Teaching Students Self-Direction

College is the first time most students experience total and individual responsibility for their learning. Although your student certainly has the aptitude to do well in college, she/he may not be used to accepting responsibility for not only completing assignments, but also knowing the semester schedule, test dates and project due dates without regular (or often any!) reminders from instructors or parents. It is essential for students to read through all materials provided by their professors and to establish their own method for keeping up with dates and assignments. Students should be encouraged to develop a study schedule and to attend all classes.

Academic Integrity

The Aggie Honor Code reads “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.” Students at Texas A&M assume a commitment to uphold the Honor Code and to learn and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Aggie Honor System Office. Texas A&M University is dedicated to the discovery, development, communication, and application of knowledge in a wide range of academic and professional fields. It assumes as its historic trust the maintenance of freedom of inquiry and an intellectual environment that nurtures the human mind and spirit.

The Aggie Honor System Office is charged with the responsibility of continuing an Aggie tradition that dates from our earliest days. Aggies pride themselves on hard work, integrity, and allegiance. Living in accordance with the Aggie Honor Code is critical to these ideals, to the goal of assuming a place of preeminence in higher education, and to the development of the whole student. The Honor Council is a critical part of the Aggie Honor System Office. The Council consists of students and faculty members. The council enforces sanctions when students acquire information from unauthorized sources, provide information without authorization, plagiarize, conspire to violate principles of academic integrity, violate academic rules, or falsify information. The Honor Code does not function as a tool to force honor by fear; instead it acts as a symbol of our understanding and loyalty to truth and our confidence in each other.

http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor
(979) 458-3378

Asking About Course Sylabi

Texas A&M instructors are required to distribute, in writing, the following information during their first class meeting: (1) course title and number; (2) instructor information; (3) prerequisite(s); (4) course topics/calendar; (5) grading; (6) list of assignments, tests, etc.; (7) no statements contrary to University rules regarding attendance, approved absences; (8) textbook and/or resource materials listing; (9) Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] Policy Statement; (10) academic integrity statement. If your daughter or son seems uninformed about any of these things, you might begin your investigation by asking your student about the course syllabus.
**First Year Grade Exclusion Policy**

A currently enrolled Texas A&M undergraduate student as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as “first time in college” may elect to exclude from his/her undergraduate degree and cumulative GPR calculation grades of D, F, or U. This exclusion shall be permitted for up to a maximum of three courses taken for credit at Texas A&M University during the twelve month period beginning with the student’s initial enrollment at Texas A&M. First Year Grade Exclusion requests for degree candidates must be received in the Office of the Registrar not later than 5pm the day midterm grades are due when the student is graduating in a fall or spring semester; not later than 5pm Friday of the 3rd week of class for the second summer session when the student is graduating in August.

**Grades for Parents/Guardians**

It is Texas A&M University’s policy to not mail grades. Parents/guardians should discuss setting up a parent password to access information (grades, class schedule and verification of enrollment) available at https://howdy.tamu.edu with their student. Unofficial grades may be printed from this web page for scholarship sponsors, good student insurance discounts, employer reimbursement, etc. Any student may set a parent password to allow limited access to their records by a parent, guardian, spouse, or other individual as deemed appropriate by the student.

The Office of the Registrar does not set the parent password or supply password information to parents or guardians. Disputes over access to grades must be settled between the student and his/her parents.

**Grading System**

One evaluation of your student’s progress in college will be academic grades. There are 5 passing grades at the undergraduate level, A, B, C, D, and S, representing varying degrees of achievement; these letters carry grade points and significance as follows:

**ASSIGNED BY THE INSTRUCTOR:**
- A - Excellent, equals 4 grade points per semester hour
- B - Good, equals 3 grade points per semester hour
- C - Satisfactory, equals 2 grade points per semester hour
- D - Passing, equals 1 grade point per semester hour
- F - Failing, equals no grade points, hours included in GPR calculation
- I - Incomplete, equals no grade points, hours not included in GPR calculation

**GRADES ASSIGNED S/U COURSES:**
- S - Satisfactory (C or above), hours not included in GPR calculation
- U - Unsatisfactory, (D or F), no grade points, hours included in GPR calculation

**OTHER:**
- X - No grade submitted, contact professor
- Q - Dropped the course with no penalty, requires dean’s permission
- W - Withdrawn course(s), requires dean’s permission
- NG - No grade. Grade removed after the semester in which it was given, requires dean’s permission.
- F* - Grade assigned as academic sanction for violation of Aggie Honor Code. For additional information please visit www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor.

