtaining orders of protection, no contact orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by the courts. For investigative purposes, victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence are encouraged to preserve evidence in the event that the victim decides to report the incident to law enforcement or the University at a later date to assist in proving that the alleged criminal offense occurred or that may be helpful in obtaining a protection order.

13.8.7 UNIVERSITY RESOURCES & SUPPORT

Texas A&M University-San Antonio provides a range of supportive and protective measures for students including counseling, medical referrals, no-contact orders, assistance with locating safe housing, academic adjustments, student financial aid assistance, visa and immigration assistance, withdrawal procedures, and information concerning their rights. The University will offer such accommodations to the victim and made if requested and reasonably available. Supportive measures are available regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the crime to A&M-SA Police or local law enforcement. If you or someone you know has experienced an incident of sexual misconduct seek support from any one of the Title IX Coordinators listed above or any of these campus resources below:

Student Counseling Services/Sexual Assault Advocacy Coordinator
(210) 784-1331 (Business Hours)
Rape Crisis Center 24/7 Hotline (210) 223-7273 (After Hours)

University Police Department/Office of Victim Services
(210) 784-1900

For information about supportive and protective measures, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at (210) 784-2061 or the Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Engagement at (210) 784-1371.

13.8.8 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESOURCES

Adult Crisis Care Center (210) 358-3985
The Protective Order Division (210) 631-0100

Texas Attorney General (800) 983-9933 or (512) 936-1200
Advocates for Victims of Crime (AVOICE) Texas Legal Services 888-343-4414
<http://www.hopelaw.org>

For more information, please visit the [Sexual Assault Advocacy Services](#) webpage.

13.9 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES GUIDELINES IN CASES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEX-BASED MISCONDUCT OR CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

Texas A&M University-San Antonio abides by the Texas A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01 Civil Rights Compliance for investigation and adjudication of incidents involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking based on sex.

Complaints of sexual harassment, sexual assault or domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking based on sex will be processed under Title IX if all of the following apply:

- i. The member has actual knowledge of a notice of sexual harassment or a complaint involving allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and/or dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking based on sex to the member's Title IX Coordinator or any member official who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the member. Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. Each member must designate in its rule which employees have the authority to institute corrective measures;
- ii. A formal complaint is filed by the complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator;
- iii. The alleged behavior/conduct must have occurred against a person while in the United States;
- iv. At the time the formal complaint was filed, the complainant was participating or attempting to participate in the member's education program or activity. This includes an enrolled student, an employee, and applicants for admission or employment at the system member, and;
- v. The alleged conduct meets the definition of sexual harassment as set forth in this regulation (see Definitions).

13.9.1 STANDARD OF PROOF: PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE

The standard of proof required at Texas A&M University-San Antonio in a University disciplinary case is a preponderance of the evidence. This means what is more likely than not to be true, based on the totality of the available evidence. The preponderance of the evidence is the standard of evidence used for all determinations of misconduct. The standard of proof is intended to assure all concerned that the intensity of the hearing officer belief is uniform in all cases.

13.9.2 RIGHT OF DUE PROCESS

A student alleged to have engaged in incidents involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking based on sex shall have the right of fair and due process

Both parties (accuser and accused) shall be simultaneous notification, in writing, of

- a. the outcome of any institutional disciplinary proceeding that arises from an allegation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

- b. the institution's procedures to appeal the results of the institutional disciplinary proceeding;
 - c. of any change to the results that occurs prior to the time that such results become final; and
 - d. when such results become final.
1. Both parties will have timely notice for meetings at which either or both parties may be present.
 2. Both the parties will be given an explanation of the student conduct process and explanation of next steps;
 3. Both parties will have timely and equal access to the investigation report and any evidentiary material;
 4. Both parties have the same opportunity to be accompanied by one advisor of their choice to any related meeting or proceeding (may be an attorney at the student's expense). An advisor is selected by each party to provide guidance during the investigation and resolution process and to conduct cross-examination when a complaint is referred to a formal hearing. The University may appoint a trained advisor for a hearing if either party does not have an advisor present. Advisors may not otherwise represent or speak for the party they are advising. Each party is allowed one advisor, so long as the availability of the advisor does not hamper the timeliness of the conference. The mere presence of a University attorney does not indicate representation;
 5. Have evidence of past sexual history excluded during the student conduct hearing. The past sexual history of the alleged victim with persons other than the alleged perpetrator shall be presumed irrelevant unless evidence is offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the alleged conduct;
 6. Right to request transfer of classes or other steps to prevent unnecessary or unwanted contact or proximity to the accused, when such contact is likely to place the alleged victim in danger of bodily injury or cause the alleged victim severe emotional distress.
 7. Both parties shall be notified simultaneously, in writing, of the outcome of the conduct hearing.
 8. The University will disclose to the parties in writing the report on the results of the disciplinary proceedings conducted by the institution. If the alleged victim is deceased as the result of a crime of violence or sex offense, the next of kin of such victim shall be treated as the alleged victim for purposes of this paragraph.
 9. Both parties have the right to appeal the outcome of the formal hearing.

13.9.3 CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS GUIDELINES

The following guidelines apply to student conduct proceedings in cases of alleged sexual violence, sexual harassment, and sex-based misconduct or crimes of violence. In all cases, the process will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with The A&M University System Regulation 08.01.01 – Civil Rights Compliance and accompanying Appendix A-Model Sanctioning Matrix for Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment and Sex-Based Misconduct as well as Texas A&M University-San Antonio Rule 08.01.01.01. In all cases, the process is conducted in a manner guided by System Regulation and is consistent, impartial, and transparent to the parties.

Timelines are specified in Regulation 08.01.01 for the reporting, intake, investigation, and adjudication of formal complaints (Title IX) and other civil rights, including sex-based misconduct, complaints. Timelines may be extended for good cause with written notice to both parties of the delay and/or extensions and the reasons therefor.

- I. The Designated Administrator or designee will simultaneously provide the final investigative report and exhibits to the parties.
 - i. Both the complainant and the respondent will have timely notice for any meetings at which either or both parties may be present.
 - ii. Both the complainant and the respondent will be given an explanation of the student conduct process.
2. The parties will be provided a pre-hearing conference to review the hearing process as well as to explore available options for informal resolution. Both parties will be given timely notice for any meetings and an explanation of the student conduct process.
 - i. At any time prior to the adjudication of a formal complaint, the parties may seek informal resolution to resolve the complaint. Informal resolution, however, is not available in cases involving complaints of rape, statutory rape, dating violence, domestic violence, or any case in which imminent threats of harm may exist.
 - ii. Administrative conferences may be held if the complainant, respondent and university all agree on the findings associated with the allegations and the sanctions to be imposed. The Designated Administrator may reach a written resolution of the complaint without a hearing, provided any sanctions imposed are in compliance with the sanctioning matrix (e.g. Appendix A of System Regulation 08.01.01) for the complaint.
 - iii. If a formal complaint cannot be resolved through an informal process or if either the complainant or respondent requests a hearing, a formal live hearing will be conducted. Notice of a formal hearing will be issued to the complainant and respondent along with instructions.
3. A formal hearing is held. The hearing panel chair or hearing officer makes final determination on the relevance of questions and evidence.
 - i. Both complainant and respondent must have an advisor with them. If a party does not have an advisor, the university will provide a trained advisor to assist them. An advisor may be an attorney for either or both parties.
 - ii. Cross-examination of the complainant, respondent, and any witnesses will only be conducted by the advisors for the parties. When parties are being subject to cross-examination, the advisor may not answer on behalf of the party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than
 - iii. All live hearings may be conducted through remote means ensuring that all parties and the hearing officer or hearing panel can see and hear one another in real time during the course of the hearing.

- iv. If a complainant, respondent or witness is not in attendance at a live hearing, the hearing officer or hearing panel cannot rely on the previously submitted statement of the absent party in reaching a determination. Hearing officers/hearing panels cannot draw an inference regarding responsibility based solely on a party's or witnesses absence from the live hearing or refusal to answer cross-examination or other questions.
 - v. If a student respondent withdraws or graduates pending the resolution of a complaint, the process will continue and, the university will not issue a transcript on behalf of the student until the conclusion of the process.
4. Following the hearing, the hearing panel or hearing officer develop draft decision that will be reviewed by SECO and provided to the Designated Administrator who will issue a decision letter.
5. The Designated Administrator or designee will issue the decision letter and send simultaneously to both/all parties. Any delay of the issuance will be communicated to the parties.
 - i. Other Texas A&M University campuses or other postsecondary educational institutions, upon request, will be provided any determination that a student violated the university's code of conduct by committing sexual harassment, sexual assault, sex-based misconduct, and/or dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking based on sex.
6. Both parties have the right to an appeal based on certain criteria.

13.9 ARTICLE VII: SANCTIONS

Student conduct sanctions are categorized as primary and secondary. More than one primary sanction or any combination of primary sanctions and secondary sanctions may be imposed for any single violation. Sanction(s) may be assigned to a student after being found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with assigned sanctions may result in further Code violations and additional sanctions. Failure to comply with attending a conduct hearing or completing assigned sanctions will lead to a hold being placed on a student's account, limiting future course registration. Students retain responsibility for all financial obligations incurred including, but not limited to tuition, fees, and housing regardless of the outcome of the disciplinary/ academic hearings.

The following considerations may be made in determining appropriate sanctions:

- The nature of the violations
- The student's role in the incident
- The impact on the University community
- Past conduct
- The student's current conduct status
- Prior sanction outcomes in similar cases

For violations involving sexual harassment or sexual misconduct the Model Sanctioning Matrix for Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Violations by Students in [the Texas A&M University System](#) will be used. The results of any disciplinary hearing conducted by the university are to include the results and any sanctions be sent simultaneously in writing to both parties.

The sanctions listed below are not exhaustive, but merely serve as guidelines and may be levied in any combination.

13.9.1 PRIMARY SANCTIONS

Expulsion: Permanent separation of the student from the University whereby the student is not eligible for re-enrollment to this University. Expulsion prohibits entry into university premises for class or affiliated events for any reason and an individual may be issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. A notation of the conduct violation will be made on the student's academic transcript. Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations. Upon expulsion from the University for cause, there will be no refund of tuition and fees. The balance due will be considered receivable.

