

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY 2021-22 Parent and Family Member Guide



**WELCOME TO THE
LUMBERJACK FAMILY!**

GROWING OUR FAMILY TREE SINCE 1923

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Look for the axe icon for suggestions and ideas to help your student adjust to college life.

SFA'S OFFICIAL
SOCIAL MEDIA:



    @sfasu



 @SFAlumberjacks

  @sfa_jacks

 Stephen F. Austin State University

ORIENTATION
SOCIAL MEDIA:

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  @sfa_orientation

WEEKS OF WELCOME
SOCIAL MEDIA:

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On-campus ATMs include: ★ Baker Pattillo Student Center
★ Steen Library ★ Steen Hall ★ Lumberjack Landing

Visit us at www.cbtx.com for a full list of banking centers and ATM locations.



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COVID-19 INFO

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Please keep 3 feet between you and others.



Floor markers are located in many areas of campus to help with physical distancing.

SYMPTOMS

All students and employees are asked to self-screen daily for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to campus. Symptoms can range from mild to severe and appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

Seek medical care immediately* if you have:

- trouble breathing
- persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- confusion
- inability to wake or stay awake
- bluish lips or face

** This list does not include all possible symptoms. Call your medical provider if you are concerned about additional severe symptoms.*

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS?

STEP 1

Stay home and away from others!

STEP 2

Contact SFA Health Services for guidance. Call (936) 468-4008 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Contact your medical provider.

STEP 3

Report your absence.

Students: Notify your professors or call (936) 468-2703 to request an absence notification.

Student Employees: Notify your supervisor.

HAND HYGIENE

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from getting sick.

If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. To use hand sanitizer, read the label and apply the correct amount of product to the palm of one hand. Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.



There are 50 countries represented by international SFA students.

COVID-19 INFO

ELEVATOR GUIDELINES

1. Please give priority to those who are physically unable to use the stairs.
2. Please keep two to three individuals per elevator ride. If an elevator is crowded, take the next one to maintain physical distancing.
3. Are you only going a few floors? Take the stairs if you are able.
4. Speak up! If you're in an elevator that has reached physical-distancing capacity, politely ask additional riders to wait for the next one.

BEST PRACTICES

- Avoid leaning against walls.
- Avoid touching the handrails.
- Avoid touching buttons directly. Cover fingers with a cloth or glove, or push buttons with an object or your elbow.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Wash or sanitize your hands as soon as possible.

CLEANING SURFACES

It may be possible to become infected with COVID-19 by touching a surface or object with the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes. Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces are best practices for reducing the spread of any viral respiratory illness.

Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting refers to the use of chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. However, disinfecting a surface after cleaning can further lower the risk of spreading infection. It is often necessary to clean a surface with soap and water before you can effectively disinfect the surface.

Clean commonly touched surfaces, such as remote controls, printers, computer keyboards, phones and coffee makers, to help reduce the possibility of disease transmission. If using shared computers or keyboards, disinfect before and after each use.

Always wash your hands after you have been in a public place or touched items or surfaces that may be frequently touched by other people, such as light switches, door handles, elevator controls, gas pumps, shopping carts, toilets or electronic cash registers/screens.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Lumberjack Parents and Family Members,

Thank you for trusting Stephen F. Austin State University with your student's education. We are excited to see Lumberjacks return to campus this fall.

As more of the population is fully vaccinated, confirmed cases in the U.S. have drastically declined. We are experiencing the same trend on the SFA campus and the surrounding area.

The university has served as a vaccination hub during the past several months, which has resulted in thousands of SFA students, faculty, staff and community members receiving the vaccine. Our plan for fall is to return to full classroom capacity and normal operations.

Our residence halls are open and ready to welcome your Lumberjack to campus!

Living on campus is a quintessential part of the college experience, and its benefits are numerous, including proximity to university resources, participation in social activities and making lifelong friends. Residence Life staff members look forward to connecting with your student and helping them gain independence.

We also will continue to provide an expanded offering of distance-learning courses for those Lumberjacks who wish to study remotely.

At SFA, your student will be surrounded by extended family — administrators, faculty and staff who genuinely care about seeing them succeed. From the award-winning tutoring services offered at the Academic Assistance and Resource Center in Steen Library to the included services of a registered dietitian, numerous resources are in place to support Lumberjacks both academically and personally.

This is an exciting time, and we are here to help with your student's transition to college life. Your support during the coming months will be a vital part of your student's success. I encourage you to remain involved. Continue to emphasize the importance of a college education. Working together, I am confident your new Lumberjack will successfully meet the challenges ahead and will have an extraordinary experience at SFA.

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Scott Gordon

Dr. Scott Gordon
SFA President



If you are dropping your student off at school, leave a note or card somewhere in the residence hall room. (Maybe also tuck in \$20!) After you have left, it will be a nice reminder of how much you care.

TUITION OPTIONS FOR THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR



Many full-time students are taking credit loads that automatically put them on a five-year plan for a bachelor's degree instead of four years. Further complicating the matter, federal financial aid policies require students to be enrolled in just 12 credits each semester to be eligible for assistance, creating the impression that 12 credits is "full time."

THE RESULT:

- Students graduate later and accrue unnecessary time and debt in the process.
 - ▶ SFA students are advised to enroll in 15 credits each semester (or 30 credits per year), putting them on track to graduate on time.
 - ▶ Research shows that students who take 15 credit hours do better academically and are more likely to persist.

SFA creates two options to help students afford additional courses at no extra cost.

FLAT-RATE TUITION

- \$5,300 per semester; \$10,600 an academic year (\$100 course and lab fee is included)
- For any undergraduate student enrolled in 12 or more credit hours
- Fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters only
- Flat rate applies toward 12 to 21 credit hours each semester

BOTTOM LINE:

12 credit hours
15 credit hours
18 credit hours
21 credit hours



\$5,300
per semester
for fall 2021 and
spring 2022 only

GUARANTEED-PRICE PLAN

- \$5,675 per semester (\$100 course and lab fee is included) for first-time students in 2021-22
- Must be enrolled in 12 or more credit hours to participate
- Rate is locked in for four years for each fall and spring semester

BOTTOM LINE:

12 credit hours
15 credit hours
18 credit hours
21 credit hours



\$5,675
per semester up to
four years beginning
fall 2021

TO DETERMINE WHICH TUITION OPTION YOU QUALIFY FOR, ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS.

Question 1: Are you a resident of Texas?

Yes – Proceed to next question.

No – Eligible for nonresident rates or border-state rates

Question 2: Are you a transfer student?

Yes – Possibly eligible for the Flat-Rate Tuition option associated with year of high school graduation

No – Proceed to next question.

Question 3: Are you a graduate student?

Yes – Eligible for Texas resident graduate school rates

No – Proceed to next question.

Question 4: Are you an incoming, first-time freshman?

