



CISA 4326:600 Security & Operations Practicum, Fall 2026 , CRN: 22776
Department of Computing and Cyber Security, College of Business
Course Syllabus

Class Modality:	Online Asynchronous
Class Duration:	08/14 - 12/13
Instructor:	Akila Jayawardhana Office: Online Only For Live Voice Calls/Video Chat: Zoom E-Mail: rjayawardha@tamusa.edu Instructor will be using LIVE communications on Zoom.
Course Website:	https://tamusa.blackboard.com/
Office Hours:	Private office hours sessions with the professor are online by scheduled appointment only, or during active online hours at the professor's discretion. Office hours are subject to change at any point during the semester based off the professor's availability.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course combines the theoretical foundation of system security with hands-on practical application on real systems. Students will practice the roles of network and system administrators and system architects from both security and business operations perspectives. Meets College of Business Experiential Learning Requirements. TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Math, and Writing. Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in each of: MATH 1314, CISA 2306, CISA 3321, and (CISA 4324 or CISA 3325 or CISA 4325).

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will build and configure cloud-based servers and the network infrastructure to support those servers. Students will conduct a security assessment on a target network and write a security assessment report.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in the following areas:

1. Design and deploy cloud services infrastructure.
2. Design, deploy and secure small enterprise networks.
3. Design, deploy and secure core network services.
4. Secure enterprise networks and hosts.
5. Plan, complete and report system security certification testing.
6. Recommend system security accreditation

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

- Textbook: None
- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. You will have lecture notes, solutions to problems, multimedia materials and other supplementary materials in Blackboard.
- Software:
 - o VPN client, depending on the team's design choice.
 - o SSH Client
- **Computer Hardware:** Using your own laptop or desktop is required.
- **Time Expectation for coursework:** You are expected to spend 4-8 hours per week in addition to class meetings for the course. Based on the background, some students may require more time. Time spent may be longer when assignment/exams are due.

OTHER RECOMMENDED / READING MATERIALS: Additional reading materials are available on the course website as recommended by the instructor.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

This class includes lectures and class discussion, demonstrations, and hands-on practice. Student participation is encouraged and mandatory in required assignments and practical demonstrations, including both individual and group tasks.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

- Read all course materials, including the syllabus and description of the grading and testing systems to be used in the course.
- Attend every class session and complete all assignments on time.

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- Participate in all learning activities.
- Interact respectfully with faculty, staff, and fellow students.
- Refrain from all academic misconduct
- Avoid situations that give the appearance of misconduct.
- Report any observed academic misconduct.

GRADING SYSTEM:

The grading system is as follows:

Graded Element	Maximum Points
Labs (Individual) (8)	600
Pen Test Report (Individual) (2)	200
Class Exercise (Individual) (1)	50
Ethics (Individual) (1)	100
Final Presentation (Individual)	100
Blackboard Discussions Participation	375
Total	1425

Note: Instructor may choose to add hands-on labs or exercises to the course

Grade Scale (Percentage)	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

GRADING POLICY: The final course grade will be based on your performance on the quizzes, exams, assignments, and class participation using the following weights:

Weight Breakdown	
Attendance/Class Participation	15%
Labs (Individual)	30%

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Class Exercise	20%
Ethics	10%
Final Presentation	25%
Total	100%

This course has a requirement of a grade of C as a minimal grade for satisfactory completion of this course.

ASYNCHRONOUS CLASSROOM POLICIES — ENGAGEMENT FIRST

1. Presence and Participation Window

There are no live class meetings. Each week's module (lectures, readings, activities) opens on Monday and must be completed by the stated weekly deadline (recommend: Sunday 11:59 p.m.). Log in and engage with course content at least twice per week rather than in a single sitting, so discussions have time to develop and instructor feedback can be incorporated. Use a professional tone and, where video submissions are required, a distraction-free background.

2. Engagement Expectations (every week)

Each student is expected to:

Post at least one substantive discussion contribution (a question, insight, or solution) responding to the week's prompt or lecture content, and
 Post at least two additional written contributions in the discussion board or course forum (a reply to a classmate, a resource link, a code/command snippet, or a reflection), and
 Complete any embedded checks for understanding (quizzes, polls, or knowledge checks) posted in the module.

Note: There is no camera or live-attendance requirement. Demonstrate presence entirely through discussion posts, submitted work, and completed checks.

3. Participation Scoring (per week, 25 points)

Module completion and timeliness (materials reviewed, checks completed by deadline): 10 points

Discussion contributions (1 original post + 2 replies/resources, per above): 10 points

Micro-reflection (end-of-week 1–2 sentence takeaway posted in Blackboard): 5 points

Missed deadlines or minimal engagement reduce weekly participation points.

