FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT

A student neither of whose parents enrolled in college

FGCS for short, FGCSs for plural

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN MARCOS

The rising STAR *of Texas*

A member of The Texas State University System

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for considering Texas State University as the place to pursue your college education. And, thank you for picking up a copy of this handbook. This handbook was created to primarily help First Generation College Students and their families. When First Generation College Students embarks on the process of selecting and enrolling in a college, they may have questions that family members may not be able to answer because they have not had the experience of attending college. At the same time, family members may have questions of their own and would like reassurances that their child or young adult will have the tools necessary to succeed in college. This handbook introduces students and their family to important aspects of the college experience and the resources available to help students succeed at Texas State. Many of the college resources are for students to use once they enroll. Some of the resources and the information in this handbook can help students prepare for college while in high school.

This handbook is arranged by sections or topics. Each section includes the names of departments or offices at Texas State that offer services or assistance to students in overcoming challenges related to that topic (see the Table of Contents). Other items you will find in the handbook include:

- -Special sections, notes, and tips intended for parents.
- -A glossary of terms that are important for students to learn and helpful for parents to understand. Some of the words appear throughout the handbook and others were added because students will encounter them in college.
- -A directory of the offices or departments named throughout the handbook. Offices or departments in the directory are <u>double-underlined</u> whenever they appear in the handbook. Most of these offices have a website with much more information and important updates.
- -Information on student privacy rights.
- -A two-year planner – use it during your Junior and Senior years in high school!

The table of contents can help find information quickly but please read this handbook from cover to cover in the near future. As you read, write notes and contact names on the handbook, mark it with sticky notes, fill-in important dates in the planner section, and spend time with family discussing each section. Think of this handbook as a toolbox filled with tools (information) meant to help you get to college and through it. How these tools are used is up to you. The more you use your toolbox the more you will get out of it. If after consulting this handbook you still have unanswered questions, do not hesitate to contact any of the offices listed in the directory towards the end of this handbook.

Once at Texas State, be sure to request a copy of the official Student Handbook (it is reserved for students who officially enroll). It provides additional information and a planner for the first year in college.

Finally, some information is repeated throughout this handbook. That was not an accident, it was important enough to be listed more than once!

NOTE TO TRANSFER STUDENTS

This handbook was designed with the first-time college student in mind. However, much of the information is applicable to first-time in college and transferring First Generation College Students. Students planning on transferring to Texas State should consult with the office below for information specific to transfer students (see the directory for their websites, each has a section for transfer students):

- -Admissions
- -Vice-President for Student Affairs
- -University College
- -Financial Aid and Scholarships

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PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

The decision to attend college is usually made well before the last semester of a student's senior year in high school. Accordingly, there are steps and activities that students considering a higher education should engage in and during which parents' support can be very helpful. Remember, most high school students are under 18 years of age and therefore parents often have to approve a student's participation in these activities. For those that don't require parental permission, parental encouragement may make the difference between whether or not students choose to participate.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSEWORK

One of the biggest challenges for students entering college is a lack of preparedness for the rigors of the academic curriculum. Some students handicap themselves during high school by selecting less demanding courses in order to earn easier credits and higher grades. Students who do this are more likely to find themselves in shock and struggling in their college courses. Students should fight the temptation to complete only the minimum requirements for graduation and instead take on a challenging high school curriculum. In Texas, not only do the Recommended and Distinguished Graduation Program (or equivalent) better prepare students for college, these are the minimum requirement for admission to Texas State. (If you are not sure which high school program you are completing or for information on honors, dual credit and advancement placement programs, check with your guidance counselor.) Many high schools offer honors, dual credit, and advanced placement programs that students can take advantage of to better prepare for college level courses and even begin earning college credits. When students apply to Texas State, in addition to test scores and degree plans, the admission office takes into account if a student enrolled in extra math, science, or foreign language courses.

Students who take AP classes and want their test scores sent to Texas State must use Texas State score recipient code # 6667. Students who already took their AP exams and did not include Texas State as a score recipient can have their scores sent to Texas State by contacting the College Board at 888-225-5427. For a list of AP exams that have been approved for course credit at Texas State, visit the "Credit by Exams" section of the Texas State Testing, Research Support and Evaluation Center website at www.txstate.edu/trec/cbe/ap.html.

For questions related to admission to Texas State, including admission requirements, contact your Texas State Admissions Counselor, call the Admissions office, or visit the Admissions website at www.admissions.txstate.edu (counselors are listed under "Staff Contacts).

SHARING GOALS WITH FAMILY

While your parents may not have gone to college and they may know little about the college experience, it is important that you share your goals with them. It is hard for them to support you when they do not know what you want. There may be some areas of concern for them, how to pay for your education is probably one of them. There is a section later in this handbook that addresses that topic. You may be able to respond to your family's concerns on your own or with the help of this handbook, your high school counselor, college Admissions

counselor, or another person you know who may know about going to college. All of your high school teachers have been to college and there is a very good chance some of them attended Texas State. These teachers can be an excellent resource for you, especially if you have established a good relationship with them and they know some of your college and career goals.

You are going to need your parents help when completing your admissions and financial aid applications. For example, you will need copies of their income tax filings. Make it easier on your parents and yourself by letting them know well ahead of time of what you will need and when; remind them as your deadlines approach.

TESTS/PRACTICE TESTS

Some colleges specify which of the standardized exams, the ACT or SAT, students must take to be considered for admission. Texas State accepts either one and students who take both can submit both of their scores for consideration. Whichever test a student takes, Texas State requires the writing component although it is not considered in the admissions decision. While one of these tests will be required for admission, students can apply to Texas State even before they take the exam in order to begin processing their application. The scores (including higher scores if tests are retaken) can be submitted once they are available and the Admissions office will review the application with the new information at no additional cost or fee. Students can contact the Admissions office when they are close to but short of meeting the admission requirements to see if conditional admission is an option.

Prior to taking any of the standardized aptitude tests, students should take advantage of study materials available at their school or local library, the test's website, or other sources and prepare by taking practice exams. If at first your test score does not meet the Texas State requirement for admission, do not be discouraged. You can review and find additional information on the tests to prepare and retake the exam. Because Texas State has raised its admissions requirements over the years, some students take the standardized exams more than once before being admitted.

In addition to standardized exams required for admission, students in Texas must take an exam to determine their readiness to take on certain college level courses. The exam used at Texas State is the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA). Students who fail all or part of the THEA may still enroll but may be required to participate in remedial programs or developmental courses to better ensure their success in their required college courses. Some students may be exempt from having to take all or parts of the test based on their SAT, ACT, or TAKS scores, previous college enrollment/credits, or military service. For more information on the test, requirements and exemptions, visit the Success Initiative Program website at www.txstate.edu/tsip.

The Testing, Research Support & Evaluation Center (TREC) administers a number of tests and maintains information on the credit by examinations, institutional examinations, Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA), and national exams such as the ACT and SAT. For more information on the TREC, the tests available at Texas State, web links to national, placement, and credit exams, visit the TREC's website at www.txstate.edu/trec/.

Generally, each time you take the ACT, SAT or any other standardized test required for college admission, you must pay a fee. You should prepare by saving money for these fees or let your parents know ahead of time that you will need their help. If your family cannot afford the test fees, consult with your high school counselor – fee waivers area available for most exams.

COLLEGE PREPARATION/INFORMATION PROGRAMS

Throughout the country there are programs that help students prepare for college. Some of the programs are supported by local schools, some by government grants, and others by colleges or a combination of these. In Texas, many communities have established "Go Centers" which serve as central points of information about college, financial aid, and other programs that help students prepare and plan for college. Some information programs are as simple as one day workshops offering tips to help students and their families manage the admissions, financial aid and required test applications. Other programs offer students academic support over multiple years and may include a college component where students attend college classes and may even stay on campus for various weeks.

Texas State Admissions staff provides information about Texas State to high school counselors in most school districts in Texas and together arrange times to allow students interested in Texas State to meet with the admissions counselor. The admissions counselors are assigned to geographic areas so that that interested students work with the same person through the admissions process. These admissions counselors routinely attend college fairs held for students of individual high schools or entire districts. During some of these visits, other university personnel will join the admissions counselors to provide additional information on things such as financial aid, essay writing for admission and aid applications, academic programs, and .

Ask your high school guidance counselor when the counselors of the colleges you are interested in will be at your school and where to find the nearest "Go Center". Once you have established contact with admissions counselors, stay in touch by marking your calendar with their future visits to your area, calling or e-mailing them any time you have a question, or need to provide additional information related to your admissions documents.

The Texas State admission deadlines for freshmen students are as follows:

Fall Priority	March 1
Fall Deadline	May 1
Spring	November
Summer I	May 1
Summer II	June 15

In addition to visits to high schools by admissions counselors, Texas State offers programs that provide information to high school students so they can learn about and prepare for college. Most of these programs are grant-funded educational programs administered by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) and include:

Educational Talent Search (ETS) – ETS identifies and assists Travis County Jr. High and High School students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial aid advising to its participants encouraging them to graduate from high school and continue on to the college of their choice. ETS programs may include: academic, financial aid, career, or personal advising; career exploration; tutorial service referrals; information on postsecondary education; field trips and exposure to college campuses; quality information on grant, scholarship and loan programs; assistance in completing college admissions and financial aid applications; assistance in preparing for college entrance exams; free college entrance exam waivers; mentoring programs; special activities for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders; and workshops for the families of participants. All services provided by the Texas State ETS are free!
If you live in Travis County, visit the "Affiliations" section of the MSA website to learn more about Texas State's ETS program. If you do not live in Travis County and want to find the ETS program nearest you, ask your school counselor or Go Center representative.

Rural Talent Search (RTS) – RTS identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to the college of their choice. The Texas State RTS program is open to students attending Goodnight Middle School (San Marcos, TX), San Marcos High School (San Marcos, TX), or Seguin High School (Seguin, TX). If you attend these schools, visit the "Affiliations" section of the MSA website to learn more about Texas State's RTS program. If you do not attend these schools and want to find the RTS program nearest you, ask your school counselor or Go Center representative.

Upward Bound Program – Upward Bound is designed to increase the academic skill and motivation necessary for students to pursue a college education. The program includes an academic year component where participants receive tutorials, life skills, and college prep activities during the school year. During the summer, students participate in a residential component (they live on campus!). The summer component includes academic classes and elective courses (dual credit is available) as well as recreational and social activities. For participants who graduate high school, the program offers a "bridge" component (see the section on "Transition Programs" of this handbook for more information on bridge programs). Upward Bound Bridge students enroll in one college course at Texas State University or Austin Community College during Summer Session One – Upward Bound pays for the course fees and textbooks! Texas State's Upward Bound program serves

students attending Lehman (Kyle, TX), San Marcos (San Marcos, TX) and Seguin (Seguin, TX) High Schools. If you attend these schools, visit the "Affiliations" section of the MSA website to learn more about Texas State's Upward Bound program. If you do not attend these schools and want to find the Upward Bound program nearest you, ask your school counselor or Go Center representative.

Hip Hop TRIO Student X-Change is sponsored and supported by the TRIO programs at Texas State (Education Talent Search, Rural Talent Search, and Upward Bound) and coordinated by the student organization Hip Hop Congress. In this program, Texas State student leaders host workshops and panel discussions on the university, the importance of a college education, hip hop culture and other topics to motivate students and reinforce to them that a higher education is attainable. For more information on the X-Change program, visit the "Programs and Services" section of the MSA website or e-mail Mr. Jesse Silva at js202@txstate.edu.

Although the MSA office is available to all students at Texas State, there are benefits to building relationships with the MSA staff by participating in the programs listed above. When students arrive on campus, they can already have a connection with a department and staff who will be supportive of and serve as advocates for the student and his/her family.

¡Se Habla Español!

Dear Parents,

The Educational Talent Search, Rural Talent Search, and Upward Bound Programs all require parent authorization for students to participate.

To help communication between staff and Spanish-speaking parents, a bilingual person is always on staff. The bilingual staff members are present at events requiring parent participation. Program information is also available in Spanish.

FYI. A section later in this handbook will discuss academic advising for when you arrive at Texas State. BUT! The University College Advising Center has an online service available to any person, including those who are considering Texas State. The online service allows individuals to submit questions they may have about

-Texas State academic policies and/or procedures
-Information about campus resources
-The Texas State General Education/Core Curriculum requirements
-Any academic questions, comments, or concerns

The program is called "Ask An Advisor!" and can be found on the University College Advising Center at http://www.ucollege.txstate.edu/advising/.

FYI. Note to Students Attending Community/Junior College: To help ensure a smooth transition, Texas State academic advisors occasionally visit the community/junior colleges that have the largest numbers of students transferring to Texas State. These include Austin Community College, Blinn College, and Alamo Colleges. To learn when Texas State academic advisors will be visiting your community/junior college, ask your current academic advisor or use the "Ask An Advisor!" feature described in the FYI noted above.

OPEN HOUSES

College selection is more than just being admitted, it involves assessing which institution is a good fit based on each student's goals and interests. To help, most universities have open houses. These programs give students interested in attending a college (and their families) an opportunity to visit and learn more about the campus. Open houses provide information that can help applicants determine if an institution will help them meet their academic and career goals. These programs allow students and their families to familiarize themselves with the university, its services and how these services can help the student succeed. Information on admission and financial aid is generally available at these events. Students do not have to wait until their senior year to visit the colleges they are interested in. In fact, it is a good idea to begin visiting campuses during the junior year in high school – even as early as sophomore year. During these visits, prospective students should talk to students already at those schools to get the cons (negatives or disadvantages) about that school since most college representatives will be focusing only on the pros (positives or advantages).

Texas State's open house for prospective students and their families is Bobcat Days. Bobcat Days are an opportunity to explore the academic and cultural environment of Texas State. These open-houses are scheduled for four Saturdays in the academic year, usually one in the months of October, November, February, and April. The programs include admissions and residence life overviews, opportunities to talk with faculty in the academic departments and staff in student affairs offices, information on financial aid, multicultural student affairs and transfer credit. A panel of current students is available to answer questions and visitors can dine at the student food court. Campus tours and departmental open houses round out the schedule.

Reservations are not required and attendance is free (except meals). For more information on Bobcat Days, visit the "Visit Campus" section of the Admissions website (see directory).

F.Y.I. For students who have gone to another college first and wish to transfer to Texas State, they can attend a different open house – Transfer Days. For more information on Transfer Days, go to www.admissions.txstate.edu/visit/transfer-days.html.

Parent Tip: Despite what your student may wish to believe, you are most likely the one who knows him/her best. Therefore, it is important that you attend as many of the programs and college visits your student participates in when considering which college to attend. This will allow you the opportunity to ask questions of the college representatives and give feedback to your child on whether you believe the college is a good fit, has the support resources that your child will need to succeed, and know what issues or concerns will need to be anticipated and addressed. This is not a time to deny the student an opportunity to be the primary decision maker on which college is best for him/her, but help the student make a realistic and objective assessment of the choices available to them.