Yes – Proceed to next question.

No – Ineligible for Guaranteed-Price Plan, but automatically billed at the Flat-Rate Tuition option

Question 5: Do you qualify for tuition and/or fee exemptions related to the Hazlewood Act, etc.?

Yes – Ineligible for Guaranteed-Price Plan, but automatically billed at the Flat-Rate Tuition option

No – Eligible to participate in the Guaranteed-Price Plan

For more information about SFA's tuition options, contact the Business Office at (936) 468-6960 or businessoffice@sfasu.edu.

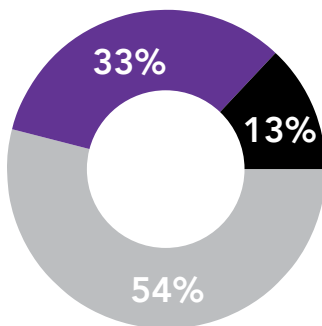


COLLEGE CREDIT COMPLETION QUICK FACTS

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 120 & \div & 4 & = & 30 & \div & 2 & = & 15 \\
 \text{CREDIT} & & \text{YEARS} & & \text{CREDIT HOURS} & & \text{SEMESTERS} & & \text{CREDIT} \\
 \text{HOURS} & & & & \text{PER YEAR} & & & & \text{HOURS}
 \end{array}$$

Credit Hours Taken by SFA Students

Although a majority of SFA students seeking a bachelor's degree attempt between 12 and 14 credit hours in the fall, students need to earn at least 15 or more credit hours fall and spring semester in order to graduate "on time" (within four years). *Note: A bachelor's degree requires a minimum of 120 credit hours.*



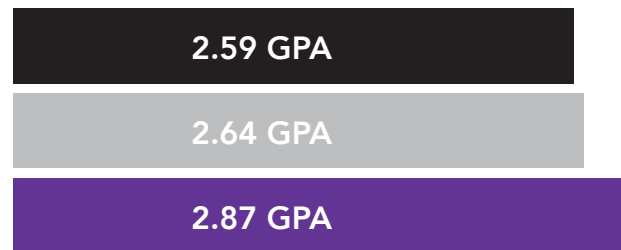
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN:

- Less than 12 credit hours
- 12 to 14 credit hours
- 15 or more credit hours

FACT: SFA students achieve higher GPAs when enrolled in at least 15 credit hours.

Students enrolled in more credit hours tend to achieve higher grades. Studies at other institutions document similar findings when also controlling evaluations for socioeconomic and academic preparedness factors. *More information is available at completeclege.org.*

Average GPA (4.0 Scale) By Number of Credit Hours Attempted



- Less than 12 credit hours
- 12 to 14 credit hours
- 15 or more credit hours

FACT: SFA students are more likely to complete courses when enrolled in 15 or more credit hours.

When SFA students complete credit hours sooner, they each save approximately \$23,000 a year in education costs and after graduation are able to start earning money in their careers earlier.

YOU'VE KNOWN THIS DAY WOULD COME.

Your student has grown up and is ready to enter college.

Although many students will be moving to Nacogdoches, and their homes may be somewhat quieter, don't worry because parents and family members have gained an entire family of Lumberjacks!

At SFA, we all share the same purple DNA!

You and your student are part of an extended Lumberjack family that truly cares about your student's success and well-being.



NACOGDOCHES – SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO!

Nacogdoches is known for its quaint downtown lined with antique and specialty shops and distinctive restaurants. Check out visitnacogdoches.org for specific dates and more information on things to do and see in Texas' oldest town.

Don't miss the opportunity to explore Nacogdoches' beautiful landscape. The Garden Capital of Texas, Nacogdoches is bursting with blooms along several trails, including the Azalea Trail, which is usually open for tours during March. Be sure to stroll through the Mast Arboretum, Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, Gayla Mize Garden and Pineywoods Native Plant Center, all located on SFA's stunningly beautiful campus.



The Office of Multicultural Affairs

creates a campus environment where all SFA students feel welcome, participate in meaningful cross-cultural interactions and engage in learning experiences that promote respect for diversity.

A FEW OF OUR EVENTS

- Noche De Gala
- Tunnel of Oppression
- MLK Day of Service
- Women's Empowerment Summit
- OMA Graduation Celebration
- Homecoming Step Show
- Diversity Week
- Diversity Conference

RESOURCES

- Axcel Mentoring Program
- Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program
- Impact U Volunteer Organization
- Meeting and Study Room
- Multicultural Resource Library
- and more!

Visit sfasu.edu/oma to learn more.



SFA ORIENTATION 2021

Take a break from busy orientation at Newk's
with a *Free 32 oz. drink.*

Tell us you are attending orientation at SFA for one (1)
free drink per order.

(Offer valid Friday- Sunday for Orientation weekends only)

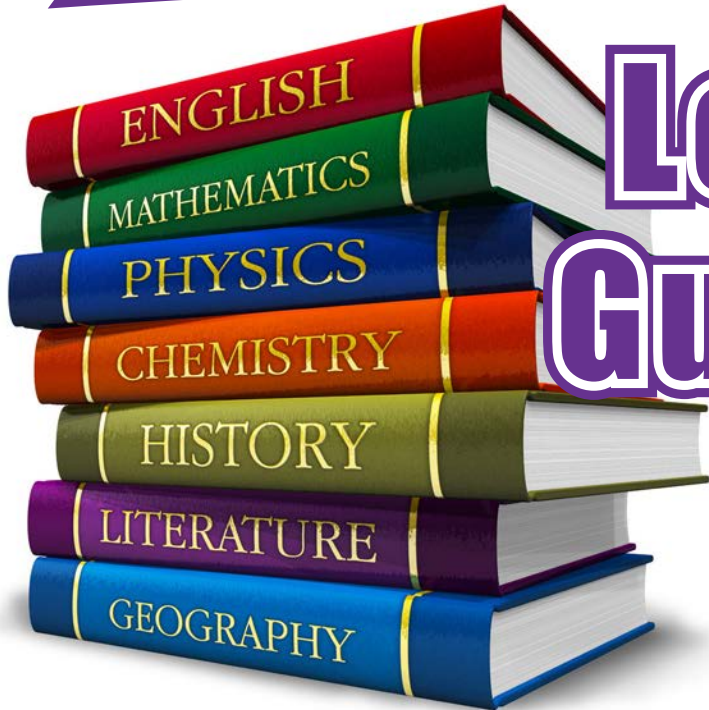


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SFA Q&A

Q: What does SFA stand for?

A: Stephen Fuller Austin. He's considered the Father of Texas. The state capital also is named in his honor.

Q: When did the university first begin classes?

A: In September 1923, approximately 300 students enrolled at SFA. Originally founded as a teachers college, today SFA has six academic colleges that offer approximately 80 undergraduate majors and more than 120 areas of study.