4. Weekly Structure and Pacing

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Each week is organized in focus blocks (short lecture video → practice activity → discussion post), so work can be done in manageable sessions rather than all at once.

Recommended pacing: don't leave the full week's module for the last day — spreading it across at least two sessions improves retention and leaves time for classmates to respond to your posts.

5. Discussion Board and Communication Norms

Keep posts on-topic; share helpful resources and concise, well-organized thoughts.

Reply substantively to classmates' posts — "I agree" or "great post" alone does not count toward the written-contribution requirement.

Use the course messaging system or email for questions to the instructor; expect a response within one to two business days.

6. Group Work (Asynchronous Collaboration)

For group activities, read the task carefully, divide roles (lead, note-taker, tester) within your assigned shared document or forum thread, and document findings (screenshots, commands, notes).

Post your group's findings as a 60–90 second written or recorded summary by the group deadline, even if not every member has finished their part — note what's outstanding.

7. Tech Readiness and Troubleshooting

Confirm you can access the LMS, play recorded lecture videos, and download/submit files before the module deadline — don't wait until the last hour.

If you experience a technical issue, document it (screenshot, error message) and contact the instructor promptly; late work due to a documented, timely-reported issue will be handled case by case.

Keep a backup way to access materials (a second device or stable connection) in case of local outages.

8. Accessibility and Accommodations

Captions are enabled on all recorded lecture videos when available.

Students needing accommodations should contact Disability Support Services (DSS) and inform the instructor so materials and deadlines can be adjusted as appropriate.

9. Professional Conduct

Be respectful, inclusive, and supportive in all posts and group interactions.

No disruptive behavior, off-topic posting, or side conversations that derail a discussion thread.

Keep language professional and clear; remember that text can be misread — tone doesn't always travel in writing.

10. Recording, Privacy, and Sharing

Recorded lectures and course materials are for enrolled students only. Do not share recordings, screenshots, or links outside the class.

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Follow FERPA and university policies regarding the privacy of classmates' names, posts, and shared work.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY / CHEATING

Any form of cheating on an assignment, homework, lab, or test will result in both a zero score for the assignment and a one-letter grade penalty in the course.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words, ideas or data without giving credit to the original author. Plagiarism is a form of cheating.

If you are confused as to the difference between helping each other (which is encouraged) and cheating (which will not be tolerated), ask your instructor.

Acceptable	Cheating
Including a brief quote from a web page with the source cited.	Copying entire pages or paragraphs and republishing it as you own.
Using graphics from a free clip art or graphic site.	Using someone else's graphics without permission.
Discussing an assignment with another student.	Copying another student's work or file.
Looking at online sources or asking for a classmate's help to figure out what to do.	Duplicating a classmate's lab answers as your own, without performing the lab activity yourself.

If you assist someone else in cheating, you can also be charged with cheating yourself. This can include giving another student access to your computer account, negligently permitting another student to access your account, or posting answer keys where others can access them. Protect your account as if your academic career depends on it

TIME PER TASK FOR ONLINE COURSES

For online courses, estimate the following:

- 30 to 60 minutes per chapter (reading)
- 15 to 20 minutes per end-of-chapter review questions set.
- 15 minutes per Fill in the Blanks quiz
- 30 to 60 minutes per project
- 1 to 2 hours per exam

FALL 2026 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.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Chapter and Topic</i>	<i>Assignments Due Date on Sundays by 11:59 pm.</i>
1	Aug 24 – Aug 30	Jan 19 (Monday) Martin Luther King Jr. Day Univ Closed. Review syllabus, Blackboard Orientation, Cloud Infrastructure GCP Networking for Week 2	Lab 1 Cloud Infrastructure
2	Aug 31 – Sep 6	Continuation of GCP Networking	Lab 2 Networking
3	Sep 7 – Sep 13	Docker Server Build	Lab 3 Vulnerable Web Server
4	Sep 14 – Sep 20	• Shells & Reverse Shells • msfvenom • Metasploit Network and Port Scanning	Lab 4 Scanning & Enumeration, Reverse Shells
5	Sep 21 – Sep 27	RCE to Shell on a Docker	Exercise 1 (CE-1)
6	Sep 28 – Oct 4	Exploits	Lab 5, Web Exploits
7	Oct 5 – Oct 11	Distcc & Anonymous FTP Servers Build and Exploitation	Lab 6, Distcc & Anonymous FTP Build Pentest Report 1
8	Oct 12 – Oct 18	FALL BREAK	
9	Oct 18 – Oct 25	Web Server Build WordPress Webmin	Penetration Test Report 2 – User Access
10	Oct 26 – Nov 1	Web Service Attacks Directory Enumeration Password Attacks Path Traversal LFI Vulnerability Scanners	Lab 7, WordPress (WP) Build
11	Nov 2 – Nov 8	Linux Privilege Escalation Priv Esc Scripts SUID Kernel Exploits Configuration Errors	Ethics Case Study Lab 8 – Privilege Escalation (PE) Build