Dismissal: Separation of the student from the University for an indefinite period of time. Re-enrollment to the University may be possible in the future, but no specific time for a decision is established. Dismissal prohibits entry into university premises for class or affiliated events for any reason and an individual may be issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. A notation of the conduct violation will be made on the student's academic transcript. Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations. Upon dismissal from the University for cause, there will be no refund of tuition and fees. The balance due will be considered receivable.

Suspension: Temporary loss of privilege of being enrolled as a student at Texas A&M University- San Antonio for a definite period of time. Once a student is eligible to return, conditions for review of re-enrollment may apply. Suspension prohibits entry into university premises for class or affiliated events for any reason and an individual may be issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. Suspended student may not reside in on-campus housing and will be considered "not in good standing" with the university. A notation of the conduct violation will be made on the student's academic transcript. Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations. Upon suspension from the University for cause, there will be no refund of tuition and fees. The balance due will be considered receivable.

Banishment from Campus: In addition to being suspended or expelled from the University, the student is banned from entering the grounds and/or facilities owned, operated and/or maintained by the University. Entrance onto campus or into those facilities/areas will be viewed as a violation of this sanction and the student will be confronted and charged accordingly for trespassing and failure to comply. A notation of the conduct violation will be made on the student's academic transcript. Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations.

Housing Eviction: Permanent separation of the student from University on-campus residence facilities. A student who is removed from on campus housing as the result of this sanction may be required to pay the full room charge and any other fees that are owed as stipulated in the lease contract. Eviction prohibits entry into on-campus Housing for any reason and an individual may be issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. Individuals who violate this sanction may be arrested and/or additional charges filed against them under the Student Code of Conduct. Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations.

Interim Suspension: Refer to Article VI for definition and procedural guideline.

Restricted Access: Restricting or banning from entering certain designated areas and use of specific equipment as defined by the Student Conduct Officer or designee for a specified period of time. Restricting or banning may include, but is not limited to, access to a University owned or operated facility and/or services, academic related programs and/or opportunities, internships, access to on campus housing, participation in University-sponsored activities, or contact with a specified University community member(s). Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations.

Deferred Suspension: The sanction of suspension may be placed in deferred status. If the student is found in violation of any University rule during the time of deferred suspension, the suspension takes effect immediately without further review. Additional student conduct sanctions appropriate to the new violation also may be taken. A student who has been issued a deferred suspension sanction is deemed “not in good standing” with the University. A student who is not in good standing is subject to the following restrictions:

1. Ineligibility to hold an office in any student organization recognized by the University or to hold any elected or appointed position within the University.
2. Ineligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletic or intramural activity.
3. Ineligibility to represent the University in any capacity, including representing the University at any official function.
4. Ineligibility to receive a University-administered scholarship or fellowship when the sanction is in place for longer than one semester.

Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations.

Deferred Housing Eviction: The temporary or permanent delay of eviction from on-campus housing for the continuation of the signed lease. If a student is found responsible for violating any policies whilst on deferred status, the student will be evicted from the residence hall. See Housing Eviction for further information.

Conduct Probation: An official warning that the student’s conduct is in violation of Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Rules, but is not sufficiently serious to warrant expulsion, dismissal or suspension. A student on conduct probation is deemed “not in good standing” with the University. This sanction includes the same restrictions listed under Deferred Suspension. Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations.

Conduct Review: An official warning that the student's conduct is in violation of Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Rules, but is not sufficiently serious to warrant expulsion, dismissal, suspension, or conduct probation. A student on conduct review shall have their conduct under review for a specified period of time. This sanction may require regular meetings with an appropriate official to ascertain and evaluate compliance with student rules. Additional restrictions or conditions also may be imposed, depending on the nature and seriousness of the misconduct. Students placed on this sanction remain in good standing with the University. If there is a finding of responsibility for subsequent violations of the student rules during this period of time, more severe sanctions will be administered. Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations.

Letter of Enrollment Block: A letter stating that the student may not reenter Texas A&M University-San Antonio without prior approval through the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities or Vice President for Student Affairs if enrollment has been blocked for a previous student conduct problem or for medical reasons. Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations.

Letter of Reprimand: A letter that makes a matter of record any incident that reflects unfavorably on the student or the University. Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations.

Warning: Serves as a formal written warning that the student has violated the Code of Conduct. Any future violations will subject the student to further conduct proceedings.

13.9.2 SECONDARY SANCTIONS

Community/University Service: A student may be offered an opportunity to complete a specified number of hours of community/University service.

Educational Requirements: A provision to complete a specific educational requirement directly related to the violation committed. The provision will be clearly defined. Such educational requirements may include, but are not limited to, completion of an Everfi AlcoholEDU for Sanctions online course, educational and awareness workshops, essays, reports, meetings, etc.

Academic Sanctions: Appropriate academic sanctions are based upon specifics of an academic misconduct incident. The provision will be clearly defined during the Academic Misconduct process. Such academic requirements may include, but are not limited to, plagiarism coursework, educational workshop, etc.

Restrictions: The withdrawal of specified privileges for a definite period of time, but without the additional stipulations contained in the imposition of conduct probation. The restrictions involved will be clearly defined.

Restitution: Sanction can be used for the final determination of an institutional disciplinary proceeding for sex offenses or Title IX violations.

Loss of Parking Privileges on Campus: Revocation of campus vehicle registration, and forfeiture of permit and all refund rights to said permit.

13.10 ARTICLE VIII: DISCIPLINARY APPEAL PROCESS

13.10.1 TIMING

Students have five (5) business days from the date of the sent outcome notice from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities regarding the violation report and sanction to submit a written appeal. Failure to meet for a conduct hearing or claiming to have not received the notifications in order to extend the appeal period will not be permitted. Appeals will be confined to a review of the written documentation and record of the investigation and/or hearing, and pertinent documentation regarding the grounds for an appeal. The appeal does not create an entitlement to a new investigation or a full re-hearing of the complaint. The appeal should be addressed to The Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement or designee and specific criteria for considering the appeal of the outcome must be met.

13.10.2 CRITERIA

There are four specific criteria that are a valid basis for requesting an appeal. One or multiple criteria in a single appeal may be discussed.

1. A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome;
2. New evidence, not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome. The new evidence must be provided at the time with the appropriate appeal form.
3. There was a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome.
4. The appropriateness or severity of the sanctions.

Appeals based on financial considerations, delays in graduating, immigration status, or other personal inconvenience are generally not granted.

13.10.3 DECISIONS OF GRANTING AN APPEAL

After receiving the written request for an appeal, The Assistant Vice President for Student Success and Engagement or designee may:

1. Affirm the original finding and sanction;
2. Affirm the finding and modify the sanction; or
3. Remand the case to a new hearing or review.

After reviewing an appeal, the student will be informed of the decision. A notification outlining the outcome shall be sent to all applicable parties.

For cases of civil rights or Title IX violations, both the complainant and respondent will receive simultaneous notification of the notification of the outcome. Following an appeal, the matter shall be considered final and binding on all parties involved and the decision is final. Appeals due to suspension or expulsion will be assessed by the Vice President of Student Success and Engagement or designee for reconsideration of admission to University.

13.10.4 DISCIPLINARY RECORDS AND HOLDS

The Office of Rights and Responsibilities will place a hold on a student's University record while one or more of the following are pending: disciplinary proceedings, expulsion, outstanding sanctions, dismissal, separation, suspension, campus banishment, deferred suspension, conduct probation, and/or interim suspension. Failure to comply with assigned sanctions may result in Code violations and possible additional sanctions. The hold will remain on the student's account until sanction(s) are completed. (NOTE: Registration holds prevent students from registering for or dropping classes).

13.10.5 TRANSCRIPT NOTATIONS

When a sanction of banishment, suspension, dismissal, or expulsion from campus is imposed as a result of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, a notation will be made on the student's academic transcript.

If a student withdraws or graduates from the member university pending the resolution of a sexual harassment or sexual misconduct case, the process will continue, and the University will not issue a transcript on behalf of the student until the conclusion of the process.

SECTION 14 ACADEMIC POLICIES

14.1 CALLED TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

Original deployment orders and military ID should be presented to the Office of the University Registrar and Student Veterans Services Office when a student withdraws due to active military duty. Withdrawal options for a student called to active military service include:

1. Refund of tuition and fees paid by the student for the semester in which the student withdraws.
2. Grant a student who is eligible under the University's guidelines an incomplete in all courses by designating "withdrawn military" on the student's transcript; or
3. The instructor(s) will determine and assign an appropriate final grade or credit to a student who has satisfactorily completed a substantial amount of coursework and who has demonstrated a sufficient mastery of the course material.

14.2 EXTENDED CLASS ABSENCE/MEDICAL INCAPACITATION

14.2.1 MEDICAL INCAPACITATION

If for unforeseen events (hospitalization, death in the family, incarceration, expectant mothers, etc.) a student will miss an extended amount of class meetings he/she should contact the Office of Student Affairs, or the Office of the Title IX Coordinator. Student Affairs does not excuse a student from class; however, if the student is out for an extended period of time, the office will notify professors of absences as a courtesy. The student will have to provide written documentation to verify the reason for the absences. Ultimately, it is the professor's decision as to whether or not he/she will allow a student to make up any class assignments.

14.2.2 PREGNANCY AND PARENTING

For pregnant and parenting students: Under Title IX, a student's absences due to pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery from any of these are excused for as long as the student's doctor deems the absences to be medically necessary. When the student returns to school, the student will return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before the medical leave began. New mothers are afforded reasonable break periods during programs or activities, including classes, to express milk or nurse as necessary. For private areas of expression, visit the Title IX website at: <http://bit.ly.tamusatitleix>.

Pregnant or parenting students seeking academic interim measures must complete the online [Pregnancy & Parenting Information Form](#). Once the form is completed, a staff member from the Dean of Students office will contact students regarding their request.