Dear Parents,

Your student needs your support and encouragement. You play an important role in their academic goals. Once a student has decided to attend college, it helps for parents to encourage the student by discussing college options and helping them organize college and financial aid/scholarship applications. When students do not talk about college and are not encouraged to pursue a higher education, they are less likely to go to college. Even if you did not attend college yourself, there will be things you will be able to do to help. At some point, your student will ask you for important information, much of it related to financial matters. While your main concern may be that you feel you do not have the money to pay for college, it is important that you provide your child with the information and related documentation, for example, income tax returns. That information will help your student apply for financial aid, a topic which is covered later in this handbook.

If you or your student have questions about college, look for answers in this handbook or visit with your child's high school guidance counselor, college admissions counselor, or someone who is familiar with your child's academic and career goals, for example a teacher with whom your student may have a good relationship.

As your child leaves home for college, your concerns may turn from financial to wellness. You may worry if your child indicates having difficulties or because you are not able to see for yourself if your child is doing well. There are many services available to help students through just about any difficulty. Resources that you may be able to use as your child prepares for college and after he/she enrolls include:

Admissions – The Admissions website has a section on resources for parents at www.admissions.txstate.edu/future/pre-seniors/parent.html and includes information to help students and their families choose the right college, access financial aid, and ensure the student's wellness and safety.

Counseling Center – The center provides services to currently enrolled students and can provide consultations to parents who have concerns about their student's wellness. There is information and resources available online to students and their families that can be helpful as the student prepares for the transition to Texas State. Please see the Counseling Center entry in the directory which further describes the services provided by the Counseling Center.

Parents Association - Texas State has a Parents Association available to help parents connect with the university. While the services and benefits of this organization are designed for enrolled students, incoming students and their parents can benefit from reviewing the "Success Tips" offered on the Parents Association website. These tips give insight into what students may expect in college and how they can be prepared to succeed. The Parents Association is a good resource to stay informed about university events, programs and student activities in order for parents to support their child's academic endeavors after their student has left for college. If you attend a Bobcat Day, look for Parents Association staff and volunteers at the browse session. They will be present to tell you more about the association.

Family influence plays an important role well before a student even decides to attend college – and which college to attend. This influence consists of constant encouragement, praise, support (financial, moral, and social), and supportive discussions about the child's educational and career aspirations. This encouragement should take place regardless of a family's financial resources (a section later in this handbook will cover how to finance a college education). Encouraging your child to participate in the activities listed in this section is an excellent start.

TRANSITION PROGRAMS

While attending college is a period of growth and development for students, that growth and development can occur at different rates. For example, some students may take longer to complete a degree if they only enroll on a part-time basis. Even though the college experience may be different for all students, every student must make the transition from potential student to enrolled student. Below are some of the services offered at Texas State to help admitted students make that transition. (If you do not attend Texas State, look for similar services at your chosen institution.)

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (NSO)

New student orientations are common at colleges and universities and Texas State is no exception. Like Bobcat Days, NSO is filled with information for students, particularly information on resources available to help students succeed. It also includes components for parents to answer their questions and highlight how they can support their students. New student orientation is geared towards students who have chosen to enroll at Texas State, however, students who have not yet decided which school to attend may want to attend orientation to help them make their decision.

All new students are expected to attend NSO. During this program, students not only learn about the campus and resources available to ensure their academic success, they will also meet with an academic advisor and register for classes.

To participate in NSO, a student must be admitted to Texas State. There are various sessions to choose from during the summer to accommodate any vacations or family commitments students may have already planned. The sessions are offered for freshman (those who have 0-29 hours of college credit) and transfer students (those who have already earned 30 hours or more of college credit). There is a fee of $60 for the orientation. There are fee waivers available, particularly for students who are deemed eligible for a full-Pell-Grant (must have already filed a FAFSA). Parents/guests may attend NSO for a fee of $15. Transfer students who are not able to attend NSO have the option of completing an online orientation.

To register for a NSO session or for a list of "What to Bring to NSO", visit the NSO section of the Admissions website. Anyone unable to register online can call (512-245-3655) or e-mail the NSO office for a registration form at nso@txstate.edu. Students unable to attend any of the orientation sessions should call the NSO office to discuss orientation options.

Students attending the Round Rock Higher Education Center have a different process to follow and should visit www.rrhec.txstate.edu/current/newstudents.html to determine their next step.

Parent Tip *– If you attend New Student Orientation (NSO), look for the Parents Association! Staff and members of the association will be present to answer any questions you may have. Also, look for Admissions' NSO Handbook for Parents, "Parent Basics."*

PAWS PREVIEW

PAWS Preview is a required (and free!) transition program for new Texas State freshmen. The program is the second component of NSO and is scheduled right before the start of the semester. It is intended to provide critical information students will need to begin and succeed in college – both in and outside of the classroom. Students receive information on programs, services, activities, people and traditions at Texas State. Students meet faculty, staff and fellow students. During this program, students receive access to campus technology that will be essential to communicating with family, faculty and peers as well as to completing academic requirements such as research and assignments.

For more information on this program, students should visit the PAWS Preview website at www.pawspreview.txstate.edu, e-mail PAWSPreview@txstate.edu, or call 512-245-8295.

Parent Tip *– At PAWS Preview, members of the Parents Association will be part of a Parent-to-Parent Panel Discussion. These parents will share tips and hints for helping students have a successful freshman year. Topics will include homesickness, academics, student money management, safety, and other issues. Parents are also welcome to attend the New Student Convocation, a ceremony at the beginning of each fall semester, which marks the beginning of a new student's college career. But, remember, PAWS Preview is the time where your child is really making the transition to college, beginning to make important connections, and will be busy attending important programs on his/her own. Other than attending the parent sessions and convocation, parents should plan on spending time exploring the university or the town and not with their student.*

MEET FACULTY

Even before students show up to their first day of classes, it is important that students meet and connect with their instructors. Meeting faculty before the semester begins can provide new students the opportunity to begin understanding that each teacher's expectations may be different and that it is o.k. (and encouraged) for students to seek faculty advice early rather than waiting until they are having difficulties in class.

Students can meet faculty (and staff) at the "University Exchange" portion of Bobcat Days. For more information on Bobcat Days, visit www.admissions.txstate.edu/visit/bocat-days.html) or review the information on open houses in the "Preparing for College" section of this handbook. Students can usually meet a faculty member in their area of interest during visits to the campus if they make a request through the Visitor's Center or by calling the appropriate academic department ahead of time to arrange the meeting. Bobcat Days and the Visitor's Center are services of the Admissions office, additional information can be found in the Admissions website (see directory).

When students register for courses, they learn who will teach their classes. Students can contact their instructors to introduce themselves prior to the first day of classes. Most First Year Seminar instructors (for more information on First Year Seminar, see the "Early Intervention & Crises Services" section of this handbook) are at PAWS Preview to meet with their classes. Other faculty are also present. Most instructors have office hours during which a student can meet them in person before or at the beginning of the semester. These office hours, good for the entire semester, are usually included in every instructor's syllabus. Instructors may also include on the syllabus or announce in class when they will offer review sessions or other times during which they will be available to provide additional help with the class material. Take advantage of these times and extra help!

BRIDGE PROGRAMS

Bridge programs are transition programs that bridge the gap between high school graduation and the fall semester by offering summer classes. Overall, there are less activities on campuses during the summer. This makes *bridge programs* an excellent way for FGCSs to gradually immerse themselves into college life.

Texas State offers a *bridge program* called Emerging STARS. The program is for students conditionally accepted to Texas State. Many of the students that participate in this *bridge program* are First Generation College Students and may have low socio-economic status. To help these students, the program secured a grant to provide room, board, and a book stipend. The program takes place during the second summer session and allows students to experience Texas State during a less hectic semester. Emerging STARS program also helps ease parent's transition by providing information on the program and the student's activities. Program staff is available during these students' move-in to the residence hall to meet parents and answer any questions they may have. To better ensure the success of participants during their *bridge* participation and subsequent years, students must enroll in an academic skills course (EDP 1350). To help participants experience a typical course while in a highly supportive environment, students in the program must also enroll in a composition course (ENG 1300 or ENG 1310). The program is administered by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) in collaboration with Academic Affairs.

For more information on the Emerging STARS program, visit the "Emerging STARS" section of the Vice President for Student Affairs website.

Another *bridge program* is available to students who participate in Texas State's Upward Bound program. For more information on Upward Bound and their *bridge* component, review the information on college preparation/information programs in the "Preparing for College" section of this handbook or the visit the Upward Bound website.

***Parent Tip**: While your child's transition to college may be a bit stressful, it should also be an exciting time for you, your student, and your family. It is healthy to discuss your concerns with your child, but make sure he/she knows you support their decision to attend college.*

¡Se Habla Español!

Dear Parents,

If your student participates in the Emerging STARS program and you need information in Spanish, do not hesitate to ask if a Spanish-speaking staff person is available. More than likely, the answer will be yes.

In the past, in an effort to provide students and their parents with important information, the University College Advising Center made a presentation to Emerging STARS participants and finished with a bilingual "Question and Answer" session for parents.

FINANCING AN EDUCATION

College affordability and financial aid are common concerns for many students and their families, especially when the family may have limited funds to pay for college. Even when income is limited, families should not feel that an education is out of reach. The first thing to remember is that a college education is an investment and the cost of it now will bring greater benefits in the future. The benefits include greater career opportunities and consequently greater salary potential. This section presents information on ways of financing a college education.

SAVINGS

One of the ways families can pay for college is by putting money aside in the years leading up to high school graduation. The earlier a family begins, the more they will be able to save. Even when families are not able to save much for college, any little bit can help pay for things that other sources may not cover or to provide small rewards as a student reaches goals on their way to completing their college degree. To help students and their families develop a budget for college and save money, Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) has a Budget Worksheet, Budget Tips, and a College Cost Calculator in the "Help Links" section of its website (see directory).

Saving money for college is not the exclusive responsibility of parents. Students can help by saving some money from after-school, weekend, or summer jobs and from birthday cash gifts.

FINANCIAL AID

Every year, grants, loans and scholarships supported by the federal or state governments and colleges are made available so that students who need help can have the resources necessary to pursue a college education. Some of this assistance is awarded based on need while other is based on merit (academic or extra-curricular accomplishments). While some may say that the money is just "there for the asking," it takes a little bit more than just "asking." It takes applying. Below is information on what financial aid is available at Texas State and how students and their families can apply for it. One thing to remember is that applying for financial aid is not always easy. It takes time to gather and prepare documents, complete the application, and submit the application prior to the established deadlines. Students usually need their parents' assistance to complete a financial aid application because the application requires family income information. Each family's situation and needs will be different and no family should be embarrassed about their inability to pay for college, their economic/social circumstances, or their need to apply for financial aid. Financial aid is available to make a college education accessible and subsequently provide individuals with greater opportunities in life.

At Texas State, over 17,000 students receive some type of aid through the Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) office, that's more than half of all students! FAS is the primary office for anything related to financial aid. This office helps students receive any federal aid (grants, work-study, and loans) for which they qualify. It is important that students and their families can distinguish between the different types of financial aid because $20,000 dollars in grants is not the same as $20,000 in loans. Here are some definitions to explain the difference:

Grants are available to help cover the costs of attending Texas State. Federal, state and university grants are awarded based on financial need and do not have to be paid back. There are various types of grants available.

Work-Study is aid that gives students an employment opportunity. A work-study award is the maximum amount a student can earn in their work-study job. The money is earned based on the number of hours worked. If students do not earn their entire award because they did not work enough hours, the money is forfeited. If a student earns their entire award before the end of the semester, their employer can keep them employed by paying for additional work hours with departmental funds. Like grants, work-study awards are based on financial need.

Loans are sometimes necessary to be able to pay for a college education, however, loans should be used as a last resort because they must eventually be repaid (with interest). There are different types of loans, limits, and repayment conditions that should be considered when borrowing money for college.

FAS also administers the application process for most scholarships available at Texas State and can help students through the provision of or assistance in seeking scholarships, alternative loans, and non-resident tuition and fee waivers. The type and amount of aid will depend on various factors, including need, qualifications, and the availability of funds. There is one thing all types of aid have in common – again, to get it, students must apply for it!

For more information on grants, work-study, and loans, including eligibility and how to apply, visit the "Undergraduate Aid" section in the Financial Aid and Scholarships website at www.finaid.txstate.edu. Remember that all applications have deadlines. The deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the application needed for federal grants, work-study, loans and a requirement for consideration for other aid at Texas State is April 1 for the upcoming academic year. There is an additional application for students who plan on attending summer school; the deadline for the summer aid application is March 1 prior to the upcoming summer semesters. All families are encouraged to complete the FAFSA application, even if they don't think they will qualify or they have been denied aid in the past. When students complete the form, they may be surprised with aid they didn't expect as their circumstances and eligibility change and they can apply for additional scholarships. Helpful tips and a link to the FAFSA website are available at the FAS website.

There are other types of aid available when federal aid is not enough to cover the cost of attendance. These include scholarships and parent loans. Texas State offers many scholarships that range from those that award a few hundred dollars to those that can pay for all expenses, up to $56,000 ($14,000/year for 4 years). Scholarships are awarded under various categories which may be further subcategorized. The major categories include Freshman, Transfer, Continuing, Graduate, International, College and Departmental. For more information on these scholarships, eligibility, workshops to improve your scholarship applications, and how to search for outside scholarships, visit the "Scholarships" section of the Financial Aid and Scholarships website.

Parent Tip: When financial aid grants, work-study, scholarships and students loans are not enough to cover the cost of attending college, parents may apply for parent loans. (Note: We already said loans should be a last resort. If you must take out loans, student loans should be considered first since they usually have better terms than parent loans.) For more information on parent loans, including how to apply, visit the "Parent Aid" section of the Financial Aid and Scholarships website (see directory).

Students can increase their Financial Literacy!

To help students responsibly manage their personal finances so they may pay for college while incurring the least amount of debt possible, the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) offices has a money management information program under the "Student Success" section on its website. The program is entitled "Money Savvy Cats" and is provided through a collaboration between the VPSA, Financial Aid and Scholarships and the Family and Consumer Sciences Program faculty. Parents can also visit the website and take advantage of these tools.

Some of the websites listed on the "Helpful Links" section of this handbook include money management tools as well as planners with important admission and financial aid deadlines.

Privacy Note to Family Members:
Because of a federal privacy law (FERPA[1]) that applies to colleges and universities, Financial Aid and Scholarships can only share information with parents or spouses of students if the student completes and submits to the Financial Aid and Scholarships a "Release of Student Financial Aid Information Form." The form is available in the "Special" section of the FAS website.

[1] Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, see the section on FERPA in this handbook for more information.

Dear Parents & Students

As a general rule, most students going to college right after high school will have to apply for financial aid as a dependent of their parents or guardians. Therefore, you should be ready to provide your child information related to your income, including copies of income tax filings. There are some exceptions to this requirement. Students applying for federal aid for the 2009-2010 academic year may be able to file as independents if they:

-Were born before January 1, 1986,
-Are married (even if separated) at the time of applying for aid,
-Will be working on a master's or doctorate program at the beginning of the 2009-2010 academic year,
-Are serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed forces at the time of applying for aid, or
-Are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Other overrides to the rule may be available. A student in extraordinary circumstances that warrant a re-evaluation of their dependency status should contact the FAS office.

