Family Tip Sheet

University Terminology

These are some of the many terms used in Texas A&M University community. They may help you understand the issues and experiences that your student is expressing to you.

Add/Drop: This is the time period when a student can add and drop classes for the semester.

AP: Advanced Placement program.

Bad Bull: Anything that does not promote the Aggie Spirit.

Block: University holds on official registration/transcript activity by the student until he/she clears up a problem such as unpaid parking tickets.

Blue Book: A small blue-covered paper booklet used to write essays and essay exams, available at most bookstores and convenience stores near campus.

Catalog: The book that a student uses to see which classes are needed in order to obtain a particular degree at Texas A&M University.

Classification: The level of the student: freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, graduate, or professional.

Conduct Probation: An official warning that the student's conduct is in violation of Texas A&M University Student Rules, but is not sufficiently serious to warrant expulsion, dismissal or suspension. A student on conduct probation is deemed “not in good standing” with the university.

Core Curriculum: Classes that every student takes at Texas A&M University regardless of his or her major.

Course Schedule: A listing of classes and class times that will be offered for a particular semester. Can be accessed online at http://myrecord.tamu.edu.

Credit Hour: An hour of class; for example, a class that meets three times a week for an hour will earn a student three credit hours for that semester. Lab classes maybe attended for more than one hour a week but are only worth one credit hour.

Cumulative GPR: Grade point ratio for ALL classes attempted by the student at the university.

Distance Education: Courses offered via a combination of internet or broadcast.

Double Major: When a student has more than one major.

Final Exam: An exam at the end of the semester. These exams may be a cumulative test of all material covered during the semester.

Fish: Term referring to a freshman student, particularly in the Corps of Cadets.

Flag Room: Known as the living room of campus, located on the 1st floor of the Memorial Student Center.

Force: Getting faculty approval to enroll in a class that is listed as full.

Full-time Student: For financial aid purposes, this means that the student must complete 24 credit hours within the academic year. Usually this means that a student is taking at least 12 hours each semester in the fall and spring. To be considered a full time student for summer financial aid, a student must take a least 6 hours.

Gig ‘em: Originated in 1930 during a yell practice before a football game with the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs.

Good Bull: Anything that promotes the Aggie Spirit.

Grade Point Ratio/Grade Point Average: Grade calculation for one semester.
**Howdy.tamu.edu:** An application that students can use to look up class sections, their schedule, their degree plan, their billing statement, check for blocks, view midterm or final grades, request a transcript, check grades, and request KINE 199 grade type changes. Students should use howdy.tamu.edu to update their contact information each semester.

**Hullabaloo:** (1) The first word in the Aggie War Hymn (2) A food court located in the basement of the Memorial Student Center.

**Humping it:** Position taken by an Aggie when giving a yell.

**In Good Standing:** Defined by the individual academic colleges. Normally the student has at least a 2.0 GPR and is not currently on academic probation or suspension.

**Interdisciplinary Studies:** Some subjects can best be explored by taking courses from different departments; examples of these would be women’s studies, international studies, or classical studies.

**Major:** Primary area of study.

**Midnight Yell:** Yell practice held at midnight on each Friday before football games.

**Midterm:** An exam that comes in the middle of a semester. Sometimes the exams are cumulative and sometimes they are not.

**Minor:** Secondary area of study.

**MSC:** Memorial Student Center (known as a student union at other universities).

**Non Traditional Student:** A&M student over the age of 22 and/or who is married, divorced, or parenting.

**Part-time Student:** A student enrolled in fewer hours than what is required for full time status.

**Preregistration:** Registration period just after mid-semester for students in good standing and currently enrolled.

**Q-Drop:** Each student has 3 Q-drops while at Texas A&M University. This is a method of dropping a class fairly late in the semester without a penalty. The student will receive a grade of Q for that class.

**Reading Day:** A day when classes do not meet (usually before finals).

**Redefined Day:** A day when a student attends classes that were missed due to an earlier holiday like Thanksgiving.

**Registration:** Registration period just after mid-semester for currently enrolled or readmitted students in good standing.

**Reveille:** The first lady of Aggieland, the official mascot of Texas A&M University and the highest ranking member in the Corps of Cadets.

**Sbisa:** Pronounced “sa-bee-sa”; second largest dining facility in the nation (the largest is at the Air Force Academy--it is 7 sq. feet larger).

**Scantron:** A scoresheet used for testing in courses; gradable by computer; available at MSC Bookstores and other stores near campus (scantrons come in many sizes and styles).

**Scholastic Probation:** Conditional permission for a student to remain enrolled after becoming scholastically deficient. During this time a student must meet certain criteria to be able stay at A&M in the future.

**Syllabus/Syllabi:** Course outline presented to class by faculty at beginning of semester including all policies and important dates.

**The Batt:** The school newspaper.

**T-Sip:** Student at t.u.

**t.u.:** Aggie term for the University of Texas—that other school in Austin.

**Twelfth Man:** Aggies not actively engaged in an athletic event, but who support the team.

**Wildcat:** An Aggie expression of approval; each class has their own wildcat.

**Work-Study:** An on-campus student job based on financial academic probation or suspension.