Lactation rooms and baby changing stations are available around campus at the following locations:

Lactation Rooms		
CAB 129 HALL 112 MDLA 137 STEC 156		
Baby Changing Stations		
Men's Restrooms:	Women's Restrooms:	Family Restrooms:
CAB 115 CAB 124 CASA 113 CASA 211 MDLA 116 MDLA 132 STEC 112 STEC 155 STEC 212 STEC 255 STEC 312 STEC 355	CAB 114 CAB 123 CASA 112 CASA 210 MDLA 115 MDLA 131 STEC 114 STEC 159 STEC 214 STEC 259 STEC 314 STEC 359	CAB 125 HALL 107 HALL 211 HALL 311 STEC 150 STEC 152

14.3 CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Texas A&M University-San Antonio supports the principle of freedom of expression for both instructors and students. The University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. Classroom behavior that seriously interferes with either

- (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or
- (2) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program will not be tolerated.

An individual engaging in disruptive classroom behavior may be subject to disciplinary action.

When a student's behavior in a class is seriously disruptive as to compel immediate action, the instructor has the authority to remove a student from the class on an interim basis, pending an informal hearing on the behavior. A student who has been removed from a class on an interim basis is entitled to an informal hearing before the head of the department offering the course within five (5) working days of the removal. The Department Chair may either:

- a) Approve an agreement of expectations between the student and the instructor and reinstate the student to the class; or
- b) Extend the removal of the student from the class and refer the case to Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for adjudication.

A copy of all material sent to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities should be provided to the instructor's academic dean or designee, and to the student's academic dean or designee.

When a student action is not so serious as to require immediate removal from the class, these steps are to be followed:

- a) The instructor responsible for the class or activity where the alleged disruptive behavior occurred should inform the student that their behavior has been inappropriate. The instructor should describe to the student specific needed changes in the student's behavior. The student will be provided an opportunity to modify their behavior in accordance with the changes identified. The instructor will provide the student with a written, dated summary of their discussion with the student, and the instructor will retain a file copy of this summary.
- b) If a student believes the instructor's expectations are unreasonable, they may confer with the instructor's Department Chair about this matter. The Department Chair may choose to support the guidelines developed by the instructor, or they may work with the instructor to develop a modified set of expectations. If there are changes in the instructor's original set of expectations, a signed and dated copy will be provided by the Department Chair to both the student and the instructor.
- c) Should a student's behavior continue to be unacceptable, the instructor will apprise their (the instructor's) Department Chair of what has occurred and will share with the Department Chair the written summary of the discussion with the student. The department head may wish to initiate additional discussion with the instructor and/or the student. If the Department Chair concurs with the instructor's view that the problem has not been resolved, the situation may be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. A case can be created through the Maxient Reporting System at <http://bit.ly/FileAReport>. A description of the student's behavior, as well as a written summary of the instructor's discussion with the student and any other related material, should be forwarded to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for adjudication. A copy of all material sent to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities should be provided to the instructor's academic Dean or designee and to the student's academic Dean or designee.

14.4 ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE

Faculty members are responsible for determining the curriculum of a course, for developing appropriate methods of evaluating student learning, for evaluating fairly, for upholding academic standards, and for enforcing policies concerning academic honesty. Decisions made by faculty members regarding the quality or honesty of student work – especially decisions about course grades – are, as a matter of routine, accepted as authoritative and cannot be overturned by administrative officers. Students, however, have a right to expect faculty members to have defensible course policies and to implement them in a reasonable, equitable manner.

Students who believe that they have grounds for challenging faculty members' decisions regarding academic issues – excepting those pertaining to matters of academic freedom – may appeal using the procedure outlined below [based on one recommended by the American Association of University Professors in Policy Documents & Reports, 9th edition, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press and AAUP, 2001, pp. 113-114]. Please note, if a student wishes to dispute a course grade due to violations of academic misconduct, they must go through the Academic Misconduct Process only.

Except under unusual circumstances, the process outlined below for student appeals of faculty academic decisions should be completed within three (3) academic work weeks (15 working days) after the student's first meeting with the faculty member to question the faculty member's decision. The process is as follows:

1. The student must first meet with the faculty member and discuss the faculty member's decision. This meeting should occur as soon as possible after the decision has been made, normally within one week of the student being notified of the outcome. The faculty member is expected to listen to the student, to provide an explanation for their decision, and to be willing to change the grade or decision should the student's argument be persuasive. To change final course grades, a faculty member must submit a "Grade Change Form" and attach an accompanying memorandum justifying the decision to change the grade. The faculty member's Department Chair and Dean must approve the change. Grade changes will not be accepted after one academic year.
2. If the faculty member refuses to alter their decision or grade, the student may then discuss the matter with the faculty member's Department Chair or immediate academic supervisor (hereafter, "Chair" will be used to mean either the Department Chair or the immediate academic supervisor). If the Chair believes that the student's claims may have merit, the Chair would discuss the matter with the faculty member.
3. If the student is not satisfied with the Chair's assessment of the issue or if the faculty member refuses to alter their decision after discussing it with the Chair, the student may then request a review of the decision by the Dean.

14.5 VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT

As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts that violate the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Code of Conduct. For more information please visit the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities website <http://bit.ly/TAMUSASStudentRR>.

Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions, collusion, lying and bribery. For more information, refer to the Student Code of Conduct, Article III: Conduct Rules and Regulations. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty has the discretion to impose grade penalties as deemed necessary.

Faculty members are required to report such serious breaches of academic honesty to their Department Chair, their Dean and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

In cases of academic misconduct, students may be subject not only to grade sanctions in courses but to disciplinary action. Grade sanctions may be imposed only by faculty members, but suspension or expulsion may be imposed only by the Vice President for Student Success and Engagement. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of suspension or expulsion due to violations of academic misconduct, they must initiate their appeal as outlined within the Student Code of Conduct. Extenuating circumstances may cause the University to deviate from the defined time frames.

The Academic Misconduct Process is as follows:

- A. When a faculty member identifies alleged academic misconduct, the faculty should notify the student of allegations as soon as misconduct is found. Faculty and student should meet to review the allegations found, review any evidence, and allow the student to explain the incident. After the meeting with the student, faculty may impose an academic sanction, which includes, but is not limited to the following: written reprimand, redo of assignment, additional work, failing grade of assignment, failing grade in course, or multiple academic sanctions.
 1. If resolution is found, then the case is documented and referred to The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for review and adjudication according to the conduct process.
 2. If a student disagrees with or contests the decision of responsibility and/or academic sanctions, then the case is referred to the Department Chair for mediation.

- B. The Chair should contact the student and faculty within five (5) business days to request a meeting on/at a designated date and time. The student will meet with the faculty member or representative and the Chair to review the incident. The decision of the Chair shall occur within five (5) business days of the meeting with the student
 - 1. If resolution is found, then the case is documented and referred to The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for review and adjudication according to the conduct process.
 - 2. If a student disagrees with or contests the decision of responsibility and/or academic sanctions, the Chair will forward all information to The Provost or designee, who will activate The Academic Integrity Hearing Panel.
- C. The Provost or designee will notify all parties in writing of the date, time, and location of hearing at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing with The Academic Integrity Hearing Panel. At the assigned hearing, the student will meet with the faculty member or representative and Academic Integrity Panel to hear the charges and faculty member's explanation, and present their side of the case. The Academic Integrity Panel has five (5) business days in which to make its decision. The Panel may recommend to uphold (affirm) or reverse the decision of responsibility and/or academic sanctions imposed by the faculty member.

The Panel will communicate its recommendation to the Provost or designee. The Provost or designee will notify the student of the final decision made within five (5) business days of the panel meeting. The decision is considered final.

The case is documented and referred to The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for review and adjudication according to the conduct process.

14.6 FREEDOM IN CLASS

The faculty, in the classroom and in conference, will encourage free discussion, inquiry, and expression as long as such is within the scope of the course they are teaching. Student performance will be evaluated solely on academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards.

14.7 ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

Students who have been placed on scholastic probation and earn beneath a 2.0 semester or term GPA will be placed on academic dismissal. Because it is the first dismissal, the student will be required to sit out one semester and must complete an academic appeal, submit a personal letter, and an academic success plan. The appeal deadlines are as follows:

Fall: June 15th

Spring: October 15th

Summer: March 15th

If a student is dismissed from the University a second or subsequent time, the student will be required to sit out a full academic year (fall, spring, and summer) before re-applying to the University. In order to re-apply the student must apply via <https://www.applytexas.org>, pay the Admissions fee, and submit an appeal to the University by the stated deadline below. The appeal deadlines are as follows:

Fall: June 15th

Spring: October 15th

Summer: March 15th

All transcripts, appeal paperwork/documentation, and application fee must be paid before the deadline listed above. Appeal decisions are made by the Academic Suspension committee and are final.

14.8 APPEAL PROCESS FOR DISMISSAL

Any student placed on Dismissal has the right to appeal to change that status. Students must initiate the appeal process with Student Academic Success Center.

Students will be counseled by a Student Academic Success Coach. The student will obtain the appeal form, complete it, and submit any supporting documentation to the Student Academic Success Center by the stated deadline in the dismissal email. This appeal should only be completed in extenuating circumstances. The Academic Suspension committee is within their rights to deny the appeal and require the student to sit out the requisite amount of time.

The form will be reviewed by Academic Suspension Committee and a determination made regarding the outcome. If a student's appeal is approved, the student must then participate in the PAS program as part of their requirement for reinstatement.

If approved, the student is informed by the Executive Director of Student Success and the Office of the Registrar is informed to allow registration for that term. Reinstated students will be limited to 13 hours automatically. It is at the Suspension Committee's discretion to limit the student further (3, 6, 9, or 12 hours). The restriction will stay on as long as the student is on scholastic probation or reinstatement.

If the appeal is denied, the student is notified of the decision by the Executive Director of Student Success and the academic dismissal status remains on the record. Students must reapply to the University if they do not enroll within one calendar year from the initiation of the academic dismissal.

