Avoiding Troubles & Staying Safe

**Student Counseling Service**

Students are invited to talk with counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists about any concerns that affect their academic progress, educational goals, choice of career, personal social effectiveness or emotional well-being. In counseling, the focus is on assisting students with developing academic, career choice and personal skills; understanding themselves and their concerns; and making decisions and changes that they judge are best for them.

Academic Counseling provides individual and group assistance with study skills, test taking, time management, etc. Also available is a self-help lab containing handouts and study skills videos and computer programs that are available for use without an appointment.

Career Counseling programs allow students to increase awareness of their interests, abilities, values, and personality characteristics as they apply to the workplace. Services include computer-assisted career exploration, individual and group counseling, workshops, and educational handouts. In addition, the Academic and Career Resource Center contains occupational information helpful in career planning and decision-making.

Personal Counseling is a process that facilitates self-discovery and growth. It can help to increase self confidence, improve relationships, achieve educational goals, and aid in making good decisions for emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual well-being. Most students at one time or another can benefit from personal counseling.

The Student Counseling Service provides individual, group, and couples counseling for personal concerns that are common among undergraduate and graduate students. Common concerns that students face include communication problems, stress of balancing personal and academic demands, dealing with change, personal growth, grief and loss, relationships, eating concerns, multicultural/interracial issues, anxiety, self-esteem, and coping with feelings such as loneliness, depression, anger, and guilt.

Crisis intervention is available for students who have an urgent need for assistance. Students experiencing a crisis may come to the Student Counseling Service anytime the SCS is open, but preferably before 4:00 PM Monday through Friday (979) 845-4427. The Student Counseling Service is open 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and is located in B-103 Cain Hall. At other times they may call the HelpLine at (979) 845-2700.

**How to Receive Services**

All students currently enrolled at Texas A&M University who have paid the Student Service Fee are eligible for an initial consultation. The determination of what additional services are appropriate will be made at that time based upon need and availability. If your student has questions about whether or not he or she is eligible for services, please contact the Student Counseling Service. There is no fee for consultation or counseling services.

To request an initial appointment, go to “Student Registration” (#1) at http://scs.tamu.edu and follow the instructions. You may do this from your own computer or from a computer in the counseling center computer lab. If your student is not able to access online registration, please call 979-845-4427 for assistance or come to the SCS in Cain Hall.
Resolving Conflict
The Offices of the Dean of Student Life Student Conflict Resolution Services Office addresses student disputes by teaching Aggies how to handle them appropriately. The office is divided into three different services: Student Mediation Services, Student Legal Services, and Student Conduct Services.

Student Mediation Services helps students who are involved in a conflict with other students, faculty/staff, student organizations, and B/CS community members. Mediation is a confidential, problem-solving process whereby the parties involved work together to achieve agreement and a mutually acceptable resolution.

Student Legal Services provides legal advice from a licensed attorney. Information and free counseling are available regarding a variety of legal matters including consumer protection, auto accidents, alcohol violations, and domestic relations law. Services provided are limited in matters of litigation; students may not be represented in court.

Student Conduct Services manages student discipline proceedings when it is alleged that a student has committed a violation of the Texas A&M Code of Conduct. Student Conduct Services highlights issues of fairness and due process in conduct settings throughout the university community, while striking a balance between community standards and responses to individual behavior through the educational development of students.

http://studentlife.tamu.edu/scrs
(979) 847-7272

Handling Critical Incidents
Unfortunately, emergencies and traumatic incidents (of varying degrees of seriousness) regularly occur on college and university campuses. These emergencies touch the lives of those involved in many ways. Texas A&M’s Offices of the Dean of Student Life coordinates a team of Student Affairs professionals who are on-call 24 hours a day/7 days a week to respond to such incidents that involve Aggies of all ages. The Student Affairs - Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) assists students, their families, and others impacted by these types of incidents by providing them with academic referral information, personal counseling services, as well as accommodating specific needs associated with the circumstance. If the University becomes aware of a life-threatening accident involving your son or daughter, you may be notified about our assistance services at the earliest possible moment. To contact a CIRT member, call University Police at (979) 845-2345.

http://cirt.tamu.edu
(979) 845-2345

Staying Alert
College and university campuses, like any busy neighborhood, are not exempt from crime. However, students, faculty and staff can make this special community a safer place to live, learn, and work by taking common sense precautions, being alert and looking out for others.

Students should be aware that confrontations can occur without provocation, through no fault of their own. When such confrontations do occur there are some actions they should take.