Q: What is the average class size at SFA?

A: The average class size is 17 students.

Q: How many students attend SFA?

A: In fall 2020, 12,620 students were enrolled.

Q: From where do SFA students hail?

A: Lumberjacks come from Texas and 40 other states, plus 50 foreign countries.

Q: What is the student-to-faculty ratio?

A: The ratio is 17:1.

Q: How many faculty and staff does SFA employ?

A: SFA employs approximately 1,700 faculty and staff. Your student is surrounded by Lumberjacks who are dedicated to helping your student succeed.

Q: Is SFA expensive?

A: The tuition and fees at SFA are comparable to the statewide annual average tuition and fees for Texas public universities. SFA also offers hundreds of scholarships to deserving students each year to help them pay for their education. See Page 9 about tuition options.

Q: How big is the campus?

A: SFA's main campus includes 422 acres, part of the original homestead of Thomas J. Rusk, an early Texas patriot and U.S. senator. In addition, the university maintains a 726-acre agricultural and research center, 128-acres of green space managed by SFA Gardens, and 3,449-acres of forestland managed through the Lumberjack Legacy Forest Program, which provides in-field classroom and research experience for students.



HELPING YOUR STUDENT MAKE THE TRANSITION

The transition to college often is a life-changing and sometimes overwhelming experience. Support from parents, other family members and friends is crucial in helping your new college student make the adjustment.

During the months ahead, there will be highs and lows. Some of the things you should keep in mind during the upcoming academic year include:

AUGUST: Overall excitement, homesickness, roommate issues, abuse of freedom, multiple calls or visits home

SEPTEMBER: Exams usually begin, Family Weekend hosted by Orientation and Transition Programs, opportunities to join a new student organization or sports club

OCTOBER: Midterm grades, consequences of bad study habits, struggles with personal decision-making regarding schoolwork, making friends, fitting in, etc.

NOVEMBER: Exams and papers are due, apprehension and excitement about going home for the holidays, course registration for the next semester begins

DECEMBER: Mixed feelings about going home for the winter break, studying for final exams, anticipation of final grades

JANUARY: Beginning of a new semester, consequences of fall semester performance may cause anxiety, students must make the necessary adjustments

FEBRUARY: Some homesickness isn't unusual, anticipating spring break

MARCH: Spring break, making choices for the next academic year, changing majors and minors, midterms, summer employment and internship opportunities

APRIL: End of the semester is quickly approaching, final push to complete projects, finally adjusting to the college transition

MAY: Final exams, last-minute summer planning, deciding to remain for summer classes or head home, anticipation of missing college friends



The first few weeks or months of college may be a difficult time for your student. Transitioning from high school to college is a big change. Be supportive, and reassure your student that it will get better.

TAKE NOTE

College is definitely different than high school. With more freedom comes more responsibility, and you as parents and family members will not be as easily accessible to help your student “make the grade.” Some differences between high school and college are detailed below.

HIGH SCHOOL

Attendance is required

Teachers remind students about homework and tests

Studying load is light (about an hour per night)

Students’ lives are filled with activities

Teachers provide grade reports

Class expectations are discussed in detail

School is open and staffed during set times

COLLEGE

Few professors require attendance

More independent work is expected

Studying is key to success

Involvement opportunities can be overwhelming

Students keep up with their own grades

Course syllabus is a contractual agreement

Instructors have specific office hours

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO SEND LETTERS AND PACKAGES?

SFA has its own post office located in the Baker Pattillo Student Center. Post box information can be accessed through mySFA. Contact the post office at (936) 468-2307 for more information. The post office at SFA is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To send letters, parcels or packages to your student, all mail should be addressed to the student’s post office box and should include the university street address (1936 North St.). This address will work for USPS, UPS and FedEx.

For example:

Name: Jane Doe
Address Line 1: 1936 North St.
Address Line 2: P.O. Box #####, SFA Station
City, State, Zip: Nacogdoches, TX 75962



Most college students know what time mail arrives and watch their mail slot closely each day. Even if it is just an old picture of them or a short note saying how proud you are of them, send something and put a smile on the face of the student you love.



FIRST-YEAR ESSENTIALS

BATHROOM

- Curling iron
- Electric shaver
- Flat iron
- Hair dryer
- Shower shoes
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, etc.)
- Towels

BEDROOM

- Comforter
- Clock
- Fan
- Mattress pad
- Pillows, pillow cases
- Room decorations
- Sheets: standard twin or XL sheets depending on residence hall; Lumberjack Village private rooms have XL full-size beds
- Television

CLEANING

- All-purpose cleaner/wipes
- Dryer sheets
- Laundry detergent (HE only)
- Lint roller

CLOTHING

- Hamper/laundry bag
- Hangers
- Iron, ironing board

MISCELLANEOUS

- Batteries
- Blender
- Coffee pot
- Flashlight
- Hot air popcorn popper
- Light bulbs for personal lamps
- Rain boots
- Sewing kit
- Snacks
- Tool kit
- Umbrella

STUDYING

- Backpack/tote
- Calculator
- Calendar/planner
- Computer
- Desk accessories
- Desk lamp
- Ethernet cord
- Highlighters
- Notebooks, folders, binders
- Pens, pencils
- Printer
- Sticky notes
- Surge protector
- Trash can
- USB drives



WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

- Candles, incense, oil lamps, plug-in air fresheners, Scentsy wax warmers
- Crock-Pot, hot plate
- Electrical cooking appliances, electric grill
- Extension cords, splitters or wall adapters
- Fireworks
- Halogen lamps or neon signs
- Microwave or toaster
- PETS: other than fish in 10-gallon aquarium or birds in cages
- Portable heater or air conditioner
- Sandwich maker/grill
- String lights and decorative lighted signs

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Located on the first floor of the Austin Building, staff members in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships can help you find the best way to pay for your student's college education. All students who apply for financial assistance must fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid at fafsa.ed.gov.

SFA offers hundreds of scholarships each year to both new and returning students. To be considered, students must fill out the general scholarship application through mySFA, the university's intranet web portal. The application is available starting Sept. 1 each year, and the deadline for submission is Feb. 1. Scholarships are offered on such criteria as academic major, cocurricular activities and talent. For more information on scholarships, visit sfasu.edu/scholarships.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships can provide the necessary information to apply for financial assistance — whether that be scholarships, grants and/or federal and state loans.

In order to be considered for financial assistance, students are required to complete the FAFSA. Here's what to do:

- Students can apply starting Oct. 1 for the next academic year by logging on to fafsa.ed.gov.
- You and/or your student must electronically sign the FAFSA. Missing signatures will delay processing.
- Verify all responses for accuracy.
- Print yourself a copy.
- If selected for the verification process, be prepared to contact the IRS for a copy of your tax transcripts.