As part of the re-admission appeal process, all students are required to develop, in consultation with a Success Coach from the Student Academic Success Center, a student success plan. As part of the student success plan, students will be required to complete specified assessments as well as participate in the PAS Program. Students are required to complete the PAS program as long as they remain on scholastic probation. For more information, email the Student Success department at Student.Success@tamusa.edu.

14.9 PATHWAY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS (PAS)

PAS is a student success program that houses a comprehensive academic success plan including academic workshops, online modules, and one-on-one meetings to track student progress. The purpose of PAS is to enhance student learning, create opportunities for students to establish a record of academic successes and provide individualized success plans created in collaboration with the student and an Academic Success Coach. Each plan emphasizes the strengths of each learner and identifies areas needing improvement.

14.10 DEVELOPMENTAL PROBATION AND SUSPENSION

Students who are admitted to the University and are not college ready in Math will be placed on a TSI agreement before the start of the semester. Students are required to become college ready within two semesters and will be provided assistance through interventions that include preparation and learning modules, one on one and group tutoring, and academic coaching. If the student has not met college readiness standards at the end of the first semester they will be placed on developmental probation. Students placed on developmental probation will have a hold placed on their account and be required to meet with the Jaguar Math Program Assistant to track their progress. If students are not TSI ready at the end of their second semester, students will be placed on developmental suspension and will be dropped from the following semester's courses. Students will not be able to register in courses at A&M-San Antonio until they achieve college readiness in math. For more information contact the Jaguar Math Program Assistant at adelao@tamusa.edu.

SECTION 15 UNIVERSITY DRUG AND ALCOHOL RULES

15.1 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO DRUG-FREE CAMPUS RULE

Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-San Antonio) is committed to ensuring a safe, healthy, and pleasant work and learning environment on all University-controlled property and is an alcohol, drug, tobacco, smoke and vape free campus. Texas A&M University- San Antonio is in compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations (34CFR, Part 86) of the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA), and the Higher Education Act (Section 120A). Alcohol is not allowed on University property or at University sponsored events, unless approved by The Office of the President. The University recognizes the abuse of alcohol and other drugs is a threat to the mission of this institution and to the members of the University community.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes and supports present local, state, and federal laws and policies of the Board of Regents with respect to the sale, use, distribution, and possession of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs. In addition, the Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990 with respect to the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, or use of marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs on college campuses and elsewhere. Policies for DFSCA Compliance of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Programming Report (DAAPP) and Biennial Review can be found at <http://bit.ly/alcdrugprev>.

Purpose of Drug- Free Campus Rule:

Texas A&M University-San Antonio strives to assist students in achieving their potential as human beings and in becoming self-directed in all activities. Because growth and development are shaped by a student's experience, the University seeks to develop an environment where students can learn how to live fulfilling and productive lives. Substance abuse disrupts this environment and threatens not only the lives and well-being of our students, faculty and staff but also their potential for contribution to society. It is important for all members of the University community to take responsibility for preventing substance abuse from negatively affecting the community's learning environment and the academic, physical and emotional well-being of its membership.

In recognition of the problems of substance abuse, members of the university community have developed this University-wide drug rule. This rule deals with education, prevention, intervention and treatment activities as well as disciplinary sanctions for those found in violation of the rule. The University has established comprehensive substance abuse prevention programs such as the Online Mental Health Screening, which is available 24/7 to help eliminate the threat that substance abuse poses. Through education, the University is committed to helping individuals achieve their personal and academic goals.

15.2 ALCOHOL RULE

Alcohol is not allowed on University property or at University sponsored events, unless approved by The Office of the President. Texas A&M University-San Antonio is an educational institution dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, the promotion of academic achievement and the advancement of knowledge. Because of the University's interest in the intellectual, physical and psychological well-being of the campus community, it is important that the University take steps to curtail the abusive or illegal use of alcoholic beverages. This will be accomplished by educating members of the University community about the effects of misuse and use of alcohol, and enforcement of this Alcohol Rule. The use of alcoholic beverages by members of Texas A&M University-San Antonio community is at all times subject to the alcoholic beverage laws of the State of Texas.

1. Individuals must be at least 21 years old to purchase, possess or consume alcoholic beverages. Individuals not in compliance with this Alcohol Rule are subject to arrest and/or citation by the University Police Department. The offending student or student organization will also be subject to University disciplinary action and sanctions commensurate with the offense and any aggravating or mitigating circumstances.
2. University policy prohibits the possession of any alcoholic or intoxicating beverage(s) on University property except in specified locations and only where permitted by policy. On-campus use of alcohol is authorized by the Texas A&M University-San Antonio President and only in designated locations.
3. Student organizations must comply with the guidelines set forth for registered student organizations. Please refer to the Student Organization Handbook.

15.3 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND ILLEGAL DRUGS RULE

All members of the University community are expected to abide by local, state and federal laws pertaining to controlled substances and illegal drugs. More specifically, the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct prohibits manufacturing, possessing, having under control, selling, transmitting, using or being party thereto any illegal drug, controlled substance or drug paraphernalia on university premises or at university-sponsored activities.

The term "controlled substances," when used in this handbook, shall refer to those drugs and substances whose possession, sale or delivery results in criminal sanctions under the Texas Controlled Substance Act (Texas Civil Statutes, Article (4476-15), as well as substances that possess a chemical structure similar to that of a controlled substance (e.g., "designer drugs").

15.4 SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE

All A&M-San Antonio campuses and locations are smoke, tobacco, and vape free. Smoking (cigars, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, etc.) and smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, “dip”, electronic cigarettes, vaping etc.) are prohibited.

This applies to all faculty, staff, students, and visitors on University-controlled property or using University-owned or leased/rented vehicles. It is the responsibility of all members of the Texas A&M University-San Antonio community to observe the provisions and comply.

Violations will be handled in a manner outlined in the applicable faculty, staff, and student code of conduct publications.

15.5 EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND REFERRAL FOR TREATMENT

The Drug and Alcohol free-campus rule reviews education, prevention, intervention and treatment activities for students, as well as disciplinary sanctions for those found in violation of the rule. The University has established comprehensive substance abuse prevention programs such as the Online Mental Health Screening, which is available 24/7 to help eliminate the threat that substance abuse poses. Through education, the University is committed to helping individuals achieve their personal and academic goals.

Alcohol and Drug Education & Prevention Programming: The Division of Student Affairs established the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Prevention Committee to provide educational programming to students on campus. This includes Informational tables on safe behaviors while drinking, bystander intervention, standard drink education, consent under the influence of alcohol, dangers of alcohol poisoning, education on Texas 911 Lifeline Law, Party drug information, etc. Other educational programs include 4:20 Marijuana Education, Drunk goggle simulations, Education Bingo, and education on resources on campus. A comprehensive list can be found on the Webpage for AOD: <http://bit.ly/alcdrugprev>

- **Alcohol Education Course:** The University mandates that all in-coming students under the age of 21 complete a 2-part alcohol education course starting Fall 2018. The online education module is hosted through Everfi, which also provides a Sexual Assault Prevention course, previously titled Haven, and a Prescription Drug Course. These courses are open for all university students to complete. An AlcoholEDU for Sanction course is also available for students found responsible for violation of law/ policy regarding use or possession of alcohol.
- **Jaguar First Fridays:** Every First Friday of the Semester, a late-night alternative program is held for student from 7-9pm. These events are alternative events to going out on a weekend and showcases how students can have fun on campus without using alcohol or other drugs. Events include Glow Dance Party, National Night Out Block Party, Dia de los Muertos Celebration, Loteria, and more.
- **Jaguars Step In. Speak Up. Support.:** Flyers and banners are placed around campus to highlight various components of safe behaviors, bystander intervention, and social norms around alcohol. Also, it provides further information on resources on campus student can

use in cases of alcohol poisoning, such as the Texas 911 Lifeline Law, and Student Counseling and Wellness Services.

Referral: All enrolled students at Texas A&M University – San Antonio are eligible to receive initial consultation appointments with Student Counseling and Wellness Services to assess their needs. The initial consultation is used to make treatment recommendations based on symptoms, severity, appropriateness of services, and availability of resources. In addition to services offered at Student Counseling Services for Alcohol & Drug Treatment, a Behavioral Health Provider list with options for addiction treatment is available. Programs listed as representative referral sources should not be interpreted as an endorsement by the University.

- **Alcohol and Drug Screening:** The University recognizes alcohol/drug dependency as an illness and a major health problem. Excessive use of alcohol and other drugs is a serious health problem in itself, but alcohol and drug abuse also can contribute to a host of other physical and mental health problems such as complications in pregnancy, violent behavior, HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases, psychological depression, hallucinations and death. Student Counseling and Wellness Services offers confidential online screening and assessment.
- **Resources:** Information, assessment and referral services for alcohol or drug-related problems are available on campus:
 1. Services for students are available at the Office of Student Affairs (210) 784-1330
 2. Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331.
 3. Services for employees are available through the University's human resources office.
 4. Other resource: San Antonio Council on Drug & Alcohol Abuse, 7500 HWY 90 W., Building I Ste. 100, San Antonio, Texas 78227, (210) 225-4741.