Scholarship & Financial Aid Highlights

Disabled Students may qualify for an additional financial aid allowance that can help cover special services, personal assistance, transportation, equipment and supplies that are reasonable incurred and not provided for by other agencies. For a definition of Disabled Student and the process to make this request, visit the "Special" section of the Financial Aid and Scholarships website. Students with disabilities should also read the section on disability services in the "Special Needs and Populations" section of this handbook. That section includes information on services and scholarships available to students with disabilities.

Bobcat Promise & San Marcos High School Bobcat Promise – Texas State wants to make sure that anyone who wants to pursue a college education has the opportunity to do so regardless of their family's financial resources. With this in mind, Texas State made a promise – that if a student does their part to enroll and do well academically at Texas State, the university will

guarantee to cover the cost of tuition and fees for 15 credit hours per semester for four years to new entering freshmen. This is done through a combination of federal, state, and institutional funds. This is a guarantee in excess of $7,000 per year and students can still cover other expenses they may incur with scholarships or other forms of aid.

The requirements for this award, or promise, are:

-Be an entering first-time freshman.
-Be a Texas resident.
-Have a family adjusted gross income of $25,000 or less; for San Marcos (TX) High School graduates, $35,000 or less.
-Enroll full-time and complete at least 15 credit hours each fall & spring semester.
-Apply & be accepted to Texas State by April 1prior to the upcoming academic year.
-Submit a completed FAFSA no later than April 1 prior to the upcoming academic year.

To remain eligible for this award for four years, students must maintain at least a 2.0 overall Texas State GPA and make Satisfactory Academic Progress.

For more information on the Bobcat Promise, visit the Financial Aid and Scholarships website.

Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) offers LBJ Achievement Scholarships to students with financial need. Students who are first generation college students, received free/reduced lunches in school, or are TRIO participants are strongly encouraged to apply for these scholarships. For eligibility information, application deadlines, and applications, visit the "LBJ Achievement Scholarship" section of the MSA website (see directory) or call 512-245-2278.

Parents Association Scholarships offers four $1,500 scholarships each year. Additional scholarships are awarded contingent on funds raised each year. In 2009-2010, an additional $30,000 were made available (30 scholarships of $1,000 each) to help students who needed financial assistance in order to attend college. At least 10 percent of the awards were designated for first generation students, 10 percent for "special need" students, and 80 percent for students whose family is a member of the Parents Association.

When applying for anything that requires a fee, ask if a fee waiver is available. There are fee waivers available to those who qualify for things such as the admissions application ($60) and New Student Orientation ($60).

NOTE: Students who are not Texas Residents generally pay significantly higher tuition rates than Texas Residents. Some foreign students or non-citizens are eligible to be classified as a Texas resident for tuition purposes (and save a lot of money!). To learn more, including eligibility, see the information on Senate Bill 1528 in the "Special" section of the FAS website. Students who are not U.S. citizens, permanent residents with an Alien Registration Card (I-551), or conditional permanent resident with visa type I-551C, but qualify as Texas Residents for tuition purposes can apply for state financial aid by completing the Texas Application For State Financial Aid (TAFSA). For more information on the TAFSA and an application, visit the "Forms and Worksheets" section of the FAS website.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Students who do not have sufficient savings and financial aid to pay for college and want to minimize the amount of loans they take out can work while attending school. Students who do this should remember that they are students who work and not workers who go to school. Students who put more emphasis on working rather than school run the risk of losing focus of their academic goals and neglecting their studies. This is more of a concern when students work outside of the university for an employer who is not sensitive to student needs. These needs include a limited and flexible work-schedule.

Typically, the best (most flexible) jobs for students are on campus. Most supervisors on campus understand that students' top priority is doing well in school and are more likely to allow students flexibility when the students need time off to study, attend review sessions, or visit with a professor. Many campus jobs, especially work-study positions, allow students to study or do class assignments while on the job during times of slow activity or between tasks. To qualify for work-study, students must complete the FAFSA and if awarded it, must confirm to Financial Aid and Scholarships acceptance of the award and intent to find placement. Most campus jobs limit students hours to a part-time basis and help students maintain a balance between their school, work, and personal demands. In addition, working on campus helps students make important connections with colleagues and university administrators.

At Texas State, students can explore employment and internship opportunities through the "Jobs4Cats" feature of the Career Services website (see directory) or in person at the LBJ Student Center, suite # 5-7.1. Career Services also offers job fairs, career coaching, help on deciding a major, resume reviews, a career library, a computer lab and interview rooms to practice job interview skills.

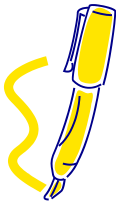
***Parent Tip**: To help students responsibly manage their personal finances so they may pay for college while incurring the least amount of debt possible, the VPSA offices has a money management section on its website. The section is entitled "Money Savvy Cats" and is provided through a collaboration between the VPSA, Financial Aid and Scholarships and the Family and Consumer Sciences Program faculty. Encourage your child to use these tools!*

Students who work on campus tend to perform better in school than students who work off-campus. If you plan on working while at Texas State, look for information on the Career Services online (virtual) job fair which generally begins during PAWS Preview (see the section on "Transition Programs" for more information on PAWS Preview). If you must work but can't find a campus position that works with your schedule or interests, the Career Services office can also help you find off-campus or summer jobs.

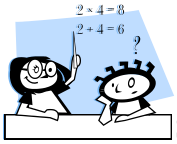
Dear Parents,

While, generally speaking, a college education can be an expensive endeavor, there are ways of significantly reducing the cost. And, the earnings associated with having a college degree, on average, more than outweigh the expense. At Texas State, using average figures, the cost of attendance can range from $17,000-$19,500 per year depending on housing options and personal money management. While these figures may seem very big, keep in mind that much of it will be expenses your child (and you) may have to bear whether your child goes to college or not, for example money for personal expenses, a place to live and the food to be eaten throughout the year. Tuition, fees, and book for a year are estimated at less than $8,500. By encouraging your child to apply early for financial aid and seek tuition waivers and scholarships, a college education is well within reach.

Campus Employment Highlights



The Department of Housing and Residential Life (DHRL) offers many student employment opportunities that include assisting with programming, clerical duties, maintenance, and tech support. Most of these jobs pay on an hourly basis, however, some provide free room and board in addition to a stipend. To learn more about employment opportunities with DHRL and how to apply, visit the "Employment Information" section on the DHRL website (see directory).



Students who do well academically and wish to use their abilities to help other students while getting paid to do it may be eligible for tutoring jobs with the Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC, see the academic support information under the "Academic Support" section of this handbook for more information on SLAC). Tutors can help other students by providing traditional tutoring or by leading a Supplemental Instruction study session for a class that other students may find difficult. To learn more about these employment opportunities, visit the "Tutoring" and "Supplemental Instruction" sections of the SLAC website (see directory) at www.txstate.edu/slac.

New Student Orientation (NSO) hires approximately 25 OLs each year. OLs are currently enrolled students who assist new Bobcats during their Orientation experience. NSO offers training. Bobcat Pride is required. The positions and information are listed at the orientation webpage at www.admissions.txstate.edu/nso and posted through Career Services from September through mid-November of each year. For more information on OL positions, contact Ms. Victoria Gandaria at 512-245-9718.

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIONS

Building community and connections can strongly influence how much students enjoy their college experience. These connections give students a sense of belonging, form their new support network, and help students persist through graduation. Connecting with others and the campus and developing a sense of belonging can be achieved in a number of ways.

CONNECTING WITH THE CAMPUS AND OTHERS

One of the difficulties of going to college is leaving friends and support systems behind. Life-long and close friends may go to other schools or enter the workforce. The same may be said about family members in the same age range such as siblings and cousins. Students may feel anxious about going to a new place without the people they are accustomed to.

When students become part of the Texas State community, they begin to build a home away from home and establish relationships that become part of the student's new support network. The support network includes classmates and casual acquaintances who students will need to work with for class projects as well as new or old friendships that will last a lifetime and may help students cope with difficult, personal challenges while at school.

There are various efforts in place at Texas State to help students begin connecting with peers early in their college career. Two of these are described below.

The *Hometown Bobcats* program is a retention initiative established to support students from historically underrepresented areas in Texas. Throughout the year, students from El Paso, the Houston Metroplex, Laredo, Dallas, and the Valley areas meet with other students from the same hometowns. These meetings help foster a supportive environment to help facilitate students' personal, social and professional growth.

Students who are not sure where to go to become involved or want to be contacted by representatives of student organizations can complete the Vice President for Student Affairs' online "*Interest Inventory*" to indicate their interests. A staff or member of a student organization involved in any marked area of interest will contact the student to extend an invitation to related activities.

Visit the Vice President for Students Affairs website for more information on these programs. The Hometown Bobcats program can be found in the "Retention" section and the Interest Inventory can be found under the "Student Success" section.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Campus activities and student organizations are a key piece of the college experience. Without them, college would be little more than classrooms and labs and the college experience would be no more than going to class and doing homework. There is MUCH MORE to college.

While doing well academically should be students' primary concern, it is also important that students become involved in extra-curricular activities. These activities are not just fun, they provide real benefits such as expanding students' support network and fostering success inside and outside of the classroom.

When responsible for the success of events and organizations, students gain leadership and management skills that can transfer to their academic, personal, and professional life. The activities may be specific to an interest, hobby, academic subject, or career objective that caters to a small group of interested people or they could be very broad in nature and involve hundreds, even thousands, of students, faculty and staff coming together. Leading the way in providing such activities for individuals and support to student organizations is an office, fittingly called, Campus Activities and Student Organizations (CASO). Other departments may support a few organizations or activities related to their academic focus, but CASO is the office where all official student organizations must register. The office offers free advice and support to student organizations, including assistance with fundraising efforts, meeting spaces, leadership training, civic engagement and student development.

There are almost 300 registered student organizations at Texas State. Many of these organizations participate in activities open to all students such as Homecoming, football tailgate parties, diversity programming, and leadership development. Each year, leadership and academic award programs are held to recognize students for their accomplishments and service to their organizations, the university, and the community. If students do not find an organization or activity that interests them, they are encouraged to start a new one!

CASO also offers services for commuter students. These include commuter breakfasts and an off-campus housing guide for students who are eligible to live off-campus. For more information on the programs offered by CASO and to search for a student organization, visit the CASO website at www.lbjsc.txstate.edu/caso.

Highlighted Organizations

Associated Student Government (ASG) – ASG is the voice of Texas State students. It is a governing and advocacy body that answers to the student body at large. Members of ASG work closely with faculty, administrators, city leaders, and state officials to advance the collective cause of Texas State students. For more information on ASG, including meeting times, visit www.asg.txstate.edu, call 512-245-1ASG (1274), visit LBJ Student Center, room 4-5.1, or fax 512-245-3464.

Student Association for Campus Activities (SACA) – SACA is Texas State's primary source for free entertainment on campus. The organization provides fun and diverse programs that encourage fellowship and camaraderie among students. Programs include music festivals, famous comedians and hypnotists, lectures, and movies in the park, pool, or drive-in. Most SACA members are volunteers, however, the organization does have a few paid student positions. For more information on SACA, visit www.lbjsc.txstate.edu/involvement/saca.html.

First Generation Student Organization (FGSO) – FGSO is for any student whose mother and father has not graduated from a four-year university or college. FGSO targets the issues specific to first-generation students and offers an informational and support group. FGSO has over 75 active members and offers several events and activities that include mentoring, fellowship, guidance, and leadership development as well as academic and social support. FGSO members support each other and San Marcos High School students by serving as positive role models in their pursuit of a higher education and participating in panel discussions. There are no dues to become a member of this organization. FGSO's activities are sponsored and supported by various university offices (including Multicultural Student Affairs and the Parents Association) and the SOAR (Seeking Opportunities, Achieving Results) program of San Marcos.

FGSO is advised by Upward Bound staff. For more information, visit the "First Generation Student Organization" section of the Upward Bound website at www.msa.txstate.edu/upwardbound, contact Dr. Stella Silva at ss23@txstate.edu or Ms. Mari Garza at ag41@txstate.edu, call, toll free, 1-800-211-6829 or 245-3838, or fax 245-7868.

The Underrepresented Student Advisory Council (USAC) - USAC is not an organization but a Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA)-sponsored programming and leadership development council made up of almost 40 student organizations that include persons from underrepresented groups. A link with information on USAC is on the MSA website. USAC organizations include:

African Student Association
Alpha Lambda Omega Christian Sorority
Alpha Phi Alpha
Alpha Psi Lambda
Asian Student Association
Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO)
Black Men United (BMU)
Black Student Alliance (BSA)
Black Woman United (BWU)
Bobcat Equality Alliance
Chi Upsilon Sigma
Delta Sigma Theta
Fashion Nation
FOCUSED
Gospel Expressions Association (GEA)
Harambe Dance Group
Hillel at Texas State
Hip Hop Congress
Hispanic Business Student Association (HBSA)
Hombres Unidos
IMPACT Movement
International Student Association
Japanese Language and Culture Club
Kappa Delta Chi (KDChi)
Lambda at Texas State
Lambda Theta Phi
Latinas Unidas
Latino Student Assoc. (LSA)
National Assoc. of Hispanic Journalist
National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)
Omega Psi Phi
Phi Beta Sigma
Rincón Hispano Universitario
Sigma Delta Lambda (SDL)
Sigma Lambda Beta
Sigma Lambda Gamma
Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES)
Zeta Phi Beta

MENTORING

When students go away to college, they may have less contact with supportive family members. Therefore, it is important that students forge new relationships with people who will be supportive of their goals. Students may naturally forge these relationships as they meet peers and university personnel, however, there is assistance available for students who may not be as outgoing as their peers or who may not know where to start to develop these relationships. One way of connecting with others is through mentoring programs. A mentor can be particularly helpful through the transition to college when students may experience feelings of anxiety or loneliness and when students may not yet know where all campus resources are located.

Through the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA), the university offers a Mentoring Program for new students. The program matches new students with staff, faculty, and peer mentors committed to helping the new student acclimate to the university and succeed. Participants in the program generally have higher GPAs and retention rates than non-participants. To help students and their mentors develop their relationships and support the new students' success, the Mentoring Program sponsors academic and social activities. The best time to sign up is upon being accepted to Texas State, however, students can sign up at any time during their first year at Texas State.

For more information on the Mentoring Program, including how to join, visit the "Programs and Services" section of the VPSA's website.

CULTURAL ACCLIMATION

For some minority students, going to college may be the first time they are actually a minority in a majority environment. Texas State has a diverse student population and students can participate in services and organizations available to help them acclimate to the university while maintaining relationships with individuals of similar backgrounds.

Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) – MSA offers various programs and activities to help students of underrepresented backgrounds connect with each other and succeed. Below are some of MSA's programs.