Remember — If your student received a scholarship from their high school or other organization, SFA must be notified to help determine an accurate financial aid award for your student. Complete the electronic resources request to notify SFA of any pending scholarship amounts and the entity the scholarship is from.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SFA offers a number of services through its financial aid office, including short-term loans, summer aid and study abroad assistance. A net price calculator also is available and is intended to provide students with useful consumer information regarding college costs after financial aid is taken into consideration. For more information regarding financial aid and the services SFA provides, visit sfasu.edu/faid.

PAYING THE BILL

Your student's mySFA account is where to pay for the bill online.

1. Log in to mySFA.
2. Click the "Billing" tab.
3. Click "Pay Online with eBill."

The Business Office, located on the second floor of the Austin Building, handles bills and student ID validations. The office also cashes checks up to \$50 and initiates financial aid refunds and cash advances through BankMobile®. If you have questions about an eBill or other payment-related inquiries, call (936) 468-6960.



Talk about financial responsibility with your student. Mutually understood budgets will help your student with spending and saving expectations.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Student Success Center for Undecided Majors

Don't worry if your student hasn't selected a major just yet. Many first-year students enter college still unsure of their area of study. Once your student has completed 45 hours of course credit, a major must be declared. Advisors in the Student Success Center, located on the second floor of Steen Library, will work with your student to help explore majors and select courses each semester while deciding.

Additionally, an Undergraduate Bulletin that details all majors and areas of study offered at SFA and the courses required to complete each one is available online. It's a great resource to help students become even more familiar with all the academic opportunities at SFA. It can be accessed at catalog.sfasu.edu.

Tutoring Facilities

Many students need extra help with college-level courses. At SFA, special tutoring facilities provide access to tutors who can help your student.

- **Academic Assistance and Resource Center:** The AARC is an award-winning program that provides free peer tutoring for entry- and upper-level courses. Tutors gladly meet students where they are, which means they offer versatile tutoring options: in-person, online, livestream, individual, group, appointment or walk-in. All tutoring sessions are led by one of our more than 150 trained and certified tutors. Visit sfasu.edu/aarc to learn more.
- **Ed and Gwen Cole Student Success Center:** Housed on the first floor in Lumberjack Landing, the Cole Student Success Center features helpful extras like a computer lab, whiteboards for collaboration with other students and three private study rooms. The AARC also hosts some of its supplemental instruction group meetings at the center.

Ralph W. Steen Library

The Steen Library is the facility to help your student make the grade. It houses books, periodicals, maps, databases, computer labs and more. In addition, each of SFA's six colleges has its own librarian who is especially

knowledgeable in the college's subject areas. Encourage your student to utilize Ask-A-Librarian services.

Care and Concern Alerts

The Care and Concern Alert program is a unique, integrative approach to academic and behavior intervention on campus. The program, administered through the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, is a collaborative response between academics and student affairs to target resources to help improve students' ability to succeed. The three early intervention tracks comprise behavioral/medical, attendance issues and academic performance. Faculty members can submit early alerts through the advising system that is linked to their classes.

- **Behavioral Track:** If a student demonstrates a primarily behavioral issue that is sufficiently concerning, a referral is sent to staff members in the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities who may, at their discretion, refer the student to the behavioral intervention team. Issues that are more minor in nature can be referred to another appropriate resource, such as counseling and Disability Services, or handled through the student conduct process.
- **Attendance Track:** Attendance issues are referred to a student's advisor, who works with Residence Life and other program members to reach out to the student for an informal check in. Because attendance issues may be part of a larger problem, students may be sent to either the behavioral or academic performance track advisors.
- **Academic Performance Track:** If SFA students are performing poorly in class, they are referred to the AARC and made aware of the numerous resources available to them. If poor academic performance may be related to a disability, the student may be referred to Disability Services. Academic advising and the Center for Career and Professional Development referrals may be made if students are considering (or should be) changing majors, or if they may benefit from career guidance.



Don't be alarmed if your student considers changing majors. It's common for students to change their major at least once.

SFAS 1101 and 3101: Student Success Program

Students who take SFAS 1101 (first-year) or 3101 (transfers) earn higher grades on average than those who don't. SFAS 1101/3101 is a specially designed semester-long program that teaches your student how to be successful in college. Some of the topics include:

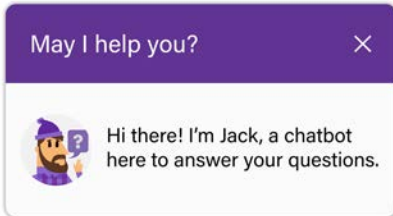
- academic integrity
- campus services and opportunities
- classroom learning strategies
- time-management skills
- working with professors
- how to get involved
- financial literacy and more!

SFA-savvy instructors and student instructors who have already progressed to their junior or senior year teach the course and can provide valuable assistance. Encourage your student to take advantage of SFAS 1101/3101.

School of Honors

The School of Honors provides exceptional intellectual challenge and stimulation for academically talented students. Members benefit from honors coursework, early registration, unique scholarship opportunities and a designated computer lab. The school provides a variety of opportunities for students who want to make the most of their college experience.

Students can build global awareness through study abroad opportunities, engage in undergraduate research, present their work at national conferences and live with other high-achieving students in Wisely Hall or Lumberjack Landing where academically talented students thrive through engagement and networking. Twenty four quiet hours a day are enforced so students can concentrate on their studies.



AXE HANDLE ONE-STOP SHOP

Looking for one resource to “handle” all your questions? SFA’s brand new Axe Handle one-stop shop can help! We are committed to improving the university experience for all Lumberjacks through our centralized virtual services. To reach us, call (936) 468-1000 directly or any office the Axe Handle services, including the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Business Office, Office of the Registrar, or Residence Life. Have an after-hours question? You also can interact with our website’s chatbot, Jack, any time of the day or night.



CAMPUS SAFETY

SFA's University Police Department employs Texas commissioned peace officers who patrol the campus 24/7. Some of the services UPD provides are:

- **Emergency call boxes:** Located throughout campus, the boxes are bright yellow or white and labeled "Emergency." Operation is easy, and the call goes directly to the UPD communication center.
- **Police escorts:** Between dusk and daylight, UPD provides police escorts to any member of the Lumberjack family between campus locations. Just use the call box to request one or call (936) 468-2608. An evening shuttle bus also operates from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and runs a circular route through campus.
- **Vehicle assistance:** UPD can provide help to students having difficulty starting their vehicle or retrieving keys locked inside a vehicle.
- **Jack Alerts:** SFA provides a notification system whereby members of the campus community can receive timely notifications concerning emergencies that may affect them. Notifications are sent through text message, voice call, email, Facebook and Twitter. The system is in compliance with the Clery Act. Registration takes place through mySFA by clicking on "Sign Up for Campus Alerts."
- **Lumberjack Guardian:** This mobile app provides enhanced campus safety through real-time interactive features that create a virtual safety network of friends, family and UPD. Features in the app include a panic button, tip texting, personal guardians, a safety timer and a safety profile to include medical conditions. View download instructions at sfasu.edu/upd then scroll down and click on "Register Now" for the Lumberjack Guardian app located on the left side.
- **Training programs:** Personal safety training, including defense and alcohol and drug awareness, are offered through UPD. Contact them at (936) 468-2265, or visit sfasu.edu/upd for a complete list of programs and sign-up information.