15.6 RISKS

There are many types of drugs that trigger harmful effects. According to The National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the following risks are associated with drug and alcohol abuse.¹

<u>SUBSTANCE</u>	<u>POSSIBLE HEALTH EFFECTS</u>
Alcohol	Liver inflammation, mood changes and behavior, problems with thinking and coordination, stroke, high blood pressure, inflammation of the pancreas, and increased cancer risk, bleeding in intestinal tract
Cannabis Marijuana, Hashsis, Synthetic Marijuana	Enhanced sensory perception and euphoria followed by drowsiness/relaxation; slowed reaction time; problems with balance and coordination; increased heart rate and appetite; problems with learning and memory; anxiety

Stimulants Cocaine, Methamphetamine (MDMA Molly, Ecstasy, X, XTC), Nicotine, Amphetamines (Adderall)	Anxiety, confusion, insomnia, mood problems, violent behavior, paranoia, hallucinations, delusions, weight loss
Depressants Benzodiazepine (Valium, Xanax), Flunitrazepam (Roofies), GHB	Euphoria, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, confusion, memory loss, unconsciousness, slowed heart rate and breathing, lower body temperature, seizures, coma, death.
Hallucinogens LSD, Psilocybin (Shrooms, Peyote, PCP)	Frightening flashbacks (called Hallucinogen Persisting Perception Disorder [HPPD]); ongoing visual disturbances, disorganized thinking, paranoia, and mood swings.
Narcotics Heroin, Morphine, Codeine, Opium, Hydrocodone, Salvia	Collapsed veins; abscesses (swollen tissue with pus); infection of the lining and valves in the heart; constipation and stomach cramps; liver or kidney disease; pneumonia.
Steroids	Kidney damage or failure; liver damage; high blood pressure, enlarged heart, or changes in cholesterol leading to increased risk of stroke or heart attack, even in young people; aggression; extreme mood swings; anger ("roid rage"); extreme irritability; delusions; impaired judgment.
Inhalants Spray Paints, Markers, Glue, Cleaning Fluids, Gasoline	Liver and kidney damage; bone marrow damage; limb spasms due to nerve damage; brain damage from lack of oxygen that can cause problems with thinking, movement, vision, and hearing.

¹ Points on substance abuse long term effects obtained from The National Institute on Drug Abuse Commonly Abused Drug Charts found online at: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/commonly-abused-drugs-charts> and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism found online at: <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohol-health/alcohols-effects-body> (websites last visited 4/10/19).

15.7 UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINARY PROCESS IN REGARDS TO ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

University disciplinary charges may be pursued against any student alleged to have violated Texas A&M System Policies and Regulations, University Rules and Procedures and/or local, state and federal laws concerning controlled substances. Violations of any local, state or federal law pertaining to controlled substances that occur off campus and are not associated with a University- connected activity may result in disciplinary charges in situations in which the continued presence of the individual on campus is likely to interfere with the educational process and the orderly operation of the University. University disciplinary proceedings will be in accordance with procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Voluntary admission to a substance abuse treatment program prior to the issuance of charges may be looked upon favorably in disciplinary cases. Disciplinary action in cases involving drug-related violations may result in Housing eviction, suspension, dismissal or expulsion from the University, depending on the nature and seriousness of the case. Participation in a substance abuse education or treatment program may be required in addition to other sanctions. Any disciplinary action imposed by the University may precede and be in addition to any penalty imposed by an off-campus authority.

15.8 STUDENT ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG-FREE RULE

The Student Organization Responsibility for Alcohol and Drug-Free Rule provides that any student organization functioning at the University which knowingly permits or authorizes the sale, distribution, serving, possession, consumption, or use of marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug when such sale, distribution, serving, possession, consumption, or use is not in compliance with the laws of this state shall have its recognition as a student organization withdrawn and shall be expelled from campus for a minimum of a calendar year from the year of determination of guilt. The organization shall also be prohibited from the use of all property and facilities of the university with which it is affiliated. These disciplinary actions are subject to administrative review and hearing procedures as are provided in the code.

15.9 TRAVEL POLICY AS APPLIED TO DRUG-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

Students should be aware that they are responsible for abiding by the Drug-Free Campus Policy and they may be held liable, both civilly and criminally, in the case that they are found in violation. When students travel, they should know that their point of destination is considered an extension of the campus. Violations occurring off campus will be treated the same as if the violations occurred on campus. All students participating in extra-curricular travel are required to complete the necessary travel forms prior to departure and return them to the Office of Student Involvement. These forms are available in the Office of Student Involvement and JagSync. This policy also includes Study Abroad trips, as a student is an extension of the campus and must abide by all Code of Conduct rules.

SECTION 16 UNIVERSITY RULE ON WEAPONS AND CONCEALED CARRY

16.1 WEAPONS RULE

16.1.1 PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I. Prohibition of Weapons Unless Properly Authorized

Weapons are not permitted on the “premises” of any member, grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by a member is being conducted, or in a member passenger transportation vehicle, unless pursuant to written authorization of the member in accordance with this regulation. This prohibition excludes a concealed handgun carried by a license holder in accordance with state and federal law and the member’s campus carry rule.

A holder of a concealed handgun license (CHL) must comply with the provisions of this regulation and Tex. Penal Code § 46.035.

2. Licensed Peace Officers

Licensed peace officers are authorized by law to carry firearms at all times.

3. Requirements for Authorizing Weapons

Members may grant an individual authorization to possess a weapon in accordance with state law and this regulation.

4. Firearm Application and Authorization Requirements

An individual wishing to apply for authorization must submit a completed A&M System Firearm Authorization Request Form to the member police department or another office designated by the member chief executive officer (CEO).

A member CEO or designee is authorized to approve such authorization requests.

The complete text of System Regulation 34.06.02 Weapons can be found at <http://policies.tamus.edu/34-06-02.pdf>.

16.2 CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY

16.2.1 RULE STATEMENT

This rule is designed to promote knowledge about the permissible concealed carrying of handguns and to provide information relative to those areas on campus where concealed carry is excluded.

16.2.2 REASON FOR RULE

This rule is established pursuant to Texas Government Code 411.2031.

16.2.3 PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The university president established this rule after consulting with Texas A&M University-San Antonio students, staff and faculty about the nature of the student population, specific safety considerations, and the uniqueness of the campus environment. These rules were reviewed by the system board of regents as required by law.

A handgun license holder under Chapter 411, Texas Government Code, may carry a concealed handgun on or about the license holder's person while the license holder is on the campus of Texas A&M University-San Antonio or in a Texas A&M University-San Antonio vehicle, unless prohibited by state or federal law, or this rule. The open carrying of a handgun on campus is prohibited. Licensed peace officers are authorized by law to carry firearms at all times.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio enforces state law regulating firearms on campus. This enforcement occurs in two ways. First, university police or other applicable law enforcement agencies will investigate and take appropriate action, including referral for criminal prosecution when violations occur. Second, Texas A&M University-San Antonio will consider any violation of state law regulating firearms to be a violation of Texas A&M University-San Antonio rules. Accordingly, such a violation is subject to disciplinary action under rules applicable to students, faculty, and staff.

16.2.4 RULES APPLICABLE TO CARRYING A CONCEALED HANDGUN ON CAMPUS

State Law Prohibitions

A license holder is responsible for complying with the applicable state prohibitions. See Appendix.

Federal Law Prohibitions

A license holder is responsible for complying with the applicable federal law prohibitions.

Other Prohibited Campus Premises

A license holder is also prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun on the following campus premises:

1. Student Wellness & Counseling Center
2. Fitness Center
3. Any premises where the university, as directed or approved by the president as necessary for campus safety, gives effective notice on a temporary basis pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code. For this rule, the term "owner of the property" in Section 30.06(b), Penal Code, means the president of the university. No university employee is "someone with apparent authority to act for the owner" for purposes of Section 30.06(b), Penal Code. All notices under Section 30.06, Penal Code, will be institutional notice, conform to Sections 46.03 and 46.035, Penal Code, and apply equally to all handgun license holders;
4. Any campus premises leased by the university to a third party, if the third party determines to prohibit the concealed carry of handguns on the premises and provides effective notice pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code; and

5. Assigned offices, as approved by the president, for which the employee has demonstrated that the carrying of a concealed handgun by a license holder in the office presents a significant risk of substantial harm due to a negligent discharge. 5. At all premises where concealed carry is prohibited, Texas A&M University-San Antonio must give effective notice under Section 30.06, Penal Code.
6. At all premises where concealed carry is prohibited, Texas A&M University-San Antonio must give effective notice under Section 30.06, Penal Code.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

System Regulation 34.06.02, Weapons

Definitions:

Assigned office – an office assigned to an individual faculty or staff member that is not generally open to the public.

Campus - means all land and buildings owned or leased by Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Campus housing – means dormitories or other residential facilities located on campus that are:

- (1) owned and operated by Texas A&M University-San Antonio; or
- (2) leased and operated by Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Premises – means a building or portion of a building. The term does not include any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.

Significant risk – means a high probability of harm, not just a slightly increased, speculative, or remote risk.

Substantial harm – means serious injury or death to a person or persons, or destruction of valuable property.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio strives to provide a safe and secure environment for its students, staff and faculty. Texas A&M University-San Antonio follows Texas A&M System Regulation 34.06.02 *Weapons*. The following information is included in the System Regulation:

A person commits a criminal violation of state law if he or she intentionally, knowingly or recklessly possesses or goes with a weapon on the premises of any member of The Texas A&M University System (system), any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by any member is being conducted or in a passenger transportation vehicle of any member, unless the member authorizes such possession pursuant to this regulation. *See* Tex. Penal Code §46.03.

This regulation provides a mechanism by which members may authorize weapons otherwise prohibited by Sections 46.03 or 46.035 of the Texas Penal Code. Without such written authorization, weapons are prohibited on property owned or controlled by the system or in member passenger transportation vehicles.

SECTION 17 GENERAL UNIVERSITY RULES

17.1 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/NON-DISCRIMINATION

Texas A&M University-San Antonio provides equal opportunity to all employees, students, applicants for employment and admission, and the public regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. Texas A&M University-San Antonio promptly thoroughly and equitably investigates complaints and reports of discrimination, sexual harassment, and related retaliation in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, Texas A&M System Policy 08.01, [Texas A&M System Regulation 08.01.01](#), [Texas A&M System Regulation 08.01.02](#), and University rules and procedures.

A student who experiences, observes, or becomes aware of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should report the incident promptly to:

Campus Title IX Coordinator (Students)

Janice Parten

(210) 784-2061

Janice.Parten@tamusa.edu

Compliance Officer (Faculty, Staff, Third Parties)

Vacant

(210) 784-2003

TitleIX@tamusa.edu

17.2 SEX DISCRIMINATION

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when the conduct is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment or education, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or educational performance, or creates an intimidating or hostile work, educational, or campus living environment.

A student who experiences, observes or becomes aware of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should report the incident promptly to: **Campus Title IX Coordinator (Students)**

Janice Parten

(210) 784-2061

Janice.Parten@tamusa.edu

Compliance Officer (Faculty, Staff, Third Parties)

John LoCurto

(210) 784-2003

John.LoCurto@tamusa.edu

17.3 HAZING

Hazing is a criminal violation under Texas Law. A person may be found guilty of criminal conduct for hazing, encouraging hazing, permitting hazing, or having knowledge of the planning of hazing incidents and failing to report in writing his/her knowledge to the Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement.

Students who, in good faith effort, report to the institution being a victim of, or witness to, an incident of hazing may be provided amnesty regarding other potential code violations, including, but not limited to, underage alcohol consumption and use of illegal drugs. Amnesty does not apply to a student who reports their own commission of hazing. Both failing to report hazing and hazing that does not result in serious bodily injury are Class B misdemeanors. Hazing that results in serious bodily injury is a Class A misdemeanor. Hazing resulting in a death is a state felony. An organization found guilty of hazing may be fined \$5,000 to \$10,000 or, for incidents causing personal injury or property damage, an amount which is double the loss or expenses incurred because of the hazing incident.

This state law does not limit or affect an education institution's right to enforce its own penalties against hazing.

The Education Code defines hazing as "any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution by one person or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization." The statute contains a list of conduct which constitutes hazing.

Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to:

1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activities;
2. Any type of physical activity that subjects the individual to risk or harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of an individual, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, etc.;
3. Any activity involving the large and/or unreasonable consumption of food, liquid, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or other substance which subjects the individual to risk of harm or which adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the person;
4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the person with ostracism, subjects the individual to mental stress, shame, or humiliation, or adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the individual;
5. Any activity that induces or requires the student to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the Penal Code.

If a student has firsthand knowledge of the planning or occurrence of a specific hazing incident, the student must report it or the student will have committed a hazing offense. Report any incidence of hazing to the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities at <http://bit.ly/FileAReport>.

17.4 HIV/AIDS

Texas A&M University-San Antonio will not use a person's HIV status to make employment or admission decisions nor to determine how services are delivered, except as allowed by state or federal law. The University will not ask students if they are HIV infected. HIV positive students are allowed to attend class without restriction as long as the students are physically and mentally able to participate and perform assigned work and reasonably pose no health risk to others

17.5 CAMPUS PARKING

All students, faculty, and staff who operate a motor vehicle on campus must register their vehicle with Parking & Transportation Services and obtain a University permit before they can park their vehicle on University property. Students, faculty, and staff are expected to pay parking violations as outlined in the Financial Obligations section. For more information on parking regulations, please visit the Parking and Transportation website at: <http://www.tamusa.edu/parking>.

17.6 NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Pedestrians have the right of way at all times. Bicycles are permitted on campus; however, they must yield the right of way to pedestrians and must be parked in bicycle racks available throughout campus. Bicycles are not permitted inside University buildings. Other non-motorized vehicles including, but not limited to, skateboards, roller skates, and in-line roller blade skates may not be operated on any of the sidewalks or driveways or in any building on the Texas A&M University-San Antonio campus.

17.6.1 HOVERBOARD POLICY

Due to safety concerns regarding spontaneous combustion and operator safety, Texas A&M University-San Antonio prohibits the use, possession, or storage of hoverboards including self-balancing boards/scooters, battery operated scooters, hands-free Segway, electric powered skateboards, and other similar equipment on the A&M-SA campus and other off-campus properties controlled by the University. This policy applies to the grounds and all building.

17.7 ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

Animals are not allowed on campus at any time. The only exceptions are service animals assisting individuals with disabilities.

17.8 SOLICITATION

It is a violation for any person to solicit or sell to individual students at any time on the property, campus, or grounds of Texas A&M University-San Antonio except in those cases where specific authorization has been extended by The Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement.

17.9 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Students are expected to pay all financial obligations to the University when due. Failure to pay such obligations may result in the student being dropped from classes and/or exclusion from final exams, withheld transcript and diploma, and/or further enrollment. Financial obligations include but are not limited to past due tuition, fees, or dining dollars charges, returned checks, returned check charges, lost or damaged library book charges, loss or breakage of instructional material or equipment, emergency loans or tuition installment loans and/or parking violations. Delinquent accounts are in jeopardy of being sent to a collection agency where the collection fees are an additional charge incurred by the student.

17.10 VOLUNTARY OR INVOLUNTARY LEAVE POLICY

In cases where a student leaves the institution, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, the University reserves the right to set a registration hold on the student account and place mandatory conditions upon the student's return. This may include, but is not limited to, an assessment by an outside provider and/or completion of disciplinary sanctions. Other criteria from other departments may be required as well, prior to the student's return to the University. For questions pertaining to this section, please contact the Office of Student Affairs.

17.11 ETHICSPPOINT HOTLINE

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse, you may report the information by calling the Risk & Misconduct Hotline at (888)-501-3850 or file a report electronically at:

<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/19681/index.html>.

A link to the hotline and electronic reporting option, called Risk, Fraud, and Misconduct, is located at the bottom of the University home page. The Risk & Misconduct Hotline is managed by EthicsPoint, an independent third party. Upon the receipt of a report, EthicsPoint personnel route the report to designated A&M System member officials for review and follow up.

The EthicsPoint hotline and electronic portal allow anonymous reporting.



SECTION 18 APPENDIX

18.1 COMPLAINT TOPICS AND CONTACTS LIST

Nature Of Concern	Reference	Office or Contact	Description
Academic Content/Record	FERPA Student Handbook System Policy	Registrar's Office Director: Rachel Montejano	Students wishing to make changes to Address/Telephone/email through JagWire. Change of Name/Social Security Number Require a Form and documentation be submitted to the Registrar.
Academic Misconduct	Student Handbook: Violations of Academic Conduct Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities	Professor of the course	Violations of Academic Conduct (includes, but not limited to: Cheating, Plagiarism, Collusion, Multiple Submission, Lying, Bribery) will follow the Process for Academic Conduct Violations as laid out in the Student Handbook.
Academic Dismissal	University Catalog	Student & Academic Success Center Director: Kimberly Nanez	Any student placed on Dismissal has the right to appeal to change that status. Students must initiate the appeal process with Student Academic Success Center. (Appeal Process: Catalog Page 129)
Admission Appeal	University Catalog Admissions Website	Office of Admissions Director: Melissa Morales	Students wishing to appeal their admissions can visit the Welcome Center for more information and form. The admissions appeal process is outlined in the decision letter which is sent to the student.
Americans with Disabilities (ADA): Accommodations	Disability Support Services Website	Disability Support Services (DSS) Director: Sarah Ramseur	If a student who has registered and has activated semester accommodations through DSS does not receive these through an academic program, contact DSS Case Manager or Director.

Nature Of Concern	Reference	Office or Contact	Description
Americans with Disabilities (ADA): Discrimination	Disability Support Services Website Title IX Website for Discrimination	Disability Support Services Director: Sarah Ramseur Title IX Coordinator: Janice Parten	A student who feels they have been subject to discrimination in an academic program or university department based on a disability can discuss with DSS Case Manager. If discrimination meets Title IX definition, a formal report will be sent to the Title IX Coordinator.
Computer Labs/Printing	Student Handbook Computer Labs Website	Helpdesk Main Line: (210) 784-4357	Students wishing to address technology and printing difficulties.
Disciplinary/Misconduct Action	Student Handbook: Student Code of Conduct	The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities Assistant Director: Shahla Nadem-Mollaei	Students wishing to address the disciplinary process, rights going through the process, or possible outcomes or students wishing to appeal the outcomes of a disciplinary outcome.
E-book Grievance	E-Book Website	Learning and Technology Development Manager: Ursula Vaughan	Students wishing to address difficulties in technology or cost. Students enrolled in a course that requires a university e-book will be charged an e-book fee in their overall tuition and fees.
Eligibility for undergraduate program/Transfer Credit	Undergraduate University Catalog	Office of Undergraduate Advising Executive Director: Antoinette Curl Department Faculty/Chair	Students wishing to address concerns related to transfer credits or eligibility can meet with their undergraduate academic advisor for an explanation of requirements. All decisions regarding applicability of credits are ultimately made by faculty within a student's program of study.
Eligibility for Graduate Programs	Graduate University Catalog	Graduate Advising Dean Head of Program	Students wishing to address concerns with eligibility for graduate programs, or concerns with the acceptance appeals process.

Nature Of Concern	Reference	Office or Contact	Description
Distance Education	Center for academic Innovation website University Catalog	Department Chair/ College Dean	Students wishing to address technology concerns related to courses taken online. Complaints about a specific instructor should be directed to the instructor and/or academic department chair.
Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)	Student Handbook	Registrar's Office Director: Rachel Montejano	Student wishing to review FERPA rights or report a FERPA violation.
Financial Aid	Financial Aid Website University Catalog	The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Director: Phillip W.W.D. Rogers, Sr.	Students wishing to appeal Title IV Repayment funds or Maximum Hour Limit. Students must have satisfactory SAP and be within Maximum Hour Limit to receive Financial Aid.
Fraudulent, Wasteful or Abusive Activities	Ethics Point Website	Texas A&M University System Office of Compliance 1-888-501-3850	Students suspecting fraud, waste or abuse, you may report the information by calling the Risk & Misconduct Hotline or file a report electronically.
Grade Grievances, Grade changes, or grade errors/appeals	Student Handbook: Academic Dispute Process	Faculty member of the course Department Chair for course in dispute	Students wishing to appeal a grade will only be processed through the Academic Dispute process after final grades for the semester are processed.
Graduation Requirements	DegreeWorks University Catalog	Office of Undergraduate Advising Executive Director: Antoinette Curl College Dean	A student requesting to appeal graduation requirements must first meet with their academic advisor to review degree requirements listed within their current catalog or those of a subsequent catalog. Any appeals may move forward to the College Dean. A student who fails to graduate within five years after admission will be required to meet the degree requirements of a subsequent catalog that is within five years of currency at the time of their graduation.

Nature Of Concern	Reference	Office or Contact	Description
Hazelwood, GI Bill	Military Affairs Website Texas Education Code 54.203 (known as the Hazelwood Act)	Office of Military Affairs Director: Richard Delgado	Any student who feels he/she may be eligible for education benefits should complete an application at the Office of Military Affairs. The completed application will be electronically submitted to the Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO) in Muskogee, OK through Veterans Online Application (VON-APP) for review. The VARO will make the official decision to grant or deny benefits.
Hazing	Student Handbook JagSync	Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities Student Conduct Officer: Micayla Bean	Students wishing to address concerns regarding hazing have the right to file a report. Under Texas Law, Hazing is illegal and all reports of hazing will be investigated.
Housing/Housing Payment	Esperanza Hall Lease Student Housing Website	Esperanza Hall Housing Director: David Cunha	Students wishing to address concerns regarding their leaser or concerns of Housing payment and/or fines.
International Affairs, Visa Status	International Affairs Website	Office of International Affairs Director: Sylvia Medel	Students requesting immigration guidance and/or concerns with their immigration status.
ITS Information Technology Services	University Catalog ITS Website	ITS Help Desk Manager: Luann White (210) 784-HELP	For students wishing to address concerns of services such as open access labs, university email and file storage, wireless internet access, technology-enabled classrooms and conference room spaces.
Maintenance/Facilities Complaint	Facilities Website	Emergency Number: (210) 784-2100	Students wishing to address facility and maintenance concerns on campus can submit a report online.

Nature Of Concern	Reference	Office or Contact	Description
Meal Plan: Payment	Dine on Campus Website	Auxiliary services Assistant Manager of Auxiliary Services: Johnny Guevera	Students wishing to address concerns of meal plan payment. Student living on campus are required to purchase a resident meal plan for both fall and Spring semester. Fall meals plans may roll over to the Spring. All meal plans expire on May 11, 2019 with no refunds.
Meal Plan: Food Services	Dine on Campus Website	Chartwells Director/ Campus Executive Chef: Luis Ahumada	Students wishing to address concerns of food or catering services in the Dining Hall or at Jaguar Java.
Jag Tracks or First Year Seminar	University Catalog	Faculty Member of Course First Year Experience Director: Heather Olague	Students wishing to address concerns of A Jag Tracks or First Year Seminar Course.
JagX	JagX Website Student Handbook	Student Transition and Family Engagement Assistant Director: Gretchen Doenges	Students wishing to address concerns of content, attendance, accommodations, etc. JagX is required for all incoming first time freshman students.
New Student Orientation	Orientation Website Student Handbook	Student Transition and Family Engagement Assistant Director: Gretchen Doenges	Students wishing to address concerns of attendance, registration or sign up, dates of event, orientation fee, and/or orientation hold.
Parking	Parking and Transportation Website	Parking and Transportation parking@tamusa.edu	Students wishing to address parking permit type/ fees or parking citations. A Student wishing to appeal a parking citation(s) can review the Parking Appeal Procedure and appeal within 10 calendar days of receipt of citation.

Nature Of Concern	Reference	Office or Contact	Description
Public Information Request	Marketing Website	Office of Compliance Compliance Officer: Martha O. Gonzalez (Interim)	Community members wishing to submit a Public Information Request must do so online through The Office of Marketing and Communications. Requests takes a minimum of 10 business days.
Rec Sports/ Intramurals	JagSync, Rec Sports Website	Recreational Sports Director: Art Olague	Students wishing to address concerns/complaints about The Jaguar Fitness Center or the Game Room and Lounge, or the Multipurpose Fields. For Students wishing to address concerns/complaints regarding intramurals.
Refund of Fees	University Catalog Academic Calendar	Student Business Services Office Director: Patricia Hayes	Students wishing to address concerns of DPP, financial agreements, dates for reimbursements after withdrawal/ dropped courses
Residency Status Determination	University Catalog	Registrar's Office Director: Rachel Montejano	Students wishing to change their residency status must first complete the 'Change of Residency' request form and submit to the Registrar's Office for processing. The registrar's Office will review all determinations and approve. This process must be done prior to registration.
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) information, SAP Appeal	Financial Aid website University Catalog	The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships	Students wishing to appeal if they are placed on Financial Aid suspension due to not meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Must occur before the term deadline and submitted to The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.
Sexual Harassment, Discrimination	Title IX Website Student Handbook System Policy: 08.08.01	Title IX Coordinator: Janice Parten	Students wishing to address Sexual Harassment or discrimination.
Staff Complaint	Student Handbook: Nonacademic Grievance Procedure	Director of Office	Student wishing to address complaints regarding staff, must use non-academic grievance process listed in the Student Handbook.

Nature Of Concern	Reference	Office or Contact	Description
Student Involvement/Student Organizations	JagSync	The Office of Student Involvement Assistant Director: Cristina Dominguez	Students wishing to address issues regarding student organization or needing technical assistance in JagSync.
Student Employment Grievance	Office Policies Discrimination Complaint: TAMU System Regulation o8.01.01 and o8.01.02	Office Supervisor Human Resources Office Director: Martha Gonzalez Discrimination Complaint: Title IX Coordinator	-Students wishing to address student employment should meet with their office supervisor or contact Human Resources. -Students wishing to address student employment complaints based on Illegal discrimination complaints should follow the procedures in, and should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator.
Testing/ TSI	Testing Center Website	Testing Center Testing Center Coordinator: Clint Kingsbery	Students wishing to address concerns regarding The Testing Center policies, scheduling tests, CLEP
Welcome Center	Welcome Center Website	Welcome Center Assistant Director: Doug Daigle	Student wishing to address concerns of call center.

18.2 STUDENT RESOURCES LOCATION

Expressed Concern	Referral Resources
Academic Advising (Undergraduate)	Academic Advising Office Modular C (210) 784-1307
Academic Advising (Graduate)	Consult the office of the dean for your college to make an appointment,
Activities on Campus	Office of Student Involvement Central Academic Building Suite 103 (210) 784-1329 studentlife@tamusa.edu
Alcohol Abuse Issues	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Career Information	Mays Center for Experiential Learning : Office of Career Services Science and Technology Bldg, 1 st Floor (210) 784-1356 (appointments preferred)
Change of Address	Registrar's Office Welcome Center, Madla III (210) 874-1300
CLEP	Testing Center (210) 784-1366
Clubs & Organizations	Office of Student Involvement Central Academic Building Suite 103 (210) 784-1329 studentlife@tamusa.edu
Complaints/Grievances	Refer to Grievance Policy in student handbook.
DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)	Office of International Affairs Internationalaffairs@tamusa.edu
DACA D.R.E.A.M. Mentor Program	Kimberley Nanez (210) 784 - 1352 Antoinette Curl (210) 784 - 1407
Death of loved one	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331

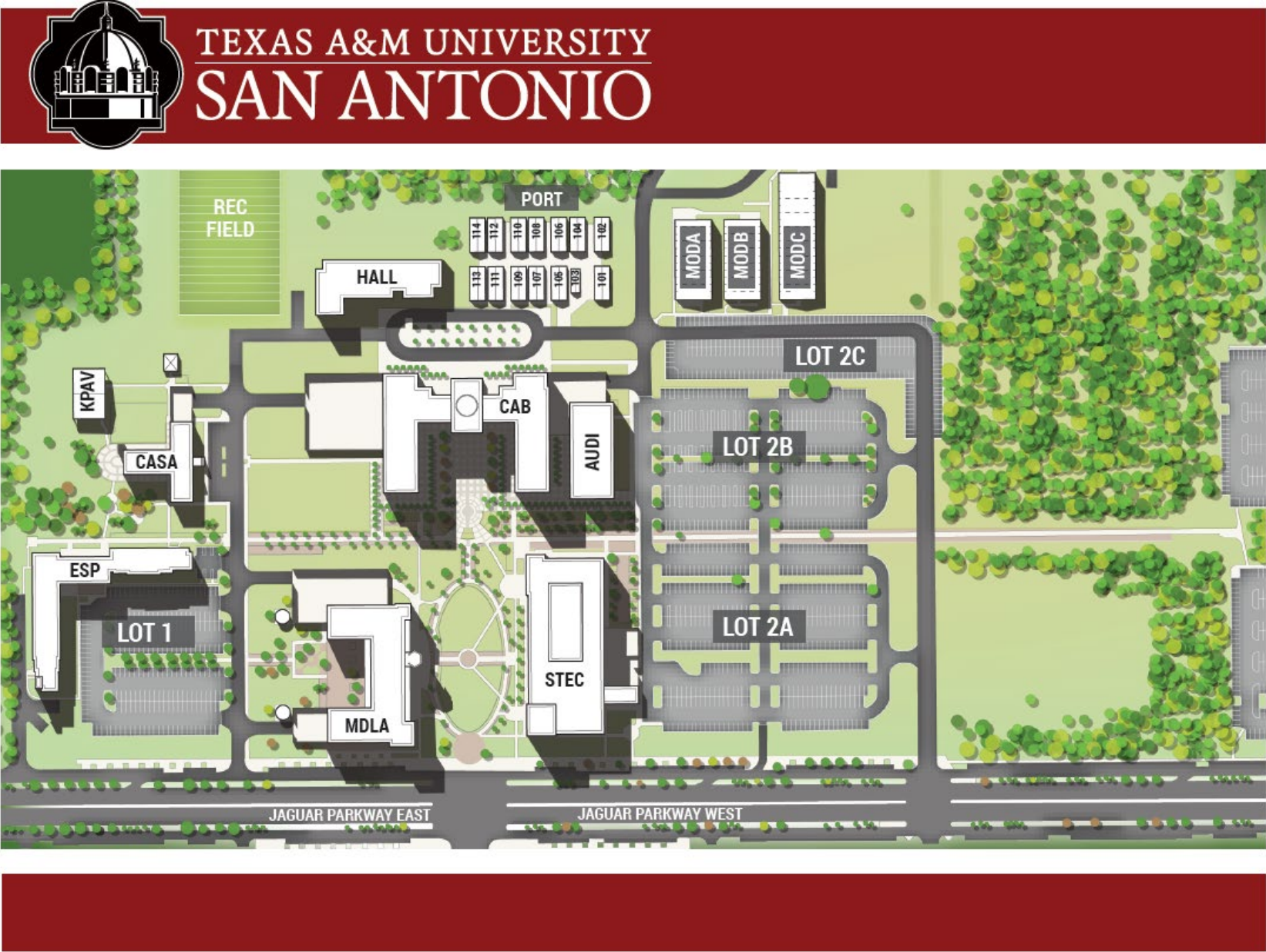
Expressed Concern	Referral Resources
Death of Student	Office of Dean of Students (210) 784-1405
Depression or Suicide	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Disability Concerns	Disability Support Services Office Central Academic Building, Suite 210 (210) 784-1335
Dropping/adding classes	Registrar's Office Welcome Center, Madla III (210) 874-1300
Drug Use/Abuse	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Dual Enrollment (Alamo Colleges)	Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships financialaid@tamusa.edu (210) 784-1300 Academic Advising Office Modular C (210) 784-1307
Eating Disorder	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Employment, on campus	Career Services (210) 784-1356 career.services@tamusa.edu
Employment, off campus	Career Services (210) 784-1356 career.services@tamusa.edu
Family Concerns	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Fee Payments, Refunds	Student Business Services (210) 784-2035 sbs@tamusa.tamus.edu
Financial Aid Concerns	Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships financialaid@tamusa.edu (210) 784-1300
Foster Youth	Kimberley Nanez (210) 784 - 1352

