



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

Finance 3337 902 Principles of Corporate Finance, Fall 2024, CRN: 12490  
Department of Accounting and Finance, College of Business

**Course Syllabus**

**Class Meeting Time and Place:** W 5:30 am-6:45 pm BLH 152A  
**Class Duration:** 08/26/2024-12/13/2024  
**Instructor:** Dr. Keming Li  
Office: BLH 441 J  
Tel: 210-784-2326  
E-Mail: [kli@tamusa.edu](mailto:kli@tamusa.edu)  
**Course Website:** <https://tamusa.blackboard.com/>  
**Office Hours:** M 9:00 am - 11:00 am (WebEx: <https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=mc5eeda489ecae6574d49c97e6f8e870e>)  
W 9:00 am - 11:00 am (WebEx: <https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=mc5eeda489ecae6574d49c97e6f8e870e>), and by appointment.

**Catalog Course Description:** “Finance” is a broad discipline. From an individual’s perspective, finance encompasses financial institutions and investments. This course provides introduction to different areas in finance. It also encourages all students to do additional work in the field.

**Course Objectives:** The objective of the course is to introduce you to the three areas of the finance discipline, including financial institutions, investments, and business finance. It provides you with breadth (but not depth) of knowledge of finance and is a foundation on which you may build.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** The specific student learning objectives of this course are to:

- 1) Understand different financial institutions and their functions;
- 2) Evaluate the risk and return characteristics of financial assets and investment projects to make capital budgeting decisions;
- 3) Evaluate the capital structure and payout policies of companies;

**AACSB Assessment:**

The College of Business is in the process of applying for AACSB accreditation. As part of that process, students will be assessed on program level outcomes based on course outcomes from various courses. The materials from this course may be used for assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery of the above course outcomes.

## Required Materials:

- **Text:** *Herbert B. Mayo. Basic Finance: An Introduction to Financial Institutions, Investments, and Management, 12th edition. 2019. Cengage Learning. Custom E-book. The e-book is available in Blackboard through Mindtap.*
- **Calculator:** A financial calculator with the following function keys (N, I, PV, PMT, FV, IRR, and CF) is required for the course. For example Texas Instruments (TI) BA II Plus (or Equivalent).
- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. User ID is the K Number (K00001234). Password is the Date of Birth (MMDDYY). You will have copies of power point slides and other supplementary materials available in the content section of Blackboard.
- **MindTap:** Online homework will be administered through MindTap. To use MindTap, just go to Course Content in the Blackboard and there is a link. It will lead you to the MindTap account.

**Other Recommended / Reading Materials:** Students should keep current with various business news through such publications as the Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and various news programs. The latter would include Fox Business News, Bloomberg TV, and the nightly business report on NPR.

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

Demonstrate an understanding of the framework used to link the economic characteristics and strategies of a firm, its financial statements, and assess a firm's current and forecasted profitability and risks. Explain the relationship between risk and returns.

1. Students should check the Course Calendar, Announcements, and Messages (e-mail) systems in Blackboard on a regular basis.
2. Students should keep current with all course assignments, quizzes, and examinations.
3. If the course uses remote proctoring for exams, students must schedule their exam early in the semester.
4. Students should ask questions and communicate with the instructor either in class, online, off-line or during office hours.
5. For all classwork, exams, quizzes etc., if a student is completing it off-campus, then they are responsible for availability of internet connectivity. Extensions will not be granted for lack of availability of internet connections.
6. Students should remember that hybrid and Hyflex courses assume greater responsibility and independent learning skills by the student for their own learning outcomes.
7. For Hyflex courses, students should keep current on class recordings, if not attending the live class (either in person or online).
8. For Hyflex courses, students are not required to come to class, even for proctored examinations.
  - a. The instructor can require students to physically sit for an examination in a proctored environment at the facilities of university testing services – setup of exam is responsibility of the student.
  - b. The instructor can require students to take examinations using proctoring software as indicated in the Proctored Exams section.
  - c. The instructor decides which type of examination works best for the class and the student must comply with their instructions – as long as they are not required to take an in-class examination, or are required to take the examination at one specific time that applies to all students. In other words, the instructor will offer the student some flexibility on test location and the time to sit for the examination. Instructors should allow 72 hours for students to complete any examination.

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

Assignments	25%
Two Mid-term Exam	25% per exam
Final Exam (as per University Schedule)	25%
Total	100%

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% ⇒ A; 80 – 89% ⇒ B; 70 – 79% ⇒ C; 60 – 69% ⇒ D; Below 60% ⇒ F.

**Examinations and Quizzes:** There will be a mandatory mid-term exams and 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/quizzes will consist of conceptual multiple-choice questions, problem solving questions, and short essay questions. The exam/quiz materials will come from lecture notes, the text, and class discussions. Questions will emphasize understanding and applications of concepts and topics covered in class.

**Proctored Exams:** In order to ensure course integrity, students enrolled in this course may use a Remote test-Proctoring software for the administration of exams, if allowed and is set up by the instructor.

The College of Business has partnered with ProctorU for the Remote test-Proctoring service. It is completely free for students to use; there is no additional fee to students for using this service. Students are required to make their own appointment to take exams within the timeframe established by your professor. If you make an appointment for an exam and fail to appear, subsequent testing attempts for that exam will incur a fee to the student of about \$30 (prices are dependent on the length of the exam). Information about required computer equipment needed for this service can be found on the ProctorU website. At a minimum, students need a computer, webcam, a microphone, and an internet connection with at least 3 MPS upload and download speed. Information and FAQs about how to register and take your exam with ProctorU is available on their website at ProctorU.com. You can also test your computer systems readiness at that site.

**Assignments/ Research papers:** There will be assignments during the course. Individual assignment statements and due dates will be posted through Mindtap.

**Make up and Late Assignment/exam/quiz policy:** As a general rule, make-ups or late submissions will NOT be offered or accepted for any missed assignments/exams. Late submissions or make-ups may be accepted/administered only in extra-ordinary 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/quiz/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 classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. Attendance may be taken at the beginning or the end of the class.
2. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.

3. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes. Keep copies of all computer files and e-mails.
4. Talking while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.
5. Using computers or phones (except for a valid urgent need) during class for a purpose not related to class is disruptive. All cell phones and gadgets should be turned off and headphones removed.
6. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor, before the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
7. All communications will be via 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 and voice messages within 24 hours during week days (Monday-Friday).
8. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date.

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 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. Good attendance and participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned.

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.

### **Tentative Class Schedule:**

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Chapter and Topic</i>	<i>Due</i>
1	August 28	Syllabus & Chapter 1 - An Introduction to Basic Finance	
2	September 4	Chapter 2 – The Role of Financial Markets and Financial Intermediaries	
3	September 11	Chapter 3 – Investment Banking Chapter 4 – Securities Markets	
4	September 18	Chapter 7 – Time Value of Money	
5	September 25	Chapter 7 – Time Value of Money	Chapter 4 Assignment
6	October 2	Chapter 8 – Risk and Its Measurement	Chapter 7 Assignment
7	October 9	Mid-term Exam 1	Chapter 8 Assignment
8	October 16	Chapter 9 – Analysis of Financial Statements	
9	October 23	Chapter 10 – The Features of Stock Chapter 11 – Stock Valuation	Chapter 9 Assignment
10	October 30	Chapter 12 – The Features of Long-Term Debt Chapter 13 – Bond Pricing and Yields	Chapter 10 Assignment Chapter 11 Assignment

11	November 6	Mid-term Exam 2	Chapter 13 Assignment
12	November 13	Chapter 16 – Investment Returns Chapter 18 – Forms of Business and Corporate Taxation	
13	November 20	Chapter 17 – Investment Companies	Chapter 16 Assignment Chapter 18 Assignment
14	November 27	No Class	
15	December 4	Chapter 20 Leverage Chapter 21 – Cost of Capital	Chapter 17 Assignment
17	December 7-13	<b>Final Exam</b> – As per University Schedule	Chapter 20 Assignment Chapter 21 Assignment

### Drop Policy

You may drop the course with an automatic grade of W on or before the date listed in the academic calendar at [www.tamusa.edu](http://www.tamusa.edu). The last date to drop a course, or withdraw from the University is also indicated in the academic calendar on the university website ([www.tamusa.edu](http://www.tamusa.edu)). If you wish to drop the class, you must submit the necessary paperwork to the proper authority. Students dropping a course are subject to all conditions listed in the university catalog.

### 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 includes 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 his/her 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 his/her federal aid.

### Jaguar Writing Center

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center can be contacted by email at: [Student.Success@tamusa.edu](mailto:Student.Success@tamusa.edu) or by phone at (210) 784-1307, or by visiting its web page from [www.tamusa.edu](http://www.tamusa.edu).

### Jaguar Tutoring Center

The Tutoring Center at Texas A&M University–San Antonio provides academic assistance to students in TAMU-SA’s schools of Business, Education, and Arts and Sciences. Literacy tutors help students develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their papers. Business tutors provide individual assistance in statistics, accounting, and math. The goal of TAMU-SA tutors is to empower students to succeed academically. The tutoring center can be contacted by email at:

[Tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:Tutoring@tamusa.edu) or by phone at: (210) 784-1332, or by visiting its web page from [www.tamusa.edu](http://www.tamusa.edu).

### **University Email Policy and Course Communications**

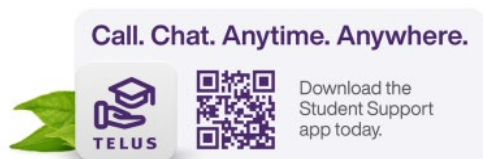
All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at 210-784-4357.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

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](mailto: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 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 Madla 120. 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. For more information on SCC services visit [tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

*Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.*



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 Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

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.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

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 submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@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 course 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.

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, equal 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 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, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. 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 victim 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, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu); 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

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, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting 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, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with 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 a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

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. Conduct that infringes 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 (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

### No Use of Generative AI Permitted

The class assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this

course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

### **Key Dates**

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/provost/documents/academic-year-2024>