- Remain as calm as possible. This will not be easy if you are confronted, but it is your first step towards an escape.
• Attempt to remove yourself from the confrontation. Your own initiative and clear thinking are your best defenses in this regard.
• Try to notice details. This can allow you to provide the police with detailed physical and clothing descriptions of the person(s) involved.
• If a vehicle is involved, try to note the vehicle’s license plate number or the vehicle’s manufacturer, model and color.
• Report the incident. Call the police immediately and report what has happened. If you are calling from an “on-campus” telephone, dial 9-911. If you are calling from an “off-campus” or cell phone, dial 911.
• Provide the police with a detailed description of the incident.

Seek support after the incident. Victims of incidents of confrontation and assault can benefit from support services after the incident. The university has relevant support services. For information, students can call contact Student Counseling Service.

The Department of Security and University Police
The Texas A&M University Police Department (UPD) provides law enforcement and security services to all components of Texas A&M University including the academic campus and a variety of satellite facilities throughout Brazos County. The department has 133 authorized positions including 63 state certified Police Officers and 49 Security Officers. The department maintains a fully staffed investigations division, a crime prevention unit, a recruiting unit, a training division, and a state-of-the-art Emergency Communications Center.

The primary jurisdiction of UPD Police Officers includes all counties in which property is owned, leased, rented, or otherwise under the control of Texas A&M University. As peace officers, the Department’s police officers have the same authority to detain and arrest as municipal police officers.

To provide a safer campus for our students, staff, faculty and visitors, the department has armed uniformed police officers on patrol 24 hours a day, year round. To provide this around the clock coverage our officers work in three shifts. Unarmed UPD Security Officers work closely with our Patrol Officers by constantly patrolling university properties and staffing fixed posts at some facilities.

Any criminal offense, suspected criminal activity, or other University Police by telephone (979) 845-2345, in person, or by dialing 9-911 from any campus phone or by using one of the 117 emergency blue light telephones located throughout campus. Residence Hall entrances and campus elevators are also equipped with emergency phones. Upon receipt of the call, the Texas A&M University Police Communications Center personnel can supply information or dispatch officers as necessary.

UPD will respond as quickly and safely as possible to any request for assistance, whether it is an emergency or not. Response time is based on current activity and severity of the call. Crimes in progress, alarms, traffic accidents with injuries and medical assists have a higher priority than other types of calls. If you witness a crime or emergency, promptly report it to the UPD and be prepared to answer questions as accurately as you can.

http://upd.tamu.edu
(979) 845-2345
**Student Risk Management Services**

The purpose of the Risk Management & Organizational Development Services team in the Department of Student Activities is to provide resources and opportunities that encourage student organization leaders and advisors to facilitate experiences that are developmental, educational, safe and successful. Our nationally recognized risk management team is dedicated to promoting healthy student organizations and effective decision-making for students.

Our proactive risk management system encourages student leaders and staff advisors to collaborate on the creation of student organization environments that help members and leaders make intelligent, fair and reasonable choices within the boundaries established by state, federal and local laws, Texas A&M University Student Rules, and the educational mission of Texas A&M University. The Risk Management staff works with your student’s organizations on pre-event planning, education about liability and waivers, evaluation of contracts, hosting events with minors, and much more. Please visit our website at http://risk.tamu.edu for more information, or contact us at (979) 458-4371.

**Reporting Hazing**

In 1987, the State of Texas instituted a hazing law. Hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of Texas A&M University by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliation with, holding office in or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include students at Texas A&M University. Hazing is not tolerated. Persons committing a hazing offense are accountable, regardless of the intent and regardless of the consent or cooperation of the recipient. One can report hazing incidents to the Office of the Commandant, (979) 845-2811, the Department of Student Activities, (979) 845-1133, The Offices of the Dean of Student Life Student Conflict Resolution Services, (979) 847-7272, or the University Police Department, (979) 845-2345. http://studentlife.tamu.edu (979) 847-7272

**Tell Somebody Campaign**

Concerned about someone’s behavior? Tell somebody.

On a college campus sometimes behaviors of concern have gone unreported until a tragedy occurs, then people come forward with bits of information that, in retrospect, may have signaled a larger issue. This information when viewed collectively may be helpful in preventing tragic events and initiating assistance to an individual. Texas A&M University is committed to a proactive approach and needs your help.

As a family member of a Texas A&M Student, if you or your student observe any behavior that is concerning please go to: http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu and provide detailed information on the report form. This report goes to members of the Special Situations Team. This team is comprised of University faculty and staff charged with helping students, faculty, and staff who are exhibiting concerning behavior.

Alternatively you may call the following numbers during business hours:

- In reference to student behavior: 979-845-3111 (Offices of the Dean of Student Life)
- In reference to staff behavior: 979-845-3711 (Human Resources –Employee Assistance Program)
- In reference to faculty behavior: 979-845-4274 (Dean of Faculties)

For all emergencies, please call 9-911 (on-campus) and 911 (off-campus).

For more information about the Tell Somebody Campaign or the Special Situations Team, please visit our website at http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu.