



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

CSEC 1436 Cyber Security Programming I +Lab, Fall 2023,

CRN: 11691 (*Class Section 600*), 11174 (*Lab Section 60L*)

Course Syllabus

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| Class Modality: | Online Synchronous. Students are expected to be on line during class and lab meeting hours. Attendance <u>will</u> be taken. |
| Class Meeting Time and Place: | Thursdays 2:00 – 4:45 PM, online using Zoom |
| Lab Meeting Time and Place: | Tuesdays 5:30 – 6:45 PM, online using Zoom |
| Class Duration: | Aug 28, 2023 – Dec 15, 2023 |
| Instructor: | Dr. Akhtar Lodgher, Office: STEM 211D, Tel: 210-784-2353 (leave message) E-Mail: Akhtar.Lodgher@tamusa.edu (preferred way of contact) Student emails will receive a reply within two business days, excluding weekends and official holidays. |
| Course Website: | https://tamusa.blackboard.com/ |
| Office Hours: | T R 10:00 am - 12:00 noon (zoom appointment) Instructor can meet via zoom or face-to-face in office based on preset appointment time |

To meet with the instructor during office hours, send an email to the instructor at the above email to set up a time, and you will be sent a zoom link for your meeting to ensure individualized attention.

Catalog Course Description: Course covers introductory programming for cyber security applications such as forensics, penetration testing, cryptography, etc. Introductory python structures, features, and modules are used for developing these applications. Course includes lab component for lab-based exercises. Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in MATH 1314 or equivalent must be completed first.

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Students who do not meet the prerequisites must contact the instructor immediately. The department degree programs require that all Math, CSCI, and CISA prerequisites, even for courses transferred in, must have a grade of C or better.

Course Objectives: Students will learn the basics of reading, writing, and understanding small-scale python programming applications for the domain of cyber security. The course will cover the foundational topics of python programming as it is used for the art and implementation of cyber security offensive and defensive programming. The course includes a mandatory two-hour lab component.

Important note: This course does not count as equivalent for CSCI 1436 for BS Computer Science students. They should drop out from this course and lab and contact their academic advisor and department chair of computer science immediately for schedule adjustment.

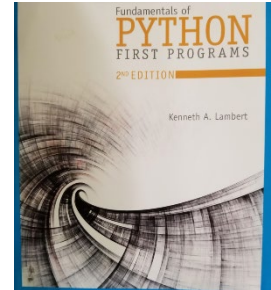
Student Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and apply concepts, principles, and techniques of Python programming
- Understand introductory programming for cyber security applications
- Demonstrate python programming ability by analyzing cyber security problems and designing and implementing small applications as solutions

Required Materials:

- **Textbook:** *Fundamentals of Python, First Programs*, 2nd edition, Cengage, by Kenneth A. Lambert, 2020, ISBN: 9781337560092. This book is a **required** textbook and students are required to get the *exact edition* (book or online version) of the book to enable them to complete their class and lab work.
- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. You will have lecture notes and other supplementary materials in Blackboard. All class materials will be posted through Blackboard and students should monitor this several times a day.
- **Software:** Students are required to have a good computing laptop or desktop (MSWindows or Linux) with camera, microphone and audio to enable accessing and completing class work. Minimally, you should install the following on your computing machine (laptop).
 - Python 3.10 or above. Download and install from <https://www.python.org/downloads/>
 - Microsoft Visual Studio Code (VSC version 1.58.2 or above) for code development. (<https://code.visualstudio.com/Download>). You should install this onto your laptop or desktop. We will be programming from the first day of class/lab.
 - **Optional:** Install a virtual environment (VMWare) from the website. Contact Mr. Joe Rasche for your account access/password at: Jose.Rasche@tamusa.edu.
 - **Optional:** Install the Kali Linux environment from the website <https://www.kali.org/docs/installation/>
 - It is optional to install Python and MS Visual Studio Code under the kali operating system
- All class work, homework, and other course materials shall be submitted through **Blackboard only**. Specific instructions for file naming and other details will be provided for each work submission. University email **cannot** be used for submission as security protocols remove python attachments.
- **Computer Hardware:**
 - **Note 1:** This course requires the use of a computing environment with **owner privileges** using MS Windows or a Linux laptop/workstation. Other configurations such as Apple products, SurfacePro, cell-phones, tablets, etc do not have the required computing power/memory/or hardware configuration or user privileges to allow the installation and or completion of the required course work. Students are required to use the appropriate environment to be a success in the class. In class work will use MS Windows/MS Visual Studio Code (VSC) environment for exercises. The optional Kali Linux/MS VSC environment may be used for demonstrating python code versatility across other computing platforms.
 - **Note 2:** This course is a programming intensive course. We will be programming in the class, and you will continue those programs and do other programs outside the class. Please have your laptop/desktop ready with the above programming environment for every class to do in-class programs, so that you can have a seamless transition from class work to homework.



- **Time:** You are expected to **spend 4-8 hours per week for the course outside of class/lab time** reviewing class materials, reading the text book and hands-on practicing writing python programs. Based on the background, some students may require more time. Time spent may be longer when assignment and project deliverables are due. **Keywords: Practice, Practice, Practice** writing python programs from scratch.

Other Recommended / Reading Materials: There are many python tutorial websites. Students are encouraged to access those websites and to use Google/YouTube to search for “python tutorials” as a first resource. Sites include: <https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/index.html>, <https://www.w3resource.com/python-exercises/>, <https://www.w3schools.com/python/>, etc., The website: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/> has the official documentation of python language features.

Course Requirements every student must fulfill in order to succeed in course:

1. It is a student responsibility to adhere to all university health and safety protocols
2. It is a student responsibility to check Blackboard on a regular basis for course material updates.
3. It is a student responsibility to keep current on class work, if they have missed a class. Recording of class/lab lecture will available for a period of only two weeks after class, after which access will be removed.
4. It is a student responsibility to keep current with all course class work, assignments, quizzes, and examinations.
5. It is a student responsibility to ask questions and communicate with the instructor either in class, online, off-line or during office hours.
6. It is a student responsibility for availability of internet connectivity for class sessions and class work. Extensions will not be granted for lack of availability of internet connections.
7. Exams may be proctored using a proctoring service, which will require installation of proctoring software and change of privacy settings on your computer.

Grading Policy: The final course grade will be based on your performance on the labs, exams, assignments and class participation using the following weights:

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| Attendance and class participation (checked any time in class) | 5% |
| Lab work/ Lab exercises (almost every week) | 35% |
| Assignments (due dates notified in class) | 20% |
| Mid-term Exam (mandatory) | 20% |
| Final Exam (mandatory) | 20% |
| Total | 100% |

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: 90% and above \Rightarrow A; 80 – 89% \Rightarrow B; 70 – 79% \Rightarrow C; 60 – 69% \Rightarrow D; Below 60% \Rightarrow F. The Course has a requirement of a grade of C as a minimum acceptable passing grade.

This course has a lab component. Students have to pass the course AND the lab to get a satisfactory grade for both. The course (including the lab) will receive the SAME lower grade as the class / lab based on the above grade computation.

Example 1: *If you get an F in the course and even if you have a satisfactory grade for your lab work, the course and the lab will get an F.*

Example 2: *If you get an F in the lab exercises and even if you have a satisfactory grade for your course work, the course and the lab will get an F.*

University grade procedures are listed at: <https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/grades/>

Examinations and Quizzes: There will be a mandatory mid-term exam, a mandatory final exam (as per university schedule). Being absent for an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam and may result in a fail grade in the course. The exams will consist of either: conceptual multiple-choice questions, problem solving questions, programming questions, and short essay questions. The exam materials will be based on class lecture materials, the text, labs, and class discussions. Questions will emphasize understanding and applications of concepts and topics covered in class. Students are expected to take detailed notes of class discussions. Exams may be proctored by online proctoring service – in which case the student will be required to install the required proctoring software and allow access to the camera, microphone, and other requirements of the proctoring service.

Labs/Assignment submission: There will be labs (approximately one each week) and two assignments during the course. Individual lab and assignment statements and due dates will be posted through Blackboard. For all assignment and lab problems, ALL code, data and output files must be submitted as per requirements. Students are responsible for ensuring that the code works (runs) without any changes by the instructor. For the programming assignments/labs, a clear representation of the program code and logic including comments is necessary. Considerable points will be taken off for not following these requirements.

The instructor may use an external software for detecting plagiarism.

Online individual / Group Activities: Students are **NOT** allowed to message the entire class.

Make up and Late Assignment/exam policy: As a general rule, make-ups or late submissions for individual students will **NOT** be offered or accepted for any missed assignments/exams/quizzes. Late submissions or make-ups may be accepted/ administered only in extraordinary circumstances such as an excused official university activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency. However, you must provide comprehensive documentation either before or within a few days of the missed assignment, lab or exam.

Class conduct and civility code: Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during lectures and discussions online, including the following:

1. Attendance will be taken by Zoom attendance or Blackboard quiz anytime in the class.
2. It is the students' responsibility to obtain, install and successfully use the required materials (hardware, software, connectivity, textbook, etc) for this class.
3. Student must retain copies of all submitted and graded work for verification purposes. Keep separate copies of all submissions (computer files, e-mails, etc) in addition to your submission into BB. That copy should **NOT** be changed in case verification of submission is needed.
4. While students are encouraged to ask questions, unrelated talking / commenting while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students and shall be avoided. Repeated logging in and out of online sessions is disruptive and strongly discouraged.

5. For any questions about the labs, assignments, and exams, a student should contact the instructor, **before** the day it is due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
6. All communications will be via Black Board and e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their *school provided email account*. The instructor will reply to a student e-mail messages within 48 hours during week days (Monday-Friday, excluding weekends and holidays). While the instructor will make every effort to answer on weekends also, it may not be possible in all cases.
7. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard before the due date/time. Do not change or access files you have submitted until the instructor has given the OK to do so.
8. All class work (exams, quizzes, etc), must be done individually without seeking help from other students or from outside. **Not even a single line of code or text can be copied from anyone (in class or outside), or anywhere (from web searches) without consent or attribution.**

Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Class attendance and Participation: A vital part of every student's education is regular attendance of class meetings. Any absences tend to lower the quality of a student's work, and frequent or persistent absences (*more than two*) may result in a failing grade. Students are responsible for the materials covered in class. The course covers a lot of material and most students find at least some parts of it difficult. Class participation is highly encouraged as it makes the class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. Students are strongly *encouraged* to ask questions and participate in class discussions and problem solving.

The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding lectures.

Fall 2023 Class Schedule

The provisions and information set forth in the schedule below are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. The instructor reserves the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule.

| Week # | Week Begin Date | Description |
|--------|-----------------|--|
| Week 1 | Aug 28 | Syllabus, Chapter 1, Python environment |
| Week 2 | Sep 4 | Chapter 2: Data types and expressions |
| Week 3 | Sep 11 | Chapter 3: Loops / selection Statements |
| Week 4 | Sep 18 | Chapter 3: Loops / selection Statements |
| Week 5 | Sep 25 | Chapter 4: Strings and Text Files |
| Week 6 | Oct 2 | Chapter 4: Strings and Text Files |
| Week 7 | Oct 9 | Chapter 4: Strings and Text Files |
| Week 8 | Oct 16 | Midterm exam, Tue Oct 17th Lab time. |
| Week 9 | Oct 23 | Chapter 5: Lists and Dictionaries |

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| Week 10 | Oct 30 | Chapter 5: Lists and Dictionaries |
| Week 11 | Nov 6 | Chapter 5: Lists and Dictionaries |
| Week 12 | Nov 13 | Chapter 5: Lists and Dictionaries |
| Week 13 | Nov 20 | Chapter 6: Design apps with Functions |
| Week 14 | Nov 27 | Chapter 6: Design apps with Functions |
| Week 15 | Dec 4 | Chapter 8: Graphical User Interfaces |
| Week 15 | Dec 7 (Thu) | Chapter 8: Graphical User Interfaces Last Day of Classes |
| Week 15 | Dec 8 | Study day – No class |
| Week 16 | Dec 9 - 15 | Final Exams as per A&M-SA Schedule. Thursday December 14th 3:00 – 5:00 pm |

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

Dropping the course:

The last date to drop the course with an automatic grade of W and the last date to withdraw from the University are listed in the academic calendar on the university website. For either option, you are required to meet with your academic advisor first and submit the necessary paperwork. Students dropping a course are subject to all conditions listed in the university catalog.

Violations of Academic Conduct (Section 14.5 Student Handbook)

As a member in an academic community, students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education, be mature, be self-directed and be able to manage their own affairs. Students who are unwilling to abide by these basic expectations will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Students are expected to share in the responsibility and authority with faculty and staff to challenge and make known acts that violate the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Code of Conduct. For more information please visit the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities website <https://www.tamusa.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>

Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions, collusion, lying and bribery. For more information, refer to the Student Code of Conduct, Article III: Conduct Rules and Regulations. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty has the discretion to impose grade penalties as deemed necessary.

Faculty members are required to report such serious breaches of academic honesty to their chair, their dean and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. In cases of academic misconduct, students may be subject not only to grade sanctions in courses but to disciplinary action. Grade sanctions may be imposed only by faculty members, but suspension or expulsion may be imposed only by the Vice President for Student Affairs. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of suspension or expulsion due to violations of academic misconduct, they must initiate their appeal as outlined within the Student Code of Conduct. Extenuating circumstances may cause the University to deviate from the defined time frames.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. Posting of any class work given to student, or solutions, or discussion, on publicly accessible forums or on social media is not permissible.

Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If a student is unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please she/he should contact the instructor for an assessment of the situation.

Use of Generative AI NOT Permitted for any course submission

CSEC 1436 class and labwork assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of any exam, assignment or laboratory work for them, which includes hiring a person or a company and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT, etc to write any portion of the exams, assignments or lab work. While the use of the web or AI tools such as ChatGPT, etc is allowed for review of class topics, submission of any work generated using any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are

experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling
Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/uploadfile/folders/sdbowen23/pdf/pdf-635073426137928167-10.100.20.116.pdf>

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an

opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors

and trained victims advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Key Dates For Fall 2023 Semester

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|----------------|---|
| August 28 | First day of class |
| November 10 | Last day to drop with an automatic “W” |
| November 21 | Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University |
| November 22 | Study Day – No classes |
| November 23-25 | Thanksgiving Holiday – University closed |
| December 7 | Last day of classes |
| December 8 | Study Day – No classes |
| December 9-15 | Final exams |

The complete academic calendar is available online:
<https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-calendar/>