Credit Hour: Equal to one contact hour of coursework in a lecture class, or up to 3 contact hours of coursework in a lab class.

http://student-rules.tamu.edu
Calculating a Grade Point Ratio

The Grade Point Ratio (GPR) is determined by dividing the number of grade points earned by the number of hours attempted. Courses for which a grade of S, W, Q, or NG was given are excluded from the GPR calculation. Grades of U are included in the GPR calculation for undergraduate students.

Here is an example illustrating how to calculate a Grade Point Ratio (GPR) for a student whose registration includes a course for which the grade can be S/U. In this example presume that the student receives the following grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>C = 2pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>B = 3pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>D = 1pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>C = 2pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You must first determine the number of hours attempted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| History      | 106   | 3 hrs.
| English      | 104   | 3 hrs.
| Psychology   | 107   | 3 hrs.
| Chemistry    | 101   | 4 hrs.
| Kinesiology  | 199   | (1)*  |

This is a total of 13 credit hours attempted. *The one hour of credit earned for the Kinesiology course is not used in calculating the GPR. This hour will, however, be included in the student’s Passed hours for the semester.

Now that we have determined the number of credit hours attempted we can determine how many grade points were earned for each class and calculate the GPR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>3 hrs x 2 pts = 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>3 hrs x 3 pts = 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>3 hrs x 1 pts = 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>4 hrs x 2 pts = 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total grade points for this example would be 26 points. To get the GPR, divide the total number of points by the total numbers of hours attempted: 26/13 = 2.0 GPR.

In this example, if the student had received a U in the kinesiology course, the student’s GPR would differ because the 1 attempted credit hour for the kinesiology course would be included in the attempted hours.

To calculate this GPR, divide the total number of grade points by 14, the adjusted number of hours attempted: 26/14 = 1.857 GPR. Because the GPR is now below a 2.0, the student is considered scholastically deficient and may be:

- Placed on scholastic probation
- Blocked from further registration by their academic dean
- Your student should contact his/her academic dean’s office for details on the college’s probation policy.
**Withdrawal From the University**

A student desiring to withdraw from Texas A&M University (drop to zero hours) before the completion of a semester is required to comply with the official withdrawal procedure. This process is initiated in the dean’s office of the college in which the student is registered. This process must be completed by 5 p.m. the day the withdrawal is initiated. A student may not withdraw after the Q-drop deadline. Students who have emergencies or very unusual, substantial, nonacademic circumstances that occur after the withdrawal deadline may still have relief. The student’s dean will retain the authority to support a student to withdraw after the deadline.

When a student withdraws from the University beginning the first class day and extending through the Q-drop deadline, the Office of the Registrar will assign a grade of W to all registered courses for that semester. Any course previously graded for that semester will be changed to W and the W grades will be displayed on the permanent record.

http://www.tamu.edu/registrar

**Scholastic Probation**

Scholastic probation is a conditional permission for an undergraduate student to continue in the University after he or she has become scholastically deficient. (An undergraduate student is scholastically deficient when his/her semester or cumulative grade point ratio is less than 2.00 or when grade point requirements in the student’s major field of study are not met.)

The department and/or dean of the student’s college grants this permission when analysis of the deficiency indicates that a continuation is in the best interest of the student and the University. The record made by a student while on probation determines whether he or she shall regain good academic standing, granted a continuation on probation, or suspended from the University for scholastic deficiency.