12	Nov 9 – Nov 15	Post Exploitation Databases	Privilege Escalation
13	Nov 16 – Nov 22	Escaping rbash • Spawning TTY	User > PE > Pivot > Post Exploit
14	Nov 23 – Nov 30	PPT Presentations	Online Presentations
15	Dec 01 – Dec 6	No class	Final Pentest Report– Dec 6, 2026
16	Dec 7 – Dec 13	Final Exams – As per University Schedule	

This schedule outline is subject to change at the professor's discretion

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 and retention of the above course outcomes.

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- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. All class communications will be through Blackboard and students should monitor this several times a day.
 - **Software:** You will be required to obtain VMWare or Virtual Box. You can get VMWare free from the University. The website is <http://www.tamusa.edu/citcs/studentresources.html>. You will also be able to download the installation software from the Microsoft software center. You will also be required to download Kali-Linux, Metaspitable 2, Autopsy, CAINE, and Windows virtual images to your virtual machines You will be required to use Microsoft Visio and Draw.io. Microsoft Visio is available in the computer labs on campus. You will also be able to download the installation software from the Microsoft software center. You will receive your login name and password at your Jaguar email address. Additional software tools will be required, for example, the JAVA SE Runtime Environment, Acrobat Reader, Flash Player, and Windows Media Player.
Instructions and website links or additional software will be available online.
 - **Computer Hardware:** In order to participate in the tutoring sessions, you will need a computer with an internet connection, a microphone, and speakers/headphones.

- **Time Expectation for coursework:** You are expected to spend 4-8 hours per week for the course. Based on the background, some students may require more time. Time spent may be longer when assignment/exams are due.

OTHER RECOMMENDED / READING MATERIALS: Additional reading materials are available on the course website as recommended by the instructor. I recommend you become familiar with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publications (SP) as they relate to information security and risk assessment. The Labs will require additional reading and extra study time. There is also additional hardware required to complete the labs. Please read ahead for every assignment and lab.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS EVERY STUDENT MUST FULFILL IN ORDER TO SUCCEED IN COURSE:

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 online courses assume greater responsibility and independent learning skills by the student for their own learning outcomes.
7. For online-asynchronous courses, students should keep current on class recordings. For online-synchronous courses, students are expected to attend virtually during the class meeting time.
8. For OLC-A courses, students are not required to come to class, even for proctored examinations.
 - a. The instructor can require students to take examinations using proctoring software as indicated in the Proctored Exams section.
 - b. 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 regarding test location and the time to sit for the examination. Instructors should allow 72 hours for students to complete any examination.

MINIMUM TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

To complete this course, the student must have access to the following technologies: A computing device - desktop, laptop (500GB to 1TB free space and 16G to 32G of memory) capable of:

- accessing Internet-based content
- displaying recorded video
- playing recorded audio - with speakers or headphones
- recording audio - with microphone or headset
- capturing your image and actions during exams - with a web camera (see RLDB & Respondus Monitor)
- Internet access of sufficient speed to download/display recorded lectures.
- Free or trial software capable of creating slide + audio presentations.
- Standard office productivity applications like MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint, and Adobe Reader

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ONLINE STUDENT

The following items apply to the student in an online degree or an online course. The student is responsible for:

- Having consistent and easy access to a personal computer (Windows or Mac) with a reliable high-speed Internet connection.
- Gaining access to online courses in the Blackboard learning management system (LMS).
- Acquiring all course materials (textbooks, software, etc.) in a timely manner.
- Knowing and abiding by all applicable policies and procedures as prescribed in the Online Student Handbook and individual course syllabi.
- Acquiring and maintaining the knowledge base needed to operate successfully in an online course/program.
- Communicating to and from the instructor via Blackboard and the Texas A&M student email address.
- Accessing the online course regularly and completing course activities on time regardless of equipment/technology problems. Students are recommended to log into their course once a day.

SUBMITTED WORK NAMING CONVENTION:

Save and submit all your work only in PDF. Make sure to save your files using the convention **FIRSTNAME_LASTNAME_COURSE ABBREVIATION_SEMESTER AND YEAR_ACTIVITY NAME OR NUMBER** Or as specified in the assignment instructions. Example: **John_Doe_CISA4326_S26_FinalResearchReport.pdf**

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR:

I will be instructing a large amount of students this semester and I filter my emails based on the class number. When you need to reach out to me via email: you must include the complete Class Number (e.g., CISA4326), followed by your complete name, subject of email (e.g.,

Assignment 1), (e.g., John Doe), and followed by your student number (e.g., N01234567) in the SUBJECT line of the email.