> The Leadership Institute for Minority Males (LIMM) provides minority males with support through leadership training and development to improve their academic success and increase the graduation rates of ethnic minority male students. Members of LIMM and other student organizations collaborate each semester to create a leadership forum entitled Grown Man Discussion. During the forum, topics such as identity, economic empowerment, education, fellowship, and health of the minority male are presented in formats that include lectures, workshops, and panel discussions. Members of LIMM reach out to high school students to provide them preparation and mentoring for the purposes of college enrollment in a program called High School to College: Underrepresented Male Mentoring Group. The college student mentors meet with male high school students and parents to share their experiences with college enrollment, financial aid, involvement in organizations, and mentoring.
>
> Mama's Kitchen. MSA offers free monthly lunches to students. One highlight of this event is the opportunity for students to meet other peers as well as faculty and staff.

Faculty and staff often bring their own homemade dishes to share with students in this very casual and welcoming event. Each month features a different ethnic or cultural theme, raising awareness of different cultures and providing exciting opportunities to "taste" those cultures. Visit the MSA website for Mama's Kitchen dates.

During PAWS Preview (see PAWS Preview under "Transition Programs" in this handbook), MSA and Hip Hop Congress make a presentation on diversity to all entering freshmen. This interactive and entertaining presentation uses the culture of hip hop as a medium to discuss and relate the importance of diversity at Texas State and beyond.

Other popular MSA programs are the African American Leadership Conference and the All Male Conference. MSA also observes and schedules/supports activities to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, Diversity Month, Diwali, Native American History Month, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Cesar Chavez Day, Sakura Festival, Juneteenth, Multicultural Graduation Celebration (a ceremony to recognize underrepresented students who complete a degree at Texas State), and Lavender Graduation.

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

For many students, having spiritual support is important. The support some students seek is as simple as a safe and comfortable environment in which to pray. Others seek programs that provide opportunities to participate in informal peer groups or formal church groups that support spiritual expression and growth. Spiritual connections serve as an outlet for the expression of beliefs as well as provide opportunities for students to discuss academic course content with their peers outside of class. These connections also foster a sense of belonging.

College is a place where students are encouraged to be themselves while having an open mind to learn not just class material but also about themselves and those around them. But even in this environment, people may sometimes be shy when it comes to talking about religion or spirituality, often for fear of offending someone whose beliefs may be different. There are offices on campus and other resources that can help students looking for a spiritual connection.

Student organizations, some affiliated with area churches, are registered with the Campus Activities and Student Organizations office. Students can find these registered organizations by searching in the "Student Organizations" section of the CASO website.

Dean of Students Office (DOS) can provide students a flier with the names of Ministries on or around campus that have offered to serve students seeking spiritual support or a spiritual home while at Texas State. To request the Ministerial Alliance flier or religious holy day class absence notification forms, visit, call, or e-mail the DOS office. Students and parents have taken advantage of this information when encountering a crisis that they felt could be made easier to overcome with the support of any one of these organizations.

Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) advises the Interfaith Council, a collaboration of all USAC spiritual and religious organizations, and can also help students find a spiritual home. When students do not find a group, church or center that meets their religious or spiritual needs, MSA can help connect them with peers or area organizations.

The yellow pages of the local phone book are a good source for finding a church in the San Marcos community. A number of churches have chapels, centers, or host services on or near campus.

Parent Tip: Parents can support their children by reminding them to pray and letting them know prayers are being said for them.

LEARNING/RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

Not all students who go to college move out of their parents' home. When students do move away, studies show that those who live on campus are more likely to graduate than those who live off-campus. This can be attributed to these students focusing more on school and engaging in activities that support their academic endeavors than on work. Living on campus gives students opportunities to connect in-class and out-of-class learning and to discuss class work with their peers outside of class. Students living on-campus can also benefit from more individualized instruction by tapping in to learning communities. These communities also facilitate connections with peers and university personnel that can help guide students through the college experience. This is particularly helpful to students who do not have an immediate family member who is familiar with the ins and outs of college.

For students who live on campus, the Department of Housing and Residential Life (DHRL) created "Living-Learning Programs" to further enhance the residential experience and build on the natural partnership between on-campus living and the academic curriculum. These include Residential College and Learning Communities.

Residential College is open to any new freshman. Participants take certain basic/required classes together, allowing them opportunities to learn and study together and support each other outside of their class as they work on similar projects. Residential College students must also participate in organized co-curricular activities. These activities give students the opportunity to develop a stronger sense of community, marketable and transferable skills, and mentoring relationships with upper-classmen, faculty and staff. In addition to the activities, each year 1-2 faculty members live in the residence halls housing Residential College which provides students easy access to a faculty member who can provide academic support as well as personal and professional mentoring.

Learning Communities are similar to Residential College but are for students who have declared certain majors or who are enrolled in certain programs at Texas State. In 2009-2010, these included Business, College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), Computer Science, History, Geography, Journalism and Mass Communication, Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental, Psychology, Terry Scholars, and University Honors. Students in most Learning Communities take courses together and participate in educational activities designed around their shared

academic and career interests. Every learning community is supported by an academic department or college which provides participants with increased access to the faculty and staff in their field of interest and resources relevant to their career goals.

For more information on Residential College and Learning Communities, visit the "Student Success" section of the DHRL website. For information on the campus living requirements, visit the University Housing Policy section.

Parent Tip: You can encourage your child by supporting whatever university sponsored extra-curricular activities in which he/she chooses to participate. You can show interest by asking in which activities or events their chosen organization will participate. There may be opportunities for you to participate in some of those activities if they have a parent weekend or end-of-year recognition component. If your child is on an athletic team or performance group, feel free to visit the campus and watch your child perform. Celebrate your student's success outside of the classroom as much as the success inside of the classroom. This will help encourage them to seek greater responsibilities and success.

MAINTAINING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

The support that families provide to their children doesn't, or shouldn't, end when the student leaves for college. Students are likely to establish relationships with peers and university personnel that will encourage them in their academic pursuits. However, family support and validation of their decision to attend college is just as important during the college years as in the years leading to college enrollment. If students feel encouraged by their families, they are more likely to be more motivated to succeed.

When students leave home to attend an out-of-town college, parents and students may need to exert additional efforts in order to stay connected. Connections can be in the form of direct contact with the student and connections to the university. The use of technology can facilitate communication with both.

STUDENT/PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parental support is important to student success. When students have good relationships and communicate with their parents, they adjust better to college, perform better academically, develop better coping strategies, and when they need help are more likely to reach out to family members. Communication is not limited to talking face to face during home visits. In fact, during the first few weeks of the semester, parents should encourage their students to stay on campus (or their college town) to further develop and strengthen the relationships talked about in the previous section of this handbook. During Thanksgiving week, students will have an extended weekend that will allow them to get more out of their visit with family while being part of any family holiday traditions. Students and their families can stay in touch via phone (land or cellular lines), e-mail, and believe it or not, letters (yes, the kind sent through "snail mail"). Family communication does not have to be limited to parents – students should stay in touch with any family member that is supportive of the decision to go to college. Not only can they offer encouragement, they are likely to enjoy and appreciate receiving an update on the progress towards a college education.

By staying in touch, family members can gauge if the student seems to be having difficulties and help connect them to the resources on campus available to overcome those challenges. Having a communication plan can itself help parents know if their child may need assistance (for example, if a student does not return calls or stops e-mailing for an extended period).

Students who get a cellular phone for the first time when they go to college should think about where they should get their cell phone and how that may affect long distance charges for those calling them. While cellular plans may easily allow cell phone users to call anywhere in the state at no additional cost, if parents use a land line to call a cell phone issued outside of their local calling area, they will incur long distance charges. If this is a concern, students may consider getting a cell phone with a number that would be considered local for their family.

During New Student Orientation, the Counseling Center will present information on how parents can support and motivate their students and help them resolve their own issues. Support

is not about resolving students' problems, it is about encouraging students to resolve their problems and to use the resources available to them. If parents believe their student is encountering difficulties or may need assistance but don't know how to intervene or where to turn for resources, they can call the Counseling Center for a telephone consultation. Staff at the Counseling Center can tell parents if it appears that the student should be encouraged to seek services with the Counseling Center or from any of the other offices that support students. The information presented by the Counseling Center to parents at NSO and during telephone consultations is not just for the benefit of parents, it benefits students because parents can remind students of the services. This is especially helpful when students do not remember the information they received on the same topic due to having received so much information at the same time (usually during NSO or PAWS Preview)..

INSTITUTION/PARENT COMMUNICATION

Aside from staying in touch with students, families can support their student by staying in touch with the university in order to be apprised of important dates and events.

To help parents before and after their student enrolls at Texas State, the University College has established a service where parents can call or e-mail their academic-related questions. Called "WebAsker," whenever parents have questions about university procedures, practices, programs, professors and their class policies, etc., they can send an e-mail or leave a voice mail message and University College staff will respond with answers and/or the names and contact information of individuals who can better answer the question or address the concerns. The WebAsker e-mail address is DN04@txstate.edu; the toll-free phone number is 888-245-WHAT (9428). NOTE: The staff members provide general information and not information specific to any one student.

During New Student Orientation (NSO), student move-in, or any time parents visit the Texas State campus, they are welcome to speak with the staff that will be working with their children. Many of the offices that provide support service to students will be at the NSO and Department of Housing and Residential Life (DHRL) staff will be available during student move-in at the beginning of the fall semester. Any time parents meet a staff member, they can ask for a business card that will provide that person's contact information in case parents have questions related to the person's area of expertise.

The Parents Association (PA), coordinated by the Office of Parent Relations, provides parents a link between home and campus by keeping parents informed about university goals, policies, programs and student activities. The PA can support and help parents when concerns arise by advising on academic matters and helping students find the necessary support to succeed academically and socially. Any time a member calls with a concern, the PA will work to find an answer on how that concern can best be addressed.

The PA hosts an annual Family Weekend in the fall often referred to as the "Family Roundup". This event allows families of students to become acquainted with the campus, academic departments, student services, and university traditions. Academic and administrative leaders are available at the event to speak with parents.

The DHRL communicates with parents through a newsletter sent one time per semester to parents of students who live on campus. The newsletter contains information that is also

shared with students (usually via e-mail). By receiving timely information similar to what students get, parents can plan conversations relevant to what their children have experienced so far or will have to do in the coming months (for example, determining if the student can or will live off-campus in their second year).

For information on events and incidents that affect significant numbers of students or parts of campus, the university will post information on its internet homepage (www.txstate.edu) in addition to sending e-mails to students, faculty and staff. This applies to campus closures related to weather or any incident that may compromise the safety of the university community. In most cases, local area media will also be notified.

For information related to a specific office or service, websites are becoming the most convenient and informative sources of information. University departmental or service websites can generally be found by searching for them in the university's homepage. Information posted on websites often answer parents' questions and have the advantage of being available 24 hours/day. If parents still have questions after visiting a website, they can find contact information on the website to communicate directly with a person in that office during business hours.

Family members who don't have access to the internet or prefer to call but don't know a department or service's number can call the university switchboard, or operator, at 512-245-2111. There is no fee for this service, only what your telephone service provider may charge you if you are calling long distance or using calling plan minutes. The switchboard hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-noon.

For emergencies, the University Police Department (UPD) is available 24 hours/day at 512-245-2805.

Dear Parents,

In recent years, critical incidents at schools, including shootings or other emergency situations, have made national headlines. Texas State has established procedures for various emergency situations, including how to respond and how to communicate that information to those who need to know. These emergencies include weather related emergencies, for example school closures and approaching weather systems that have the potential to produce dangerous lightning, and other emergencies that threaten the health, safety and welfare of the university community.

During an emergency, priority is given to communicating with emergency responders and those potentially in harm's way. But, understandably, parents, even if they are hundreds of miles away, will want to know how to receive information if they suspect or know of a possible emergency. Here are some of the methods that the university will relay information.

In cases of school closures or class cancellations due to severe weather, announcements will be made through:

*The university homepage at www.txstate.edu
*E-mail to all students, faculty and staff (usually sent by University Police Department or the University News Service)
*Messages recorded on the university news hotline at 512-245-2424
*Voicemail messages sent to all campus telephones (land lines)
*Local media announcements
*The Texas State weather emergency siren system

In cases of campus emergencies, the university can use all of the methods used to announce school closures and class cancellations and:

*Reverse 911
*An emergency sign board system (in normal conditions, these sign boards operate as digital clocks in the classrooms but during emergencies, the university police can broadcast emergency messages to all university classrooms in San Marcos and Round Rock or only to affected buildings)

For parents who live away from the San Marcos area, checking the university website and calling the university news hotline number will be the most effective. Parents are discouraged from calling the university (especially the police department) during an emergency unless they have information that will assist emergency responders. During an emergency, it is important that emergency responders be able to focus on the emergency at hand and not on fielding phone calls.

For more information on the Texas State emergency sign boards, weather warning system, and emergency contacts, visit the emergency procedures website at www.emergencyinfo.txstate.edu. The site includes information on how to respond to armed/disruptive individuals; bomb threats; fires; gas leaks, fumes, and vapors; hazardous materials spills; and weather emergencies.

Emergency Contacts

Police, fire or medical emergency	911
University Police Department (non-emergency)	512-245-2805
Fire (non-emergency)	512-393-8460
Student Health Center	512-245-2161
University Operator from university phone	0
University Operator from off-campus phone	512-245-2111
University recorded news bulletin	512-245-2424
Physical Plant (emergencies and after hours)	512-245-2108
Counseling Center	512-245-2208

TECHNOLOGY

Technology has clearly made it possible for families and friends to make more contacts at lower costs. Most of today's traditional college students grew up with access to cellular phones, e-mail, and internet-based social sites. Not all families, however, have equal familiarity with or access to these technologies.

Texas State, through its Information Technology division, offers resources that may be helpful in maintaining communication between students and their families. For students who live on campus, all residence halls are equipped with land lines and Ethernet connections; some rooms have one phone line for each resident. All students are issued an e-mail account to help students communicate with their peers, instructors and administrators. The e-mail account can be used by students to keep in touch with their families. Computer stations and labs are available throughout campus and wireless coverage is available campus-wide (indoors and outdoors). Students can use these facilities to access their university e-mail accounts as well as most other social networking sites and e-mail provider sites that the student may already be accustomed to using to keep in touch with family and friends. IT staff is available to answer policy questions, address service concerns, and consult with students interested in a career or employment in the area of information technology.

To understand how Texas State uses information technology to enhance campus life, visit the Educause Student Guide available under the "Quick Links" menu on the left hand side of the IT website. The guide contains information on, among other things, Academic Experience and Student Life.

IT provides students with assistance (technical support) for their computing and information technology related needs through the Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC) which provides Software Licensing and Purchasing, Computer Repair, Phone Services, Computer Connectivity, Training and other services. These services are available via walk-in, telephone, e-mail, remote control, and live chat. For contact information, repair shop locations and service hours, visit the ITAC website and see the ITAC directory entry.

While Texas State cannot offer computer resources and e-mail accounts to students' families, the families may be able to use locally available computer and internet access services to communicate via e-mail. Public/city libraries, employee workstations, and community centers generally allow individuals to access free e-mail service providers such as Yahoo and Google.

Dear Parents:

While all students go through a transition period from high school to college, FGCSs are likely to experience a more stressful transition. Minority students who were not part of a predominantly majority community may experience a bit of culture shock. If your child is one of these students, your support and communication will help ease the stress and anxiety.