Expressed Concern	Referral Resources
Health Concerns	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Homesickness	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Housing Concerns	David Cunha (General Manager of Housing) (210) 784-1717
Information and Referral	Welcome Center 1 st Floor, Madla III (210) 784-1300
International Student Admission/Service	Office of International Affairs Madla, Suite 309 Internationalaffairs@tamusa.edu
Internships	Mays Center for Experiential Learning : Office of Career Services Science and Technology Bldg, 1 st Floor (210) 784-1356 (appointments preferred)
Interpersonal Conflicts	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331 Office Students Right and Responsibilities (210) 784-1377 StudentRR@tamusa.edu
Intramurals	Rec. Sports (210) 784-3149 Recsports@tamusa.tamus.edu
Lost & Found	University Police Department (210) 784-1900
Major/Career Indecision	Academic Advising Office Modular C (210) 784-1307
Marital/Premarital Concerns	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Math & Test Anxiety	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Meeting Facilities	spacerequest@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2121 http://www.tamusa.edu/EMS-Reservation-Policy/index.html

Expressed Concern	Referral Resources
Money Management	Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships financialaid@tamusa.edu (210) 784-1300
Personal Problems	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Physical Abuse	University Police Department (210) 784-1900 Emergency: (210) 784-1911
Pregnancy and Parenting	Deputy Title IX Coordinator- Pregnancy and Parenting Jo Anna Benavides-Franke, Assistant Vice President for Student Engagement, Dean of Students DOS@tamusa.edu
Rape/Sexual Assault	Title IX Coordinator Jan Parten (210) 784-2061
Relationship Problem	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Resume Writing	Office of Career Services Science and Technology Bldg, 1 st floor (210) 784-1356 (appointments preferred)
Roommate Conflicts	General Manager of Housing (210) 784-1717 Office Students Right and Responsibilities (210) 784-1353 StudentRR@tamusa.edu
Scholarships	Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships financialaid@tamusa.edu (210) 784-1300
Sexual/Gender Issues	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Sexual Harassment	Title IX Coordinator Jan Parten (210) 784-2061
Sexual Misconduct	Title IX Coordinator Jan Parten (210) 784-2061
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331

Expressed Concern	Referral Resources
Study Skills	Student Academic Success Center (210) 784-1307 Student.Success@tamusa.edu
Time Management	Student Academic Success Center (210) 784-1307 Student.Success@tamusa.edu
Test (SAT, GRE, TSI, etc.)	Testing Center (210) 784-1366
Tutoring	Student Academic Success Center (210) 784-1307 Student.Success@tamusa.edu
Veterans	Office of Military Affairs Patriots' Casa, Suite 202 military@tamusa.edu
Vending (refunds)	Student Business Services (210) 784-2035 sbs@tamusa.tamus.edu
Withdrawal, medical	Dean of Students (210) 784-1354 dos@tamusa.edu
Withdrawal from University (process)	Welcome Center 1 st Floor, Madla III (210) 874-1300
Women's Issues	Student Counseling and Wellness Services (210) 784-1331
Work Out Facility	Rec. Sports (210) 784-3149 Recsports@tamusa.tamus.edu

18.3 CAMPUS MAP



08.99.99.01 Expressive Activity on Campus



Approved: May 14, 2020

Next Scheduled Review: May 14, 2025

RULE SUMMARY

In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 18, addressing the protection of campus expressive activities. This new law adds Texas Education Code Section 51.935, which requires that each public institution of higher education “adopt a policy detailing student’s rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities” on its campus.

As stated in the Preamble to the bill: Freedom of expression is of critical importance and requires each public institution of higher education to ensure free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberations by students enrolled at the institution, regardless of whether the students are on or off campus. It is a matter of statewide concern that all public institutions of higher education officially recognize freedom of speech as a fundamental right. Freedom of speech and assembly is central to the mission of institutions of higher education and persons should be permitted to assemble peaceably on the campuses of institutions of higher education for expressive activities, including to listen to or observe the expressive activities of others.

DEFINITIONS

This section defines the terms used in this rule. The definitions includes both the singular and plural version of the term:

1. **Benefit** means recognition by or registration with the university, the use of the university’s facilities for meetings or speaking purposes, the use of channels of communication controlled by the university, and funding sources made generally available to student organizations at the university.
2. **Campus** means all land and buildings owned or leased by the university.
3. **Common outdoor areas** means places located outside a building or facility that are accessible to the public, such as streets, sidewalks, plazas, lawns, and parks, unless closed by the university for a special event. This term does not include areas immediately adjacent to a private residence.
4. **Employee** means an individual employed by the university.
5. **Expressive activity** means any speech or expressive conduct protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or by Section 8, Article I, Texas Constitution, and includes assemblies, protests, speeches, the distribution of written

material, the carrying of signs, and the circulation of petitions. The term does not include commercial speech.

6. **Faculty** means any full or part-time employee of the university holding an academic appointment.
7. **Materially and substantially disrupt** means interrupting a program or activity in a significant and consequential manner.
8. **Person** means students, faculty, staff, student organizations, and third-parties.
9. **Reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions** means limitations that: (1) are narrowly tailored to serve a significant institutional interest; (2) employ clear, published, content-neutral, and viewpoint-neutral criteria; (3) provide for ample alternative means of expression.
10. **Staff** means an employee of the university that is not a faculty member.
11. **Student** means an individual currently enrolled at the university, full or part-time, pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or professional studies, including students who were enrolled the previous semester and registered for a future semester.
12. **Student Organization** means any organization that is composed mostly of students enrolled at an institution of higher education and that receives a benefit from the institution.
13. **Third-party (External Client)** means an individual or entity that is not a student, student organization, or employee of the university.
14. **Traditional public forum** means a place, widely recognized in law, which has been intended for the use of the public, and has been used for purposes of assembly, communicating thoughts between citizens, and discussing public questions when the principal function of the location would not be disrupted by expressive activity. Examples of traditional public forums include public streets, sidewalks, plazas, lawns, and parks.

RULE

1. EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY RIGHTS

- 1.1. Any person is allowed, subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, to engage in expressive activities on campus, including by responding to the expressive activities of others.
- 1.2. Student organizations and employees are allowed to invite speakers to speak on campus. In determining the amount of a fee to be charged for use of the university's facilities for purposes of engaging in expressive activities, the university may

consider only content-neutral and viewpoint-neutral criteria related to the requirements of the event, such as the proposed venue and the expected size of the audience, any anticipated need for campus security, any necessary accommodations, and any relevant history of compliance or noncompliance by the requesting student organization or employee with this rule and other relevant rules. The university may not consider any anticipated controversy related to the event.

- 1.3. The university may not take action against a student organization or deny the organization any benefit generally available to other student organizations at the university on the basis of a political, religious, philosophical, ideological, or academic viewpoint expressed by the organization or of any expressive activities of the organization.
- 1.4. The common outdoor areas of the university's campus are deemed traditional public forums. Any person is permitted to engage in expressive activities in these areas freely, as long as the person's conduct: (a) is not unlawful; and (b) does not materially and substantially disrupt the functioning of the institution. Members of the university community are allowed to assemble or distribute written material in common outdoor areas without a permit or other permission from the institution.
- 1.5. Nothing in this rule should be interpreted as prohibiting faculty members from maintaining order in the classroom.

2. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 2.1. Any person who believes that their campus expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule, have been unduly interfered with by a student, student organization, or employee has the right to file a grievance.
- 2.2. Grievances should be filed with the University Compliance Office.
- 2.3. A student, student organization, or employee who is found to have unduly interfered with another person's expressive activity rights, as recognized by this rule, is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the university's applicable rules and procedures. The University Compliance Office will investigate the grievance and draft a report summarizing its findings. If a violation of this rule was found to occur the report will be referred to the appropriate office for further action.
- 2.4. The referral office will be determined by the status of the offending individual. Complaints concerning:
 - (a) faculty will be referred to the Office of the Provost;
 - (b) students will be referred to the Student Conduct Office; and
 - (c) complaints concerning staff and third-parties will be referred to Human Resources.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1. A copy of this rule shall be included in any university published student handbook and personnel handbook.
- 3.2. A copy of this rule shall be provided to students during the university's new student orientation program.
- 3.3. A copy of this rule shall be posted to the university's website.

4. EXTERNAL CLIENT EVENTS

Events organized by an external party and held on campus must be sponsored by a recognized student organization, university academic or administrative unit, or an A&M System member.

RELATED STATUTES, POLICIES, OR REQUIREMENTS

[Texas Education Code § 51.9315](#)

Contact OFFICE

University Compliance Office, (201) 784-2003

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