For example: **(Subject: CISA4326 Assignment 1 John Doe N01234567)**. Doing so will allow a more rapid response to your questions.

EXAMINATIONS AND QUIZZES: There will be a mandatory mid-term exam and a mandatory final exam (as per the university schedule). Missing an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam and may result in a failure 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. Please take notes and pay attention to lectures. You will see the material on the quizzes or exams.

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

ASSIGNMENTS/ RESEARCH PAPERS: There will be several assignments, labs, and projects during the course. Individual assignment statements and due dates will be posted through Blackboard. For all assignment and quiz problems, ALL intermediate work of the problem solution and lab steps MUST be shown. Considerable points will be taken off for not following these requirements.

ONLINE INDIVIDUAL / GROUP ACTIVITIES: This class may have group/team activities. Students are expected to work with their respective teams and attend class weekly. Not abiding by these guidelines will be detrimental to the success of your team.

MAKE UP AND LATE ASSIGNMENT/EXAM/QUIZ POLICY:

As a general rule, make-up or late submissions will **NOT** be offered or accepted for any missed assignments/exams/quizzes. Late submissions or make-ups may be accepted/administered only in extenuating circumstances such as an excused official university activity, a severe illness, death, or a dire emergency. However, you must provide comprehensive documentation either before or within one to two days of the missed assignment/quiz/exam. For late submissions, a 20-point penalty from the maximum possible points will be assessed. For example, if a paper is submitted late, the highest possible grade is 80%. Once the assignment is no longer available on Blackboard, no submission will be allowed. **DO NOT** attempt to send late assignments to the instructor via email. If extenuating circumstances exist that justify a late submission, full credit may be given on a case-by-case basis.

All assignments will be graded for **correctness and completeness**. The instructor retains the right to subjectively adjust an individual student's grade in appropriate cases, based upon observed performance. All assignment submissions **must be spell- and grammar- checked**. Students failing to present the information completely, professionally written and in the prescribed format will receive minimal credit for their work. **Students should double check their work before submitting assignments.**

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. Students **are required** to have their camera turned on for online synchronous classes.
WEBCAM REQUIREMENTS: This class requires the use of a webcam. This may be a webcam on your personal computer, a webcam available in a TAMUSA computer lab, or a camera on your mobile device. If you need to purchase a webcam using financial aid, contact the TAMUSA Bookstore or visit their website at <https://www.bkstr.com/texasamsanantoniostore/home>.
2. Attendance will be taken at the beginning or the end of the class. Late or missed attendance will render no points.
3. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
4. Students must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes and provide it to the instructor, if necessary. Keep your own copies of all computer files and e-mails till the final grade is received.
5. Talking while the instructor is lecturing is extremely disruptive and discourteous to the instructor and other students.

6. 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.
7. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor well in advance of the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
8. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University email account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The instructor will reply to student e-mail messages and voice messages within two business days (Monday-Friday).
9. All assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard by the due date and on time. The submission window may close or be marked late, even if late by one second. 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, participate in class discussions and problem solving, and visit/contact the instructor during office hours in case of questions or concerns. Good attendance and participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned. Attendance will be taken at each class session. Points will be added for attendance. There will be no opportunity to make up those points if you miss class.

The course is intensive and challenging. 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 and may vary considerably based on student background. However, a minimum of two hours of work outside the class is expected for every one hour of class period per week. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be extremely useful for understanding lectures.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, had exposure to COVID-19, and/or are confirmed to have COVID19, refrain from coming to campus and self-report in the online COVID-19 Reporting Portal found at:

https://redcap.link/TAMUS_COVID_PORTAL for further guidance.

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

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 at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

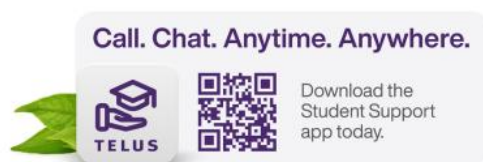
While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

Appointments available MATH Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed		
	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, 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 system. 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 on emergency response may be found at: [Emergency Operations Plan](#) and the [Emergency Action Plan](#). 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 by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#). The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

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 report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if

you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

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 or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety 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 on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to 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, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

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 discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, 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 sex-based 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 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; 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.

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

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, 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, 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 or visit the resources available in the OSRR website

Important Fall 2026 Dates:

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline

August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete academic calendar is available online