EARLY INTERVENTION AND CRISES SERVICES

During their college years, students can encounter a wide variety of challenges. There are many services and resources at Texas State to help students overcome these challenges and stay on track towards achieving their goals. In most cases, students must make contact with the respective department or office to assert their desire to use that office or department's services. But, some of the services are more intrusive.

While some of the services clearly are meant to assist students through crises, others are implemented with the purpose of allowing faculty, staff, and peers to intervene prior to a situation becoming a full blown crisis. Some of these early intervention and crises services are described below.

GENERAL SERVICES

The stresses of the transition to and rigors of college can result in a need for a variety of services. Most major universities provide these services to students for free or for moderate fees and may vary in intensity. Services often include counseling, medical, health/wellness, security and general support/advocacy.

The Texas State Counseling Center offers counseling and psychological services that range from support groups that help students by teaching them techniques to cope with negative feelings to individual counseling to help address serious mental health disorders. Most services are provided at no cost beyond service fees paid as part of enrollment. For students who require psychiatric services, psychiatric interns are available to provide services for a moderate fee. If the Counseling Center is unable to provide the level of services needed for a particular case, the student will be referred to outside service providers. These non-university service providers may offer services under students' insurance coverage or charge based on students' ability to pay (a sliding scale).

The Texas State Student Health Center (SHC) provides primary, women's and psychiatric healthcare services to university students. Students pay, along with their tuition, a medical service fee each semester that entitles them to unlimited access to Student Health Center services. Laboratory, digital radiography and pharmacy services are available onsite and are provided at moderate fees. Health insurance coverage is not required and students with urgent medical problems are evaluated and treated regardless of ability to pay.

Others services of the SHC include a 24 hours a day Ask-A-Nurse Advice Line, smoking cessation program, and health education information in a variety of media (ex., written, video, online, radio, television, interviews and presentations).

The Student Health Center provides a university-endorsed student health insurance plan for students without insurance or those seeking more affordable coverage. This plan is optional for most students, however, this or proof of coverage under a comparable health insurance plan is required for international students.

Dear Parents

Federal and state law prohibits the Counseling Center staff from acknowledging a student's participation in counseling services or any details of their case without the student first completing a written authorization form. Parents who wish to discuss or inquire about their student's case should encourage their child to complete the authorization form.

Even if a student does not complete the authorization form or is not a client of the Counseling Center, there are number of things parents can do to support and encourage their student.

1) Learn about some of the challenges students face during their transition to college. One way of doing this is to attend the session "Creating Success: Helping your student through the passage into college" offered to parents during summer orientation. If you are unable to attend the session or wish to review the topic, the PowerPoint presentation is available in the "For Parents" section of the Counseling Center's website.

2) Maintain in contact with the student during the academic year and be aware of different sources of student stress which occur during a particular time of the year. Parents can do this by asking for the "Parents Calendar" during summer orientation or requesting a copy from the Counseling Center (call or e-mail) while supplies last. The calendar identifies some of sources of stress and includes helpful campus services, advising offices, and other resources. Dates that are of particular interest to parents are highlighted in the calendar.

3) Referring a student for counseling. Parents can encourage their student to contact the Counseling Center for an initial consultation. On rare occasions, when a parent believes their student is more likely to utilize counseling services if the Counseling Center initiates contact with the student, a staff member may contact the student to discuss the parent's concern and invite him or her to an initial consultation. The staff member cannot require the student to schedule an appointment or utilize services. Counseling is a voluntary service – the student must be willing to participate. Privacy laws also apply when a parent refers their child for counseling.

4) Parents who suspect their children may be overwhelmed and in need of assistance but not know how to help may contact the Counseling Center for a phone consultation with a counselor. The counselor can share with the parent the resources that are available to students to address the specific concern raised, including whether or not counseling may be appropriate.

Student support staff is generally very willing to help students. Unfortunately, sometimes students may be hesitant to come forth with their questions and concerns. To help "break the ice," the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) has a Welcome Bobcats System. Volunteers, mostly VPSA division staff, call new students during the first days of the semester to welcome them to Texas State and offer to answer questions about academic services, opportunities to get involved on campus and adjustment issues.

The VPSA office offers support programs in different areas that are mentioned throughout this handbook. For military veteran and foster care alumni individuals and groups, the VPSA office will offer support and referrals on an as-needed basis

Student Justice, a component of the Dean of Students Office, is a program that can be particularly intrusive. The coordinator of this program has the responsibility of investigating alleged violations of the Texas State Code of Student Conduct (yes, even in college there are rules!). The coordinator may require students to visit the Dean of Students Office to address their conduct and impose sanctions on a student who is found responsible for a violation. These sanctions are intended to redress any consequences of student misconduct, provide a teachable moment for the student(s) involved, and deter the student from engaging in similar conduct in the future. The Coordinator may also require victims and witnesses of student misconduct to visit the Dean of Students Office to ensure that they are well, offer support and services, and ask for their opinion on how they would like to see an incident that affects them resolved.

The COSC is available online in the rules and policies section of the Student Handbook available in the Dean of Students website.

The University Police Department (UPD) is the primary source of protection for the Texas State community. All of the UPD officers are licensed by the State of Texas and have full law enforcement authority in any county in which the university owns or controls property.

UPD strives to create a safe and secure learning environment by providing traditional law enforcement and emergency response duties along with proactive educational and prevention programs. Among these programs are the Bobcat Bobbies & the Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) system.

The Bobcat Bobbies is a safety escort program available from dusk to dawn, 7 days a week. This program allows any student walking alone at night to call 512-245-SAFE or 512-245-2890 for a safety escort on campus. This service is primarily intended for students walking to their car or residence hall after dark.

The R.A.D. system, a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women, teaches awareness, prevention, risk reduction, risk avoidance, and an introduction to basic defense training.

For more information on the Bobcat Bobbies, R.A.D., and other UPD services, visit the "Services" section of the UPD website

at www.police.txstate.edu. The "Safety Tips" section offers tips for safety at home, on campus, on foot, on the go, and in social situations. Finally, the "Parents" section offers tips to parents of college bound students.

The Student Recreation Center (SRC) may be simply described as a campus gym or the place where students can go for voluntary P.E. But, that would be over-simplifying. While, on the surface, the SRC is a place for students to engage in exercise and other physical activities, it also provides services and programs that stimulate growth, development and retention of students. The programs are opportunities for social interaction and leadership development by bringing together individuals with similar interests.

Enrolled students can access the SRC facilities and participate in programs that include: weightlifting and cardiovascular exercise equipment; basketball, volleyball, and racquetball courts; boxing room; equipment rental; towel, storage locker and lock service use; golf course and golf simulator; rockwall; swimming pool; intramural sports; sports clubs; and outdoor recreation (including a challenge course, camping facilities, and river recreation).

Students with visiting family members on campus have up to three family members as guests at the SRC with an access fee of $3 for children 3-15 and $6 for anyone 16 or older.

For more information on the Student Recreation Center and its services, visit the SRC website at www.campusrecreation.txstate.edu.

One area of concern for parents may be whether or not their student is eating well. While students will have to decide for themselves if they will eat their vegetables or not, Texas State does offer a variety of dining options. Most students living on campus will have a meal plan. To learn about the different meal plans, places to eat, menus and nutrition information, visit the university's food service provider's website at www.dineoncampus.com/txstate.

The Alcohol and Drug Resource Center provides support and assistance to students to help them achieve their emotional and personal objectives. By doing this, the ADRC supports and encourages healthy lifestyle choices for the university community at large. Students can talk to a counselor about themselves and behaviors which are a concern to them.

Students who are found responsible for an alcohol or drug offense by the Student Justice Office (or as a result of receiving an alcohol or drug citation) may be required to complete one or more of the courses and educational programs offered by the ADRC.

Like other types of professional counseling, all ADRC services are confidential. Enrolled students can receive free individual counseling, assessment and referral service. Appointments may be scheduled through the ADRC office in person, or by phone at: (512) 245-3601.

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

Many campuses have instituted a first year seminar course intended to acclimate students to the campus beyond what orientation programs are able to do. Texas State's program is a one-semester course, University Seminar (US) 1100, that new students are expected to take during their first semester. University Seminar instructors have good knowledge of the various resources available to help students succeed academically and personally.

US 1100 is designed to help students adjust to the challenges of life and learning at Texas State. The course includes class discussion, student participation, and involvement in the

university community. University departments, speakers, and events are commonly used to connect students with helpful resources early in their academic career. Each year, some US 1100 classes are reserved for specific groups, for example, returning military veterans, international students, Emerging STARS. Others have been designated for students in Residential College, College Assistance Migrant Program, and for students in certain majors. In the past there have been US 1100 reserved for First Generation College Students. During New Student Orientation, students will meet with academic advisors. Students should discuss with their academic advisor if any of the reserved sections would be appropriate to take. If approved for one of the reserved courses, students should look for the corresponding designation during class registration, which also takes place during NSO. By signing up for US 1100 during NSO, students will be able to meet their instructor and other classmates during PAWS Preview.

Parent Tip: US 1100 staff will be at New Student Orientation to explain what the class entails and provide students with a US 1100 information brochure and their summer reading book. Feel free to visit with the US 1100 staff and ask any questions you may have.

EARLY ALERT SYSTEMS

Sometimes students do not realize they need help dealing with challenges or may try to avoid addressing difficult situations. Unfortunately, this usually does not make things better. To help students take on these situations and remind them that there are people and services available to support them, universities may implement early alert systems. Texas State has such a system in place, the PAWS Alert.

PAWS (Positive Action With Students) Alert, a service of the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) to identify students in need of assistance in overcoming challenges related to academics, academic deficiencies, career, personal, social, physical and emotional issues. Through a web-based reporting system, faculty and staff submit their concerns; the VPSA office refers the student to the PAWS Alert-affiliated office best equipped to deal with the issue. A PAWS Alert-affiliated office may initiate contact with the student to offer assistance or the person who made the referral to determine the best way of connecting the student with appropriate resources.

Students who wish to submit a PAWS Alert can contact a faculty or staff member who can in turn enter the concern into the PAWS Alert system. The student can also call the VPSA office directly. Parents may call the VPSA office if they have concerns for their student and feel that a referral may help.

For more information on the PAWS Alert program, visit the “Retention” section of the VPSA website.

ACADEMIC ADVISING AND SUPPORT

Other services that do not generally deal with crises but can be particularly important in preventing "academic crises" are academic advising and support services. These services help students stay on track towards completing their chosen degree plans.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic advising is a service offered to provide students with information directly related to their chosen degree. The primary purpose of this service is to keep students on track (taking the right courses & meeting other academic requirements) towards completing their degree. While all bachelor degrees will have a core curriculum (basics), each degree may have different classes and academic requirements, for example, required internships, grades or special projects.

Academic advisors do more than explain course requirements. They can help students plan the classes they will be taking each semester. The selection of courses can be affected by various factors. For example, some classes are only offered one time per year and others require that they be taken in a specific order because the material in the first may be necessary in understanding the material in the second. Academic advisors can help students select optional/elective courses bases on the students' strengths, weaknesses, and career goals. If students go home during the summers, advisors can let students know what classes they can take at a community college that will transfer to Texas State and satisfy their degree requirements.

It is important that students receive advising from their academic advisor. When students get advice from peers or staff members who are not academic advisors, the student may receive outdated information or information that does not apply to their degree. This can delay students' graduation date if the students take unnecessary courses or are put behind schedule in taking their required classes. Taking unnecessary courses and delaying graduation also has a financial cost for students in the form of tuition and fees.

All students should visit with their academic advisor one time per semester. Seeing an academic advisor does not mean that a student is in trouble. In fact, at one time or another, every student at Texas State will need to visit an academic advisor and seeing an advisor on a regular basis is more likely to help students stay on track and out of academic trouble.

At Texas State, which advisor a student sees will depend on the student's major. Each "college" at Texas State has an Advising Center that serves all the students who chose a major in that college. The colleges include Applied Arts, Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts & Communication, Health Professions, Liberal Arts, Science, and University College.

Students who are in the process of exploring and selecting a major are called undecided. Students who are interested in admission into the College of Business Administration but have not yet been admitted to that program are called undecided-professional. Undecided, undecided-

professional, and General Studies major students receive advising through the University College.

Students attending classes at the Round Rock Higher Education Center (RRHEC) receive advising through the One Stop Center at the RRHEC.

While there may be some differences between advising centers, there are some things they all have in common. All students, regardless of their major, must complete a core curriculum (basics). All advising centers will advise students on the core curriculum and on the required coursework for their chosen major. Students can consult with their advisor when they have questions about their degree plan, their chosen major or intended careers, and academic resources needed to succeed.

To schedule an appointment with an academic advisor call or visit the website of the appropriate academic advising center. Appointments should be scheduled in advance of their next registration so that students know if they have any registration holds (restrictions) and how to resolve those holds as well as to ensure that they have an appointment reserved before the demand for appointments increases. If students wait until their registration period, they may have difficulty getting an appointment when hundreds of other students are trying to see the same advisor. Below is a list of the Academic Advising Centers by college.

College & Website	Location	Phone
University College www.ucollege.txstate.edu/advising	Academic Services Building North 100	512.245.2218
College of Applied Arts www.advising.appliedarts.txstate.edu	Agriculture Bldg. 201	512.245.1490
McCoy College of Business Administration www.advising.mccoy.txstate.edu	McCoy Bldg. 115	512.245.1993
College of Education www.education.txstate.edu/advising	Education Bldg. 2143	512.245.3050
College of Fine Arts & Communication www.advising.finearts.txstate.edu	Old Main 110	512.245.1932
College of Health Professions www.health.txstate.edu/advising	Health Professions Bldg. 207	512.245.3506
College of Liberal Arts www.liberalarts.txstate.edu/advising	Flowers Hall 322	512.245.1852
College of Science www.science.txstate.edu/advising	Centennial Hall 202	512.245.1315
Round Rock Higher Education Center www.rrhec.txstate.edu/resources/osc/acadadvising	Round Rock, TX By Appointment	512.716.4035

Sometimes students will struggle academically. But, with a little bit of extra help and effort, they will recover and continue their progress towards graduation. When a student's grade point average (GPA) falls below a 2.0 (below a "C" average on our 4-point scale), the student is placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation are required to contact their advisor before they can register for their next set of classes. In addition, most students on academic probation will have to participate in the Partners in Academic Student Success (PASS) program.

PASS is a program provided by the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) division in collaboration with Academic Affairs. The program provides students on academic probation with workshops that can help them improve their grades and return to good academic standing. Academic Advising Centers provide one-on-one academic counseling during which students and advisors may discuss policies, learning strategies, and skill deficiencies. Advisors may require students to participate in the workshops offered by various student support offices as a condition of continuing their enrollment.

Students do not have to be on academic probation to take advantage of the sessions and workshops offered through the PASS program. For general information on the PASS program and Calendar of Events, visit http://www.vpsa.txstate.edu/common/pass.html.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

While classroom learning is at the core of the college experience, Student learning – and ultimately graduation – is facilitated when students work with each other and are active in shaping their academic experience.

Student cooperation can occur inside and outside of the classroom and includes sharing personal and academic concerns in an effort to resolve these them and participating in extra-curricular activities such as student organizations or university committees.