Encourage your student to become involved in at least one or two student organizations or activities. Studies show that students who are involved tend to have higher GPAs and remain in college.

- **Eyewitness text tip:** This service provides a way for the SFA community to report crimes anonymously. Just send a text to 67283. Begin the message with SFASUTIP.
- **Automated external defibrillators:** Located throughout campus, these devices provide instructions when opened.

Remind your student that in case of an emergency, dial 911 from any campus phone or call UPD at (936) 468-2608. To view SFA's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, access sfasu.edu/upd and click the "Police Department" tab. To receive the report by mail, call (936) 468-2252.

A note about crime prevention ...

Students can help avoid becoming victims by following a few simple actions:

- Lock the residence even for short trips down the hall.
- Do not leave valuables in the open.
- Engrave valuables with a driver's license number.
- Record the serial numbers and brand names of property (view information about property registration on mySFA).
- Require identification before admitting unfamiliar people into a residence.
- Remain on lighted walkways and/or use the police escort service at night.



As a family member of an SFA student, you can sign up to receive the Lumberjack Family Connection newsletter via email. See Page 31 for more information.

PARKING SERVICES

Students, faculty and staff who park on campus must purchase a parking permit. Student parking lot assignment is based on residence hall location. Parking permits for cars and trucks are hangtags, and motorcycles use decals.

Helpful information:

- Parking permits can be purchased online through the parking portal in the student's mySFA account.
- Parking rules are enforced 24 hours a day, even when classes are not in session.
- Students should only park in designated areas for their particular permit type and properly display the permit.
- Report lost/stolen permits immediately.
- If your student receives a citation, it should not be ignored. Vehicles with three or more citations are boot eligible. Students who receive 10 or more citations in an academic year may lose their parking privilege for a year.
- There is a 10-day appeal period for citations.
- Students who change cars during the semester should move the hangtag to the new vehicle.

- Visitor parking spaces require a permit obtained at either Parking Services or the Visitors Booth on Griffith Boulevard.
- A person temporarily disabled due to illness or injury may obtain a temporary permit valid for up to one week. Contact Parking Services for more information.

JACK TRACK SHUTTLE SERVICE

If your student doesn't have access to an automobile, don't worry. Movement around campus will still be easy with SFA's Jack Track shuttle service. It's free for all currently enrolled SFA students.

During the fall and spring semesters when classes are in session, shuttle buses travel around the campus and stop at high-traffic areas. Jack Track is safe, convenient and reliable. Just tell your student to wait at one of the bus stops, and a bus will be by shortly. For schedules and routes, visit sfasu.edu/jacktrack.






Encourage your student to get to know a diverse group of people; not just in terms of ethnicity, but also in background, hometown, etc.





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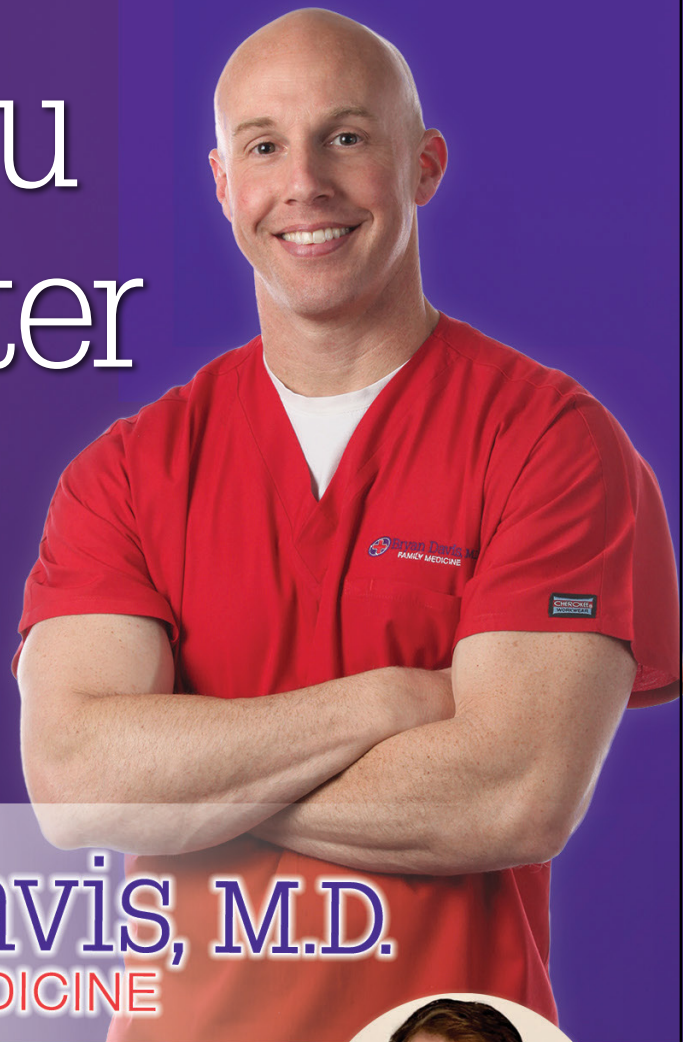
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OVERALL EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

OVERALL EXCELLENCE IN PHILANTHROPY

PANHELLENIC SERVICE/PHILANTHROPY EVENT OF THE YEAR

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STUDENT RESOURCES

Barnes & Noble Bookstore

The Barnes & Noble Bookstore can fill your student's textbook and school supply needs. Students can select from both new and used textbooks. Be sure to have your student order textbooks early to have the best opportunity to purchase used (and often less expensive) textbooks, which can be ordered online at sfasu.bncollege.com.

Campus Technology and Computer Resources

SFA's Student Technical Support Shack can take care of your student's technological needs — everything from computer recommendations to virus and spyware protection. All campus residence halls have high-speed internet connections, and there are more than 20 computer labs and approximately 800 workstations located throughout the campus.

The university's intranet portal, mySFA, provides access to student email, course registration, grades, transcripts and academic calendars. Your student's mySFA account is created upon acceptance to the university. The account name and PIN are mailed to the address on record.

Counseling Services

At times, students encounter problems that can potentially affect their ability to succeed academically. Counseling Services employs licensed professional counselors who provide confidential services to help students with academic and personal development obstacles as well as mental health issues. They also can provide crisis counseling. Most services are short-term, but counselors can assist with a referral if more intensive assistance is needed.

Dining Services

SFA's Dining Services provides customer-oriented eateries featuring varied menu choices. Dining locations include two all-you-care-to-eat facilities, one in the Baker Pattillo Student Center and the other in the East College

Dining Hall. The student center also features additional offerings, such as Chick-fil-A and Starbucks. A C-Store, which is similar to a convenience store, also is available for grab-and-go items, such as food, beverages and household items.

Einstein Bros. Bagels, located at the entrance to the library, serves coffee, fresh-baked goods and sandwiches. In addition, SFA has its own dietitian who can help your student select healthy choices. The dietitian's services are free to SFA meal plan holders. For more information, email LumberjackEats@sfasu.edu or visit dineoncampus.com/sfa.

Health Services

SFA's Health Services is partially funded through student service fees. These fees cover the deductibles and co-pays required by your insurance that you would normally pay the doctor. The clinic's staff members bill the insurance company but do not bill you or your student provided the insurance coverage is current. If a student is uninsured, there is no charge for basic office visits. Students covered by health insurance should have a copy of the front and back of their insurance card.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students who experience temporary limiting conditions may visit this office to obtain help in locating services and assistance vital to their continued academic success. Staff members will work with your student to determine individual needs and identify assistance from campus resources. They also help guide student conduct in a manner that provides a foundation for success.

Testing Services

If your student needs to take tests, such as the TSI Assessment Exam, Elementary Education Admissions Test, Graduate Management Admissions Test or others, an appointment must be made with Testing Services at (936) 468-3958. Some tests require a proctoring fee.



Smile. You should be the biggest cheerleader for your college student. Students moving away from home need a confident smile to reassure them that they are doing the right thing. Of course, parents will miss them, but this is a very jubilant, yet apprehensive, moment in students' lives.

DIVERSITY · EQUITY · INCLUSION

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion comprises the following areas: Disability Services, Title IX, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Veterans Resource Center. Staff members assist students in managing their transition into and through college by creating caring responses to the university's diverse student body, fostering inclusive and equitable environments that develop a positive self-image, and increasing their knowledge of resources available on campus.

- **Disability Services:** SFA is committed to providing equal opportunities in higher education to students with disabilities. Disability Services works collaboratively with the student to facilitate specialized support services and accommodations that meet individual disability-related needs. Students who experience temporary limiting conditions as a result of injuries, surgeries or short-term disabilities also may visit this office for access to resources during the duration of the condition. For more information, visit sfasu.edu/disabilityservices.
- **Title IX:** SFA is dedicated to providing an inclusive working and learning environment that affirms the rights and dignity of every Lumberjack. With this goal in mind, discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression is prohibited. The Title IX office supports the university's commitment by offering training, programs and processes that promote an inclusive, diverse and supportive environment consistent with the SFA Way. All incoming students are required to complete an online training covering Title IX and substance use on campus to aid the university in stopping sex- and gender-based discrimination, remedying its effects

and preventing its recurrence. More information can be found at sfasu.edu/lumberjacks-care.

- **Office of Multicultural Affairs:** The OMA strives to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students on campus. The office creates networks of support, develops programs for students to provide meaningful interactions and learning experiences, promotes underrepresented populations, and provides cultural awareness. It also hosts the Tunnel of Oppression, Black History Month, Diversity Week, Women's Empowerment Summit, Hispanic Heritage Month, National Coming Out Day and other events.
 - ▶ **Veterans Resource Center:** The VRC provides a space for military veterans and their dependents to gather, socialize and form relationships with other veterans and their dependents that can provide networks of support and lead to feelings of inclusion at SFA. The VRC also is the hub for veteran programming that includes connecting student veterans to faculty veterans, as well as providing access to veterans' resources provided by the university and outside agencies. To learn more about utilizing the GI Bill or other Veterans Affairs educational benefits, email vaservices@sfasu.edu.



Remember that it's absolutely OK to visit your student, but avoid surprises. Your student's schedule will be filled with homework, jobs and social activities.



STUDENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

Student Affairs Programs is dedicated to the first-year experience, student involvement, diversity and inclusion, engagement, and fun. From bonfires and concerts to leadership development and volunteerism, college is a time to learn about oneself as well as cultivate lifelong friendships and interests.

Some of the programs offered include:

- **Student Engagement Programs:** Home to the Student Activities Association, Spirit and Traditions Committee, Leadership Programs and Homecoming, among others, the Office of Student Engagement Programs offers more than 150 events annually, including concerts, movie series, and interactive games and events designed to promote school spirit.
 - **Fraternity and Sorority Life:** Greek life provides students with opportunities for personal growth and the development of interpersonal skills. Students have the opportunity to grow in a supportive atmosphere where they learn new skills to enrich their life experience and prepare them for career challenges and fulfilling relationships. Joining a fraternity or sorority is a lifetime commitment that benefits students now and in the future. SFA's Greek community includes more than 30 fraternities/sororities housed within four councils: Interfraternity, Multicultural Greek, Panhellenic and National Pan-Hellenic.
 - **Involvement Center/Student Organizations:** With more than 200 student clubs and organizations, your student will have lots of opportunities to get involved.
- Staff members at the Involvement Center, located in the student center, advise new students and help find an area that interests them. In addition, this group hosts an annual involvement fair every semester.
- **Orientation and Transition Programs:** Incoming freshmen and transfer students take part in sessions hosted by this office that help integrate them into the SFA community. Orientation staff members coordinate Weeks of Welcome and Family Weekend.
 - **Service Programs:** Your student will have an opportunity to hone leadership skills and give back to the local community. Some of the opportunities for students include monthly service projects, SFA Dance Marathon supporting a children's health movement and volunteering to work the student food pantry. Other opportunities include the Lumberjack Leadership Academy, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society and The Big Event.
 - **Spirit Teams:** Home to 31 national championships since 1993, SFA's spirit teams comprise Large Coed Cheer, Small Coed Cheer, All-Girl Cheer, Dance Teams and Mascots, and the Purple Haze Student Section.
 - **Additional Programs and Services:** The Office of Student Affairs Programs also advises the Student Government Association, Jack Student Organizations Resource Center and SFA's civic engagement programs.



UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

- **Purple Haze Student Section:** The official student section of SFA, these Lumberjacks are dedicated to carrying out The SFA Way and spirit while supporting fellow SFA students on the field, court, diamond or any other way possible. Purple Haze students pride themselves on being the loudest and proudest student fans. Students attend home sporting events and sit in the reserved student section wearing as much purple as possible. Jackhammers, known as the Purple Haze student leaders, are the "heartbeat" of the student section. They wear overalls and cheer as loud as they can for the Lumberjacks.
- **Lumberjack Cultural Association:** As the university-sponsored organization within the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the purpose of LCA is to efficiently and effectively provide a variety of diverse, social, recreational, cultural, entertaining and educational programs that enhance the SFA community in an aspect of diversity and multiculturalism. Some programs that LCA hosts are the Tunnel of Oppression, The Chocolate Affair, and a variety of other programming during Diversity Week and throughout the year.
- **Residence Hall Association:** RHA passes legislation affecting the residents, sponsors campuswide events and brings all students living in the residence halls together. Every student living in a residence hall is automatically an RHA member. Each hall has its own government system with officers and representatives. RHA programs include Casino Night, Holiday Extravaganza, Best Week Ever and more.
- **Student Activities Association:** SAA is the largest student-run programming board at SFA. SAA contributes to campus life by providing social, cultural, educational and recreational entertainment opportunities for students.
- **Student Government Association:** SGA serves as the voice of SFA students. SGA comprises and is administered entirely by students with representation from every college and undergraduate classification.
- **Spirit and Traditions Committee:** This spirited group of student leaders hosts activities throughout the year that educate Lumberjacks about the rich traditions and history of our university. They also are responsible for coordinating and leading Jacks Charge, Holler @ Homer and the Jackhammers.



SUBSCRIBE TO SFA'S FAMILY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

The Lumberjack Family Connection is an e-newsletter sent twice each semester to keep Lumberjack family members in the know about life at SFA. This newsletter will include information from areas across campus, such as the Center for Career and Professional Development, Office of Development, Residence Life, and campus events listed on the university calendar.

To sign up for this e-newsletter, scan the QR code and fill out the form.

For questions, contact Orientation and Transition Programs by emailing orientation@sfasu.edu or calling (936) 468-6641.



MISCELLANEOUS

CENTER FOR CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The center helps your student with all aspects of career development. Staff members work to enhance employability by helping your student develop a professional brand through assistance with résumé preparation, interview techniques, and internship and job-search strategies. Career coaching can help your student gain an increased knowledge of self as it relates to the world of work by highlighting connections between academic majors and career opportunities. Encourage your student to take a proactive approach to future plans by utilizing the center's tools.

All services are free to current students and alumni. For more information, visit sfasu.edu/ccpd. The center also has a page dedicated to help parents guide their student through the career development process at sfasu.edu/ccpd/parents.

PARENTS FUND

The Parents Fund is SFA's **Annual Fund** fundraising campaign for current Lumberjack parents to help cultivate a culture of parent champions for the university.

Donations to the fund reinforce the importance of public education, student experiences and the university's mission. You designate where you want to make an impact. Whether you choose to support your student's college or department, students groups, the Academic Assistance and Resource Center, or the president's discretionary fund, 100% of your donation goes toward making a huge impact.

Without generous extended family members, many SFA students would never realize their dream of a college education. To donate to the Parents Fund, visit sfasu.edu/parents-fund.

SFA ATHLETICS

A member of the Western Athletic Conference and NCAA Division I Athletics, SFA offers men's and women's athletics, including football, basketball, volleyball, beach volleyball, track and field, cross-country, bowling, golf, baseball, softball, soccer, and tennis.

For a complete listing of SFA athletic teams, rosters and schedules, visit sfajacks.com.

SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The SFA Alumni Association supports current students and graduates with events, programs and networks during school and post-graduation. Students can join the Tomorrow's Alumni Generation program as a member of the Alumni Association. Students may enjoy association benefits, extra discounts and other perks.

The official SFA class ring is purchased through the association after a student completes 60 hours. Senior Send-Off is an exciting event that celebrates graduation with an opportunity to join the Alumni Association as an official graduate of SFA. For more information, visit the association's website at sfaalumni.com.

STUDENT EMERGENCY AID FUND

College is meant to be a challenge, but for many Lumberjacks, these challenges can include more than research papers and exams.

Many students are unable to pay their tuition balances and purchase books and supplies, thus putting their dream of a college education in jeopardy. Some students have no choice but to withdraw from SFA even when they owe relatively small balances. COVID-19 has made these problems even more prevalent.

The Student Emergency Aid Fund helps students in need of one-time assistance due to a sudden financial need. Contributions of any amount are put directly to work to help our students achieve their goal of an SFA education. To contribute, visit sfasu.edu/emergency-fund.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student at the age of 18 or if the student attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students." If you would like to obtain more information regarding FERPA, visit sfasu.edu/registrar.



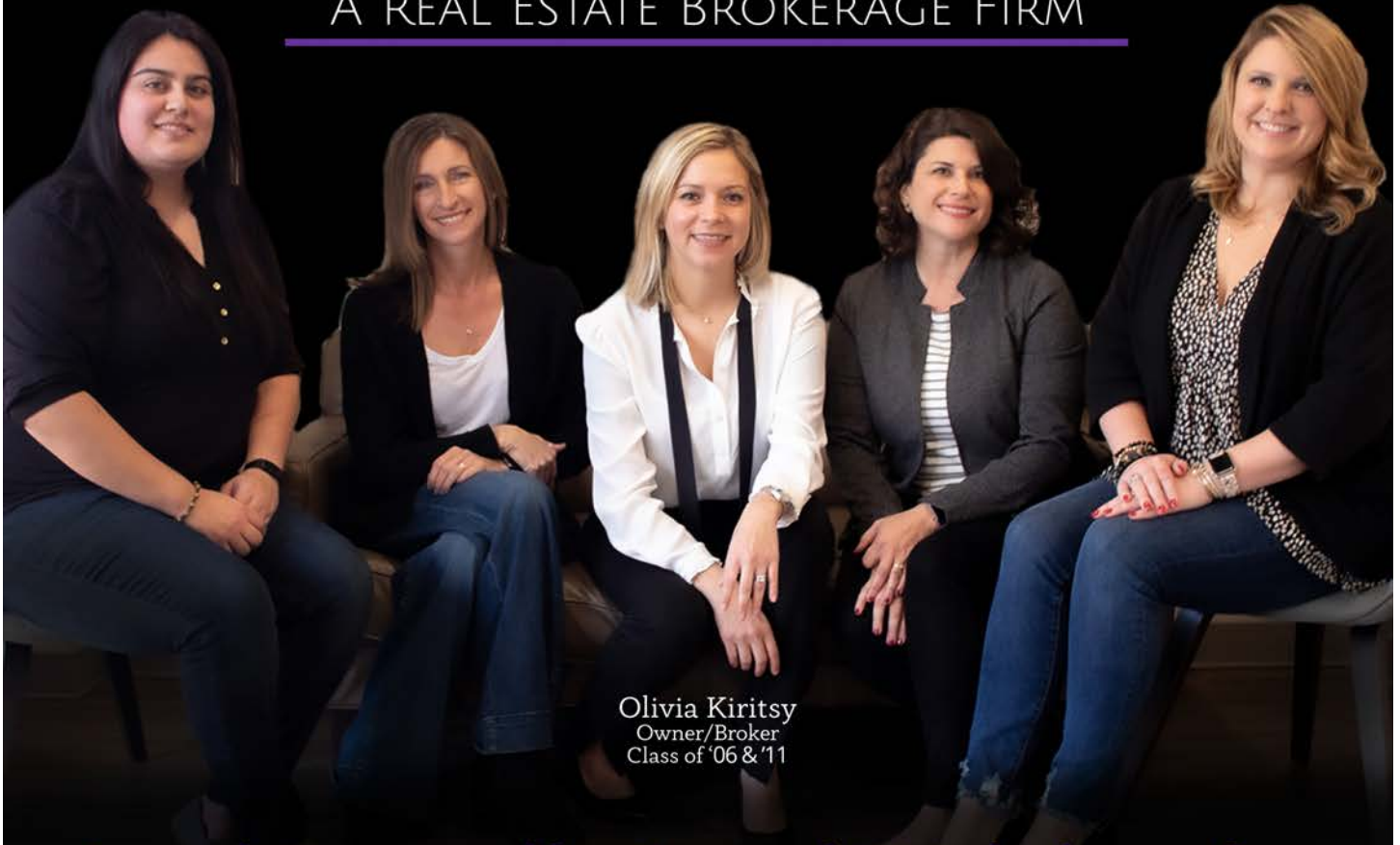
SAVE THE DATE!
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Sept. 17-19

CONTACT INFORMATION

Academic Advising Center	(936) 468-5803	sfasu.edu/advising
Academic Assistance and Resource Center	(936) 468-4108	sfasu.edu/aarc
Admissions	(936) 468-2504	sfasu.edu/admissions
Alumni Association	(936) 468-3407	sfaalumni.com
Athletics Department	(936) 468-3501	sfajacks.com
Baker Pattillo Student Center Info Desk	(936) 468-3401	sfasu.edu/student-services
Barnes & Noble Bookstore	(936) 468-2108	sfasu.bncollege.com
Business Office	(936) 468-6960	sfasu.edu/controller/business-office
Center for Career and Professional Development	(936) 468-3305	sfasu.edu/ccpd
Counseling Services	(936) 468-2401	sfasu.edu/counseling-services
Disability Services	(936) 468-3004	sfasu.edu/disability-services
Financial Aid and Scholarships	(936) 468-2403	sfasu.edu/financial-aid
Health Services	(936) 468-4008	sfasu.edu/health-clinic
Honors Program	(936) 468-2813	sfasu.edu/honors
Jack Camp	(936) 468-1367	sfasu.edu/jack-camp
Lumberjacks Care/Title IX	(936) 468-8292	sfasu.edu/lumberjacks-care
Multicultural Affairs	(936) 468-1073	sfasu.edu/oma
Orientation and Transition Programs	(936) 468-6641	sfasu.edu/orientation
Parking Services	(936) 468-7275	sfasu.edu/parking
Registrar	(936) 468-2501	sfasu.edu/registrar
Residence Life (Housing)	(936) 468-2601	sfasu.edu/reslife
SFAS 1101	(936) 468-5803	sfasu.edu/sfas1101
Student Employment Center	(936) 468-2304	sfasu.edu/hr
Student Engagement Programs	(936) 468-1018	sfasu.edu/student-affairs
Student Success Center (Steen Library)	(936) 468-5803	sfasu.edu/student-success
Texas Success Initiative	(936) 468-5803	sfasu.edu/advising/111.asp
University Police Department	(936) 468-2608	sfasu.edu/upd
Veterans Resource Center	(936) 468-6494	sfasu.edu/vrc

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Conversation Starters

Topics to discuss with your student

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT:

Students who become involved right away are more likely to feel a university connection, to graduate and to spend their free time constructively.

ASK YOUR STUDENT: Which organizations or traditions did you learn about that you are interested in participating in?

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS:

Alcohol is involved in most sexual assaults and violent acts. SFA has a zero-tolerance policy regarding drugs. Any violation of this policy results in automatic suspension.

ASK YOUR STUDENT: What would you do if you were in a situation where there was alcohol? What actions should you take in order to stay safe?

MAJOR: Try to give students the freedom to select a major. Parents whose influence is too strong might find that their students are not as committed to the major and often are not successful in working toward it. There are many campus resources offered to help students decide upon a major and future career.

SAFETY: SFA's Jack Track shuttle service helps safely transport students around campus. University police officers provide escorts to safely walk students to locations around campus after dark. Emergency call boxes are located throughout the campus, and by simply pressing a button, students will be directly connected to the University Police Department. Parents also should encourage students to download the Lumberjack Guardian app to mobile devices.

WELLNESS: There are many campus resources, including the Student Recreation Center, Counseling Services and Health Services, to help your student stay mentally, emotionally and physically fit.

COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS: The time spent communicating with your student will likely change as adjustments to college life are made. If you ever feel your student needs counseling, contact SFA's Counseling Services at (936) 468-2401 or counseling@sfasu.edu. This is a free resource for all enrolled SFA students.

FINANCES: It is important that you and your student reach an understanding of who will be paying for what during college. Note that early in the semester many students receive what is called a "difference check," which is the result of receiving more financial aid than the balance amount due. In most cases, the funds are credited to your student's BankMobile card. Discuss with your student who should retain this card. Often, students will spend these funds and not have enough to pay for spring tuition.

ASK YOUR STUDENT: After learning more about SFA's majors and areas of study during Orientation, are you excited about the major you've selected? (If undecided, did you learn about majors and areas of study that might interest you?)

ASK YOUR STUDENT: What steps will you take to keep you and your belongings safe?

ASK YOUR STUDENT: What steps do you plan to take while at SFA to achieve/maintain your health and well-being?

DISCUSS with your student dates and times you would like to set aside to communicate each week.

ASK YOUR STUDENT: Do you plan to open a credit card account? How do you plan to pay for your expenses?



Student Affairs for Support Services would like to congratulate you on your new Lumberjack!

We are honored you and your student chose SFA!

Part of our commitment to enhancing the knowledge and experience of your student includes the following online training resources. These trainings will educate your student about relevant college issues, reduce the risk of suicide and sexual violence, and provide information about resources and how to effectively help those who might need their support for assistance.

Voices for Change

Online training that includes information about



- healthy relationships
- sexual violence
- alcohol abuse prevention
- sexual health
- bystander intervention
- and campus and community resources.

Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Online training that includes information about



- symptoms of depression
- signs of suicidal thoughts
- when and how to help a friend who is depressed or considering suicide
- and campus and community resources.

Students can access the training approximately 48 hours after registration by logging in to mySFA.

Training should be completed prior to attending classes for maximum benefit.

For more information, visit sfasu.edu/lcc or email oedicompliance@sfasu.edu.