Active learning takes place when students go beyond the minimum requirements of attending classes and completing their assignments. This may include carefully reviewing and revising work before submitting it to their instructor, taking notes in class and reviewing them later, and using additional resources to reinforce and build that which is presented in class. Other activities that demonstrate active learning are participation in tutorial services and review sessions, whether organized by the university or student-led.

There are many services on campus available to support students in their academic endeavors, especially during those times that faculty members may not be present or available to help students with items such as homework, studying, group projects, and research. One of the important things to remember about academic support is that students must many times take the initiative to seek the help. Faculty may sometimes suggest that a student seek help but that will usually be because it is clear the student is not doing well. It is better to seek help when the student feels that help may be needed and not wait until it is obvious to the instructor. Academic support services include:

Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC), the most extensive support program on campus, is available to all students. This multi-faceted academic support program provides free tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, learning and study skills workshops, and learning specialist

consultations. Drop in tutoring services (no appointment necessary) are offered to students on an individual and group basis by peer tutors. Writing and math tutoring is available online. To help with some computer related courses, SLAC has an instructional computer lab. Supplemental Instruction is a form of tutoring that focuses on collaboration, group study and interaction for assisting students with specific courses that traditionally are difficult for students. Supplemental Instruction is provided by a student who has done well on the subject and attends the class that is being tutored. SLAC has handouts and materials to help with study skills development such as taking notes and tests, reducing procrastination, managing time utilizing textbooks, and test preparation both on-site and online.

SLAC is appropriately and conveniently located in the Albert B. Alkek Library. For more information on and schedules for SLAC services, visit the SLAC Website at www.txstate.edu/slac.

The Albert B. Alkek Library is the most important information resource on campus. While the library has many printed volumes (more than 1.4 million!), electronic journals and books, databases, and over a half-million microform & audio-visual materials, it offers much more. It houses the Student Learning Assistance Center, Instructional Technologies to help with multimedia production, a computer lab, an interlibrary loan service (so students can borrow material from other libraries at no cost), study rooms and a student lounge. The library even has laptops that students can check out.

For more information on the library services, including hours of service, visit the library website at www.library.txstate.edu.

Academic advisors, besides providing academic advising, are excellent resources for referrals to support resources on campus. Advising Centers typically have links to these resources on their website. The University Seminar, coordinated by the University College, has an excellent list of resources in the "Student Resources" section of its website. To see these, visit www.txstate.edu/ucollege/universityseminar.

Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) offers the grant-funded program, Student Support Services (SSS). SSS provides academic and educational support services to college students who meet first generation, low income and/or disability criteria, in order to increase retention and graduation rates of participants. SSS fosters an institutional climate supportive of the success of its students through student learning, development and educational experiences. All SSS services are free to students who qualify. To learn more about eligibility and apply, visit the "Affiliations" section of the MSA website at www.msa.txstate.edu.

The Collaborative Learning Center (CLC) is a free computer resource facility, tutoring lab, study space, and learning facility for students in the College of Science. Students from the Houston-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholars Program (H-LSAMP) offer free walk-in tutoring in the CLC Tutoring Lab in biochemistry, biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, math, physics, and technology courses. For more information on this program, visit www.cs.txstate.edu/~hlsamp/CLC_home.htm.

The Math Lab, sponsored by the Department of Mathematics, provides math tutoring in a personalized atmosphere. The lab also has computers with specialized math software available

for individual math work and general academic needs. The lab is located at Derrick Hall Rm. 223 and can be reached at 512-245-2074. For more information, including a lab schedule, visit www.math.txsate.edu/resources/lab.

The Writing Center provides individual counseling in writing for Texas State students at any level of study, including, essays, technical writing, research papers, formal letters, in-class essay exams, and resumes. Tutors can also help students prepare for the Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation (GSP) exam. To learn more about the writing center, including hours and their online tutoring, or schedule an appointment, visit www.writingcenter.txstate.edu.

NOTE
(Parents & Students)

If you missed or need a refresher on the Student Learning Assistance Center's (SLAC) presentations – Academics at Texas State during New Student Orientation or College Note-taking during PAWS Preview – you can review the presentation on SLAC's website at http://www.txstate.edu/slac/. They are in the "Presentations" section.

Also, SLAC is available to parents and students for consultations on what services are available and may serve a student best depending on the assistance the student appears to need. SLAC can refer students to services outside of what SLAC offers.

SLAC does not have access to student grades. Any information SLAC provides to parents will be based on what the parent shares and responses will be about services available, not what services students have utilized.

SPECIAL NEEDS AND POPULATIONS

Diversity, traditionally, has been thought of as differences in race or ethnic backgrounds and equal access to women. On college campuses, diversity increasingly includes individuals with disabilities and individuals who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transsexual (GLBT). Critical to being successful in college is having access to facilities and services and feeling safe.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Individuals with physical limitations, mental disorders, and learning disabilities may encounter unique challenges, yet, disabled students are increasingly able to access a higher education. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 made campuses more accessible to students with physical disabilities and Texas State is no exception.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to all university programs and activities. This is done by coordinating academic accommodations and support services, promoting independence and self-advocacy, and providing information and referral to appropriate resources. ODS services include disability screenings, sign language and oral interpreting, audio textbooks, captioning (speech to text), adaptive computer technology, disability management counseling, advocacy, internships and career opportunities, and testing accommodations. The office fosters a supportive and inclusive educational environment through partnerships with faculty and staff and by promoting disability awareness among the university community.

The ODS can provide information to students on campus accessibility. Students can request the information in person, by phone, by e-mail, or by visiting the "Campus Resources" section of its website. The information covers:

Campus Terrain – It is hilly! The website links to campus maps that include accessible directions, parking and entrances for most campus buildings. For the best routes depending on mobility impairments, contact the ODS office.

University Housing – Students with disabilities can request housing accommodations. The ODS website provides a link to the Department of Housing and Residential Life "Requests for University Housing Accommodations Based on Disability-Related Needs."

Fire and Emergency Evacuation – Every building on campus has an evacuation plan for emergencies. Faculty and staff have a general responsibility to assist and require students to evacuate. The ODS website offers a "Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures for Persons with Disabilities" that students, especially those with mobility impairments, should be familiar with.

Gender Neutral Restrooms – The university has accessible gender neutral restroom facilities throughout the campus for those with special needs. Locations of those restrooms are listed at www.ods.txstate.edu/Student-Resources/Services/Gender-Neutral-Restrooms.

Parking – Parking for disabled persons is available throughout campus. The website describes the policy for parking legally on campus, especially in designated disabled parking spaces.

Service/Assistance Animals – While pets are generally prohibited in the classroom and campus residence halls, there are accommodations available to individuals requiring the use of a service/assistance animal on campus. The website provides the procedures for service animals.

Transportation – The Bobcat Tram, the university's student transportation system, includes buses equipped with lifts to meet Federal ADA requirements. These buses provide transportation on campus and to areas nearby, including major student apartment communities. The website provides links to the Bobcat Tram and Auxiliary Services websites for students who need additional information or special accommodations.

Message to parents with disabilities:

Located on a hill, our campus is not always the easiest one in which to get around. When visiting us or your student, you are encouraged to visit the Office of Disability Services (ODS) website for tips on parking and building accessibility. One event we hope you will attend is your student's graduation. If you or any member of your family will be attending graduation, please visit the "Commencement" information in the "Campus Resources" section of the ODS website. It provides information on recommended arrival times, parking, shuttle services, accessible seating, and sign language interpreting services.

Scholarships

There are various university scholarships designated for students with disabilities. The scholarships range from $250-$1000. In addition, organizations outside of the university offer scholarships in values of up to $10,000. For information on these scholarships, including how to apply, click on "General Information" in the "Student Resources" section of the ODS website.

Parent Tip: Generally, the parents of students with disabilities have been very involved in their children's educational endeavors. From K-12, parents have full access to student records. In college, parents should continue to provide support and encouragement to their students but understand that privacy laws and accommodations are different than K-12. The Office of Disability Services website offers "Parent Information" to parents to help make the transition from high school to college smoother (www.ods.txstate.edu/Parent-Information). The information includes tips on how parents can help their student and highlights of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The website also explains the difference between the services/accomodations students may have received in public schools under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and what they may receive in college under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. For additional information on FERPA, see this handbook's section on the topic.

To Do: Students whose disability may have affected their academic record and worry about the competitiveness of their application for admission to Texas State can talk about how their disability affected their K-12 educational experience when answering the essay question on any challenges you may have faced in your life. For students who do not meet the standard admission requirements may qualify for conditional admission and participation in the Emerging STARS program.

F.Y.I. ODS' philosophy in providing services is one of self-advocacy. This helps students develop life-long habits and skills to help them succeed in their academic, personal, and professional lives. Like all other students, individuals with disabilities will sometimes make mistakes. An essential part of the learning process is the ability to learn from and fix those mistakes. With this in mind, ODS recommends that students with disabilities contact the office during the application process to see what accommodations they could expect and decide if they are comfortable with their selection of school and confident that the accommodations will facilitate their success. For students with disabilities who do enroll at Texas State, ODS recommends that they take the class EDP 1350 during their first semester.

Students who manage a disability or mental disorder with medication should be careful to remain on their regimen on their own since parents will typically not be on hand everyday to monitor this treatment. Students should also plan how they will continue with any medical treatment they are receiving – will they return home to see your medical provider(s) or will they begin seeing someone on campus or the surrounding community?

Aside from securing accommodations to help ensure their success, students registered with ODS also have the ability to register early for classes. ODS serves students with disabilities, who suspect may have a disability, or have a temporary disability. To learn more about ODS, the services it provides and additional information on resources for students with disabilities and their families, visit the ODS website at www.ods.txstate.edu (see directory). The

website includes information for prospective students, an ODS Student Handbook, and a Handbook for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the "Student Resources" section.

GENDER IDENTITY/SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The number of students identifying themselves as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transsexual (GLBT) has grown and today's traditional college-aged generation is described as more open to non-traditional sexual identities. Still, the close quarters of campus residence halls and past experiences of discrimination or hostility may cause anxiety in GLBT students as they transition to college.

The Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) division, through a team composed of members from different student support offices, coordinates an Allies Program. The Allies of Texas State program aims to create and sustain "safe places" where LGBTQ persons can speak with an Ally in confidence and without fear of being judged. The person in that safe place will work to help them address any concerns they may have or direct them to the person/office that can. Like the Office of Disability Services helps ensure that students with disabilities have access and can participate in all aspects of campus life, so does the Allies program for GLBT students. The Allies program does this by providing information, trainings, and social gatherings; honoring diversity; and fostering a welcoming campus environment.

The multi-colored placard identifies "safe places" on campus. For a list of Allies, visit the "About Us" section of the Allies website at http://www.txstate.edu/allies/.

For students whose questions about or their experience related to their sexual identity strain their academic success, personal development, or personal relationships, the Counseling Center can offer individual counseling. In addition, students can participate in a Counseling Center sponsored and led group that fosters an inclusive and supportive environment where students can share their experiences with each other. Individual and support groups can help students as they develop their gender and sexual identity. For Counseling Center contact information see the directory section of this handbook.

GLOSSARY/CONCEPTS

College will be a new experience for students. With this new experience will come new terminology or "campus lingo." Knowing the words in this glossary will be helpful for students in their new environment. By knowing these words, parents will be better able to understand their children's experience when they hear these words.

Academic Probation – An indication that a student's Texas State cumulative GPA has fallen below 2.0. Students on academic probation must raise their grades to a 2.0 Texas State cumulative GPA or better. Students who do not improve their grades during the following semester of being placed on probation will face Academic Suspension unless granted an extension by their academic dean. Not to be confused with Disciplinary Probation.

Academic Suspension – A suspension from the university based a student's inability to improve their Texas State cumulative GPA to 2.0 or higher after being on Academic Probation. Academic Suspensions are for a specified period of time or until an academic department reinstates the student based on an appeal or bringing the grade to 2.0 or higher during summer enrollment. Not to be confused with Disciplinary Suspension.

Allies – A program that trains students, faculty and staff on the challenges faced by members of the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) community in an effort to provide "safe places" where LGBTQs can seek assistance without fear of being judged. The term *Ally* is also used to refer to a person or office that is committed to helping LGBTQ persons succeed and have equal access to all aspects of the college experience. For more information on the Allies program at Texas State or issues faced by LGBTQ issues, see page 49).

Bobcat Build – An annual, student-led, large-scale community service event where Texas State students and employees give back to the San Marcos community. Hundreds of volunteers work on various sites ranging from individual homes of low socio economic status residents to large public facilities. Visit http://www.bobcatbuild.txstate.edu/ for more information.

Buckley Amendment – see FERPA.

Buildings – most buildings on campus have abbreviations that are used on maps, schedules, or other university materials. For a list of all building names and abbreviations and a map/picture of the building, see the Building Master List at www.maps.txstate.edu/campus/building.html.

College – There are two meanings for college. The first one refers to an educational institution that awards degrees at a level beyond college. There are different types of colleges such as community and junior colleges, four-year colleges and universities, and vocational schools and each offers a different type of degree and experience. The following website for Adventures in Education (a program of Texas Guaranteed, listed in the useful links section of this handbook) provides information that explains the differences between these types of colleges: http://www.aie.org/planning-for-college/index.cfm.

The second meaning for college refers to one of several organizational units within the university that groups smaller departments based on their related majors and subjects. There are eight undergraduate colleges at Texas State: Applied Arts, Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts & Communication, Health Professions, Liberal Arts, Science, and General Studies. The Graduate College coordinates the admission of students seeking a master's or graduate degree after they have completed their bachelor's, or undergraduate, degree.

Common Experience – A year-long initiative at Texas State designed to cultivate a common intellection conversation and to foster a sense of community across the campus and university community. Each year the Common Experience theme is different. New students receive their Common Experience summer reading book during New Student Orientation. Various activities, including high profile national speakers are scheduled throughout the year to enhance the Common Experience.

Commuter – A student who does not live on campus. Rather than living in a dormitory or university apartment, commuter students travel from an off-campus residence using their own transportation or the university's student bus transportation system.

Convocation – An annual ceremony at the beginning of each fall semester where faculty, staff, student leaders, and community members welcome new students to Texas State.

Core Curriculum – A set of courses that serve as the common educational foundation for all students. These courses are commonly referred to as "the basics". The core curriculum makes up about 1/3 of each undergraduate degree program. Some courses are specifically required (for example English 1310 & 1320) while others are presented as electives (choose one of eight different math courses).

Credit Hour – Also known as Semester Credit Hour or SHC, as a rule, the number of credit hours assigned to a course indicating the number of hours the class meets each week. A three-hour course normally meets for three hours a week; it might, for example, meet from 1-2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday. Lab and PE/PFW classes are the exception; they generally meet for longer periods of time.

Dead Day – Any day between the last day of classes and the first day of final exams. Dead days are scheduled to allow students time to prepare for final exams.

Dean – There are two types of Deans at Texas State. One is the Dean of Students (DOS). There is only one Dean of Students and this person oversees various important functions and student services. The Dean of Students' office serves as a clearinghouse to refer students to appropriate campus offices that can help them address their concerns. DOS staff members advise, mediate and conduct judicial reviews. They also educate and support students and student organizations, provide legal advice, conduct judicial reviews of alleged student misconduct, notify faculty of extended absences for family emergencies, illnesses, or deaths in a student's immediate family, and notify faculty of class absences by students for religious holy

days. The office publishes and is responsible for the enforcement of the Code of Student Conduct.

The second type of Dean is an Academic Dean. Every college (see definition of college in this glossary) has a person, or Dean, who serves as the director or supervisor for that college. When a student is not able to resolve an academic matter at the level of the instructor or the departmental chair, the matters is usually addressed by the Dean of the department involved. There are eight undergraduate college deans and one Graduate College dean. These matters include grievances and grade disputes.

Disciplinary Expulsion – Permanent separation of a student from the university for disciplinary reasons. An expulsion from Texas State bars a student from ever enrolling in any of the schools that are part of the Texas State University System. See *TSUS* in this glossary for more information on the Texas State University System.

Disciplinary Probation – The conditional enrollment status of a student for disciplinary reasons. Enrollment is conditioned upon adherence to university policies, particularly the Code of Student Conduct. A probation period is for a definite length of time during which a student may not hold an executive student organization office or represent the university in any special honorary role.

Disciplinary Suspension – Separation of a student from the university, for disciplinary reasons, for a definite term. The term may range from one semester to several years. During a disciplinary suspension from Texas State, students are barred from enrolling in any of the schools that are part of the Texas State University System. See *TSUS* in this glossary for more information on the Texas State University System.

Dorm or Dormitory – see Residence Hall

Drop – To reduce the number of hours in which a student is enrolled by deleting a course(s) from the current semester's class schedule but remaining enrolled in at least one hour of coursework. The date a student drops a class will determine if the student receives a refund for tuitions and fees associated with the dropped course. To learn more about refunds for dropped courses, students should visit the "Student Services" section of the Student Business Services website at http://www.sbs.txstate.edu/. (See also Withdraw which is similar but should not be confused with each other.)

Faculty – Any professional who teaches a class for credit at Texas State and is responsible for assigning students a grade for the class. Faculty may hold different titles such as instructor, lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor. In college, the word "faculty" is used instead of "teachers".

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid, see page 69.

FERPA – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the federal law that requires universities to protect student records and privacy. For more information on FERPA, also known as the Buckley Amendment, see page 70.

Full-time enrollment or Full-time student – Enrollment in or an undergraduate student enrolled in at least 12 hours of semester credit hours.

GPA – short for Grade Point Average, is derived by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the number of credit hours attempted. Grade points are based on a system in which an A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, and F=0. The total grade points for a class is the number based on the grade multiplied by the number of credit hours for the class. For example, an A in a one-hour PE class would earn 4 points while a B in a three-hour course would earn 9 points. The points of all classes in a semester divided by the credit hours in that semester equals the semester GPA. The points of all classes attended at Texas State divided by all the credit hours at Texas State equals the Texas State cumulative GPA. The overall GPA includes the GPA for any transfer credits (earned at other colleges) and the Texas State cumulative GPA. Every time a student earns a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher, the student makes the Dean's List and a notation is made on the student's transcript. Whenever a student's Texas State cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, the student is placed on academic probation.

Grants – When referring to financial aid, grants are need-based awards given to students to help pay for college. Unlike loans, grants do not have to be repaid.

Loans – When referring to financial aid, money loaned to a student or parent meant to be used for college expenses and which must be repaid (with interest) when the student graduates or stops going to school for 6 straight months.

Mall – The pedestrian area between the LBJ Student Center and the Alkek Library. This area is often used by student organizations for fundraisers, recruitment and other activities. Other buildings in close proximity to the mall are the Health Professions Building, McCoy, Elliot Hall and Jones Diner.

Non-Traditional Student – Generally refers to an undergraduate student who is over 23 years old or did not enroll in college directly after high school. See also NTSO.

NTSO – Non-Traditional Student Organization, a chartered Texas State organization for Non-Traditional Students. In addition to undergraduate students over 23 years of age, the organization includes under its definition of non-traditional anyone who is under 17 years of age, currently/formerly married, a parent or guardian, employed full-time, disabled, a military veteran, or whose life experience separates them from the traditional student. For more information on NTSO visit http://www.lbjsc.txstate.edu/ntso/.

Office Hours – Scheduled times during the week when faculty members are available to provide students additional help outside of the classroom. During these times, faculty are available in

their offices to help, for example, by further explaining material presented in class, answering questions about assignments, discussing past or upcoming absences, or addressing any concern/opportunity related to the student's academic performance. Faculty members often are also available during other times by appointment or via phone. Visiting a faculty member during office hours is not reserved for addressing "problems". Office hours are a good time for students to introduce themselves to teachers, especially instructors of large classes which may not provide the opportunity for faculty and students to interact on an individual basis.

Ombudsman – A person recognized or designated by an organization to help individuals understand rules, policies, procedures, rights and responsibilities as well as offer suggestions when addressing conflicts between the organization and its members. The Dean of Students Office provides currently enrolled students Ombudsman Services to address university-related challenges, for example with instructors, employers, or any university department, in accordance with appropriate University Policies and Procedures Statements.

Part-time enrollment or Part-time student – Enrollment in or an undergraduate student enrolled in less than 12 hours of semester credit hours.

Prerequisite – A course that a student must take before taking another. For example, Math 2311 is a prerequisite for Math 2312. Not all students may be required to take Math 2312 but for those who do, they will also need to take Math 2311.

Probation – See Academic Probation and Disciplinary Probation

Quad – The campus' central pedestrian area. This area is located in the center of campus. Thousands of students walk through the quad every day to get to classes. The quad is surrounded by academic buildings with Old Main (the university's oldest building) on the east end and the Alkek Library on the west end. Other buildings on the quad include Centennial Hall, Derrick Hall, Flowers Hall, Taylor-Murphy Hall, Evans Liberal Arts Building, and Psychology Building. A slang word used to refer to the act of meeting friends or spending time between classes on the quad is Quadulate/Quadulating.

RA – Residence Assistant, a student hired to live in a residence hall to help students adjust to living on campus and to serve as a peer advisor. Residence assistants also have supervisory responsibilities in their residence hall.

Registrar's Office – The office primarily responsible for maintaining accurate student records, including contact information, enrollment history, grades, and transcripts. This office creates the schedule of classes (the list of all the classes that will be offered each semester) and is responsible for the registration system.

Registration – The time when students register for the classes they will take. New students must go through an advising session with an Academic Advisor during New Student Orientation before reserving their classes.

Residence Hall – Previously commonly referred to as dormitories, or simply dorms, residence halls are the traditional housing option for new students. These buildings include "traditional" or "community" halls (2 students in one room with community bathrooms shared by several rooms), suite halls (usually two students in a room and 2-4 rooms connected by a shared bathroom), and super-suite halls (with 1-2 students in a room with 2-4 rooms sharing a common living area and with semi-private bathrooms, usually two students per bathroom).

Student Center – The Lyndon Baines Johnson Student Center, LBJ Student Center, LBJ, or simply student center, is centrally located between Alkek Library and the McCoy College of Business, the LBJ Student Center has something for everyone, musical entertainment, educational lectures, video arcade, shopping, dining, computer labs, study areas, rest areas, pool hall, and student services such as Career Services, Counseling Center, and Campus Activities for Student Organizations. Many student organizations have their meetings in the Student Center. Often referred to as the living room or game room of campus – if the campus was a house!

SVC - Student Volunteer Connection, a chartered student organization that promotes civic engagement through service learning and volunteer opportunities in the community.

Syllabus – The course agenda that will be used by a faculty member for the semester. A syllabus generally includes the faculty member's office hours, required and optional books, grading formula, reading and homework assignments and deadlines, class expectations, assignment instructions, and attendance policy. The syllabus is intended to provide all or most of the information that a student will need on the first day of class to understand what will be expected to successfully complete the course. If after reviewing a syllabus, a student has concerns about being able to meet the expectations or any conflicts with other academic or personal commitments, the student should speak with the instructor. If the conflict cannot be resolved, it may be best to consider dropping the class and registering in a class at a different time, with a different teacher, or at a later semester.

THECB – Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, a state agency that *provides leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system* in an effort to ensure the quality of a Texas college degree and expand access to college for Texans. THECB serves a function similar to the one served by the Texas Education Agency for K-12 schools. For more information on THECB, visit www.thecb.state.tx.us/.

TSUS – See Texas State University System

Texas State University System – The university system of which Texas State is a part. In addition to Texas State (San Marcos & Round Rock campuses), the TSUS includes all campuses of Lamar University, Sam Houston State University, Sul Ross State University, Lamar Institute of Technology, and Lamar State College. For more information on the TSUS and links to each of its member schools, visit www.tsus.edu.

Undecided – When referring to majors, the term means to be in the process of exploring and selecting a major. It is also used to refer to the students who have not chosen a major.

Undecided-professional – When referring to majors, the term means to be interested in admission into the McCoy College of Business Administration. Students who want to declare a major in the College of Business Administration must declare Undecided-professional until they are admitted into the college.

UPD – University Police Department

West Campus – The part of the university located west of Comanche St. This area includes the Student Recreation Center, West Campus Athletic Fields, Harris Dining Hall, The Glade Theatre, and the Speck Parking Garage. Residence halls on West Campus include Bexar, Blanco, and San Marcos Halls; Apartments include Campus Colony and Comanche Hill. This area also includes the Family and Consumer Science, Joanne C. Mitte, Roy F. Mitte, and Jerome Supple Science academic buildings. Visit http://www.fss.txstate.edu/planning/map/west.html for a map of this area.

Withdraw – To reduce the number of hours enrolled in to zero by deleting all course from one's class schedule in the current semester. When a student withdraws from classes will determine if the student receives a refund for tuitions and fees. To learn more about refunds, students should visit the "Student Services" section of the Student Business Services website at http://www.sbs.txstate.edu/ (See also Drop which is similar but should not be confused with each other.)

Work-study – When referring to financial aid, a dollar amount offered to students based on need but which students must earn through hourly employment. Unlike loans, this type of aid does not have to be repaid. Unlike grants, the money is not available upfront but must be earned throughout the semester. Work study income can help students have a modest, but steady income while at school to help cover their monthly living expenses and incidentals such as toiletries, entertainment and travel.

DIRECTORY & INDEX

This directory lists departments cited within the handbook that were double-underlined (and the page numbers). Some entries have only website and contact information while others have additional information.

The mailing address to any department on campus is:
Office Name & Location
601 University Dr.
San Marcos, TX 78666

For a map and picture of any campus building and its abbreviation (or to learn what a building abbreviation means) see the Building Master List at www.maps.txstate.edu/campus/buildings.html.

Admissions	
Cited on Pages	4-6, 9, 11, 13 (Also see New Student Orientation)
Website	www.admissions.txstate.edu
E-mail	admissions@txstate.edu; for the Visitors Center, visitorscenter@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2364; Visitors Center, 512-245-8871
Fax	512-245-8100
Location	The Admissions Office is housed in its own building at 429 N. Guadalupe St. The Visitors Center is housed in LBJ Student Center Suite # 3-19.1.

Interested students can begin exploring Texas State by visiting the University's Web Homepage at www.txstate.edu. For more specific information on admissions, visit the admissions website (www.admissions.txstate.edu). There, students can review the admission requirements and learn what documentation and forms they will need to complete their application. The website includes information on different admissions categories for students who do not meet the general requirements or did not earn a typical high school diploma, for example, students who completed a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) or were home-schooled. Information on residency/citizenship requirements and options is included.

At the admissions website students can access the admissions application used for all Texas public schools (through www.applytexas.org) and check the status of their application. For those who don't have readily available internet access, a paper application is available through your high school guidance/academic counselor but may take longer to be processed.

Go to the admissions website to learn what degrees are offered at Texas State and to plan a campus visit, whether with your family or as part of a school group. The "Visit Campus" section has directions and information on campus tours, open house (Bobcat Days), and the Visitors Center.

NOTES:

Alkek Library (Albert B. Alkek)	
Cited on Pages	44
Website	www.library.txstate.edu
E-mail	library@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2686
Fax	512-245-0392
Location	The library is housed in its own building.
NOTES:	

Campus Activities and Student Organizations	
Cited on Pages	24, 27
Website	http://www.lbjsc.txstate.edu/caso/about/mission.html
E-mail	campusactivities@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-3219
Fax	-
Location	LBJ Student Center Suite 4-11.1.
NOTES:	

Career Services	
Cited on Pages	20
Website	www.careerservices.txstate.edu
E-mail	CareerServices@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2645
Fax	512-245-3993
Location	LBJ Student Center Suite 5-7.1.
NOTES:	

Counseling Center	
Cited on Pages	10, 30-31, 34, 36-37, 49
Website	www.counseling.txstate.edu
E-mail	counselingcenter@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2208
Fax	512-245-2234
Location	LBJ Student Center Suite 5-4.1.

The Counseling Center helps students overcome a variety of personal, social, career, and academic issues that call for assistance beyond advice provided by friends and family. This is done through individual, group, and relationship counseling; crisis and consultative sessions; and informational presentations about student mental health issues. By overcoming emotional and psychological problems, students are better able to succeed in school and develop personally.

In individual counseling, a student can discuss a variety of issues. This is a short-term service, however, if a student needs long-term services, the counseling center can refer a student to an appropriate outside agency.

In Group Counseling, students participate in therapy groups after an initial pre-screening appointment. Like in individual counseling, group counseling is strictly confidential. There are groups for a variety of topics including: First Generation College Students Support; Gender Identity; Support for Student Veterans; Anger Management; Anxiety; and Adult Children of Alcoholics.

Counseling Center services are provided at no cost to currently enrolled students. To schedule an Initial Consultation (ICON), call or visit the Counseling Center.

For students who are not ready to participate in counseling services but wish to learn more about typical issues or problem they or their peers may be experiencing, the Counseling Center maintains a "Self-Help" section on its website with links to an extensive virtual pamphlet collection.

Emergency Help

During business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., students in need of urgent psychological assistance should call the Counseling Center. An on-call counselor is available during those times to assist.

After business hours, students can call the Avail Crisis Hotline (Toll Free) at 1-877-466-0660 and identify themselves as a Texas State University student. This service can provide helpful information, make referrals, and (if needed) inform the Hays County Mobil Crisis Team for follow up.

Other emergency contact numbers are available on the Counseling Center's website under "Emergency Info."

NOTES:

Dean of Students (DOS)	
Cited on Pages	27, 38, 51-52
Website	www.dos.txstate.edu
E-mail	dos@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2124
Fax	512-245-8268
Location	LBJ Student Center Suite 5-9.1.

The DOS office acts as a clearinghouse to refer students and their families to appropriate campus offices. Through its services, it strives to foster a welcoming environment that is inclusive, safe and conducive to learning. The DOS reviews and recommends action for student conduct issues at the individual, group and organization level. The office notifies faculty of student's extended absences due to family emergencies, illnesses or deaths within the immediate family as well as for religious holy days. The DOS office publishes the Texas State Student Handbook. Departments of the DOS include Student Justice, Ombudsman, Emergency Services, Attorney for Students, and Leadership Programs. The DOS advises two chartered student organizations: Associated Student Government and Student Foundation.

NOTES:

Department of Housing and Residential Life (DHRL)	
Cited on Pages	22, 28-29, 31, 46
Website	www.reslife.txstate.edu
E-mail	reslife@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2382
Fax	512-245-7619
Location	J.C. Kellam, Suite 320/380

DHRL is responsible for all residence halls on campus (commonly referred to as dorms). Visit the website to learn more about the University Housing Policy, housing options and rates, and how to make Texas State your home away from home – literally! The website has information to help "Prospective Residents" make their residence hall reservation and information for "Current Residents" on how they can (and can't) personalize their living space. Included in the website is an "Informed Families" section.

NOTES:

Educational Talent Search (ETS)	
Cited on Pages	7, 8
Website	www.msa.txstate.edu (under "Affiliations")
E-mail	-
Phone	512-821-0025 (Austin)
Fax	512-821-0027 (Austin)
Location	7901 Cameron Road, Building #3, Suite 360, Austin, TX 78745

The Texas State ETS serves Travis County. If you live outside of Travis County, ask your school counselor or GO Center representative about the ETS program nearest you.

NOTES:

Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS)	
Cited on Pages	15-20
Website	www.finaid.txstate.edu
E-mail	-
Phone	512-245-2315
Fax	512-245-7920
Location	J.C. Kellam, Suite 240

For answers to many financial aid questions, 24 hours a day, visit FAS' FA Answer Bank at http://txstate.custhelp.com.

NOTES:

Information Technology (IT)	
Cited on Pages	34
Website	http://www.vpit.txstate.edu/
E-mail	-
Phone	512-245-9650
Fax	512-245-1226
Location	J.C. Kellam, Suite 940

The Information Technology Division, comprised of Technology Resources, Instructional Technologies Support, and Alkek Library, strives to provide effective leadership and support for the management of information services that enhance teaching, research, student learning, and administrative activities.

NOTES:

Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC)	
Cited on Pages	34
Website	www.tr.txstate.edu/itac
E-mail	itac@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-ITAC (4822)
Fax	-
Location	Math Computer Science (MCS) Building, 2nd floor
For live chat, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., visit http://livechat.tr.txstate.edu NOTES:	

Mentoring Program	
Cited on Pages	26
Website	www.vpsa.txstate.edu (under "Programs and Services")
E-mail	mentoring@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2152
Fax	512-245-7979
Location	J.C. Kellam, Suite 980
The Mentoring Program is a program of the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA). More information on the program, including how to join is available in the "Programs and Services" section of the VPSA website. While students can sign up for the program at any time during their first year, It is recommended that they do so after they are accepted to Texas State and prior to their arrival. This helps ensure that when the students arrives for their first semester, they will have somebody on campus ready to help them on a one-on-one basis. If an applicant requests it, the program staff will try to match new students with a mentor of similar major/academic area of interest, gender, and/or race/ethnicity. NOTES:	

Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA)	
Cited on Pages	7-8, 19, 25-27, 44
Website	www.msa.txstate.edu
E-mail	msa@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2278
Fax	512-245-1454
Location	LBJ Student Center Suite 5-2.1

One of the goals of MSA is to provide opportunities for underrepresented and first generation college students succeed in a culturally diverse and global society. It meets this goal, in part, by offering programs that help recruit underrepresented and FGCSs and by supporting them through their years at Texas State with the goal of helping them reach graduation.

NOTES:

New Student Orientation (NSO)	
Cited on Pages	11-12, 22, 30-31, 40
Website	www.admissions.txstate.edu (under "Admitted Students")
E-mail	nso@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-3655
Fax	512-245-8100
Location	Admissions Building at 429 N. Guadalupe St.

New Student Orientation is a program of the Admissions office.

NOTES:

Office of Disability Services (ODS)	
Cited on Pages	46-49
Website	www.ods.txstate.edu
E-mail	ods@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-3451
Fax	512-245-3452
Location	LBJ Student Center Suite # 5-5.1.

NOTES:

Parents Association (PA)	
Cited on Pages	19, 31
Website	www.txstate.edu/parents
E-mail	parents@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2395
Fax	512-245-1181
Location	Hill House # 100

In the past, the association used membership funds to support the programs designed to assist student learning, to explore career possibilities and development, and to integrate students into social organizations that will round out their education. Now, the funds will continue to offer support to programs but will also be used for scholarship relief for endowments that have been negatively affected by the recent economic downturn.

Parents who want to learn about others' experiences being a part of the Parents Association can read "Success Stories" and "Parent Comments" on the association's website.

NOTES:

PAWS Preview	
Cited on Pages	12-13, 40
Website	www.pawspreview.txstate.edu
E-mail	PAWSPreview@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-8295
Fax	-
Location	-

NOTES:

Rural Talent Search (RTS)	
Cited on Pages	7-8
Website	www.msa.txstate.edu (under "Affiliations")
E-mail	-
Phone	512-245-8135; 1-800-710-9279
Fax	512-245-8589
Location	Academic Services Building North (ASBN) # 308

The Texas State RTS serves Goodnight Middle School & San Marcos High School (both in San Marcos, TX) and Seguin High School (in Seguin, TX). If you do not attend these schools, ask your school counselor or GO Center representative about the RTS program nearest you.

NOTES:

Student Health Center (SHC)	
Cited on Pages	34-36
Website	www.healthcenter.txstate.edu
E-mail	healthcenter@txstate.edu; This e-mail is for general information about the SHC only. For medical questions, call a nurse at 512-245-2167, option 2.
Phone	See below.
Fax	See below
Location	The SHC is a medical clinic housed in its own building at 298 Student Center Dr. The mailing address is the university address (601 University Dr.).

Clinic and Pharmacy Hours:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday — 8 a.m. - 5 a.m.
- Tuesday, Thursday — 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Phone Numbers:

For Emergencies, call 911

- Appointments: 512-245-2167
- General Information: 512-245-2161, option 3
- Pharmacy: 512-245-3590
- After-Hours Nurse Advice Line: 512-245-2167
- Administration Fax: 512-245-3918
- Medical Records Fax: 512-245-9288
- Health Education Resource Center: 512-245-2309

The Student Health Center has the resources to provide health information that would be useful for class projects or research papers. Follow the link above to electronically submit your request.

NOTES:

Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC)	
Cited on Pages	22, 43-45
Website	www.txstate.edu/slac
E-mail	-
Phone	512-245-2515, office; 512-245-2996, lab
Fax	512-245-3002
Location	Alkek Library, 4th floor

NOTES:

Student Support Services	
Cited on Pages	44
Website	www.msa.txstate.edu (under "Affiliations")
E-mail	-
Phone	512-245-2275
Fax	512-245-1623
Location	LBJ Student Center, Suite 5-6.1

SSS Serves students who need academic support and meet one or more of the following: First-generation college student (neither parent has a four-year degree), meet U.S. Department of Education low income guidelines or have a documented physical or learning disability on file with the Office of Disability Services or Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

The SSS website has additional information, including application forms.

NOTES:

Success Initiative Program (SIP)	
Cited on Pages	5
Website	www.txstate.edu/tsip
E-mail	tsip@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-3942
Fax	512-245-7648
Location	Academic Services Building North Rm. 101

The THEA website is www.thea.nesinc.com

NOTES:

Testing, Research Support and Evaluation Center (TREC)	
Cited on Pages	4-5
Website	www.txstate.edu/trec
E-mail	Call for the best e-mail address as this may change.
Phone	512-245-2276
Fax	512-245-2903
Location	Harris Dining Hall (Underground), Intersection of Moore & Read St.

Harris Underground is located behind the student recreation center.

To find us, visit campus map at http://www.maps.txstate.edu/campus/buildings/hdh.html

For parking information, visit testing-research-evaluation/other/parking.html

NOTES:

Upward Bound	
Cited on Pages	7-8, 14, 25
Website	www.msa.txstate.edu (under "Affiliations")
E-mail	-
Phone	512-245-3838; 1-800-211-6829
Fax	512-245-7868
Location	The Long House

The Texas State Upward Bound serves students attending Lehman (Kyle, TX), San Marcos (San Marcos, TX) and Seguin (Seguin, TX) High Schools. If you do not attend these schools, live outside of Travis County, ask your school counselor or GO Center representative about the Upward Bound program nearest you.

NOTES:

University College	
Cited on Pages	31, 42, 44
Website	http://www.txstate.edu/ucollege/
E-mail	ucadvising@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-3579
Fax	512-245-8765
Location	Academic Service Building North # 100

NOTES:

University College Advising Center	
Cited on Pages	8, 14
Website	http://www.ucollege.txstate.edu/advising/
E-mail	ucadvising@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2218
Fax	512-245-8765
Location	Academic Service Building North # 100

"Ask an Advisor!" is available at the University College Advising Center's website.

NOTES:

University Police Department (UPD)	
Cited on Pages	32-34, 38-39, 56
Website	www.police.txstate.edu
E-mail	police@txstate.edu
Phone	For emergencies or crimes in progress, call 911. During business hours, 512-245-2890. Nights and weekends, 512-245-2805.
Fax	-
Location	Nueces Building (615 North LBJ Dr., San Marcos, TX 78666)
NOTES:	

University Seminar (US 1100)	
Cited on Pages	39-40, 44
Website	http://www.txstate.edu/ucollege/universityseminar/
E-mail	Call for e-mail address.
Phone	512-245-7952
Fax	512-245-7908
Location	Academic Services Building North, Room 410
NOTES:	

Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA)	
Cited on Pages	13-14, 17, 23, 26, 38, 40, 43, 49
Website	www.vpsa.txstate.edu
E-mail	vpsa@txstate.edu
Phone	512-245-2152
Fax	512-245-7979
Location	JC Kellam, Rm. 980

The Student Affairs Division includes most of the student support services outside of academic advising and tutoring/supplemental instruction. All services provided under the umbrella of Student Affairs, contribute to students' college experience and their retention through graduation. The VPSA office not only supervises divisional efforts, it also serves as a hub for student success initiatives and information. The "Academic Support Resources" section of the VPSA website lists numerous services, resources, and programs available on campus to assist students in there studying and academic endeavors. To help students purposely engage in activities that support skill development and success, the VPSA offers an online "Student Success Plan." The plan includes various components of success, including leadership, career, financial, social/engagement, personal and academic. Also on the VPSA website, students can find useful information on time management and effective study habits. The VPSA office collaborates with Academic Affairs to provide students on academic probation with workshops that can help them improve their grades and return to good academic standing.

NOTES:

HELPFUL LINKS

These agencies and websites are not part of Texas State and are provided as additional sources of information and assistance in your pursuit of a college degree.

Texas State is not responsible for the content of these websites.

College for all Texans
www.collegefortexans.com
English & Spanish (Disponible en Español)
A website of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, this site provides information on choosing the right college, taking tests necessary for college admission, applying for college and financial aid, and saving and paying for college. The site has a section to help students at the middle school and high school level as well as their parents, "make a plan" for college.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
www.fafsa.ed.gov
English & Spanish (Disponible en Español)
The FAFSA is required to apply for federal financial aid. This website has the application and instructions for applying. The FAFSA4caster feature helps students learn about the financial aid process and get an early estimate of their eligibility for federal student aid. It also has information on financing a college education, loan forgiveness and repayment options, as well as other tools , resources and a financial aid glossary.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
(Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education)
www.irs.gov/publications/p970/index.html
This particular section of the IRS website presents information that may help students and their families finance a college education, reduce their tax liability, and ensure compliance when filing their tax returns.

Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG)
http://www.tgslc.org/
TG is a public, nonprofit Corporation that administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program in order to improve access to higher education for millions of families and students. TG provides information, financing (loans), and assistance to students and their families. Its website includes tools to help students and their families pay for college and manage their money. The website also has features to help students select a college and find scholarships (which are preferred over loans). Be sure to click on their Adventures in Education (aie) feature in the "Families and Students" section.

FERPA (FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT)

"FERPA" was mentioned in this handbook and you will likely hear the word throughout your college career. FERPA refers to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and is also known as the Buckley Amendment. It is the federal law that gave parents the right to inspect their student's records from K-12 school level and protected the records from being disclosed to unauthorized individuals. Once a student enters the university (regardless of their age), those rights and privacy belong to the student. For parents who are concerned about obtaining information about their student, there are some ways they may be able to obtain the information. To learn more about FERPA and exceptions to the rule, visit the FERPA section of the Registrar's website at www.registrar.txstate.edu. The website includes information for and answers to questions frequently asked by students and their families. The website also has information on how students can further protect their privacy and explains the circumstances under which the university may be able or obligated to disclose their information. The easiest way for parents to have access to student records is for the student to agree and provide that access. The Registrar's website contains forms that can be used to facilitate parent's access to these records and links to additional FERPA information.

PLANNER (JR. & SR. YEARS)

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August						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

To Do

Task	Deadline	Done

NOTES

FINAL NOTES

Final Note to Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to read this far is this rather long handbook. Hopefully you found the information in it useful. This handbook was originally going to have information on the privacy practices of and procedures for parents to obtain information from all of the offices named in it. Doing so would have resulted in a much longer handbook and would have included practices too flexible to list as policies. Instead, information was only included for the offices which had developed a specific policy and procedure for doing so. For all others, please review the page with FERPA information and understand that all offices at Texas State want your student to succeed. If you call, they will gladly answer any general questions you may have about their services, processes or procedures. Most will not be able to disclose specific information about your child directly to you unless it is deemed necessary to maintain your child's safety or if your child had authorized them to do so. And, if university officials feel it is necessary to contact you to ensure your child's safety they will not hesitate to do so. Outside of these circumstances, it is generally best for parents to communicate directly with their students. If necessary, conference calls or in person visits may be possible. Having the student available for the call or appointment will make it easier for university personnel to share information with you. Ultimately, students seeking services or answers to their questions on their own and sharing information with parents will contribute to students' growth process and will help students take responsibility for their decisions. Encourage your student to learn to resolve their challenges rather than resolving the challenges for them. All this can contribute to the student-parent dialogue.

Thank you for trusting your child to go off to college. Most parents will say that their children are the most important people in the world to them and understandably will want to protect them as much and as long as possible. But, part of growing up and healthy development involves the ability for young adults to be able to make decisions for themselves and face the consequences of their actions. College life will be an exciting time for your child and we hope that it will also be an exciting time for you.

Thank you for trusting Texas State. Whether your student attending Texas State will put 6 city blocks or over 600 miles between you, Texas State will do whatever reasonably possible to keep him/her and the other more than 30,000 students safe. Please think of us not just as the school your child is attending but your partner in an exciting journey.

But, most importantly, thank you for supporting your child in achieving the goal of completing a college education. Without your support, achieving that goal would be very difficult.

Final Note to Students: Thank you for taking the time to read this handbook. Hopefully you will use it often as you prepare to go to college (Texas State!) As you embark on your journey to establishing a new family tradition, know that there are many people supporting you – your family and friends at home and many here at Texas State (many themselves FGCSs) who one day you will also call family and friends. Together, we look forward to your success.

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