

GEOG 1301-001: Physical Geography & Meteorology
TAMUSA, Fall 2026

Tues & Thurs @ 9:30-10:45am, CAB 218

Instructor: Dr. Jill Thornton

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Office Hours: Tues & Thurs @ 12:30-1:30pm, or by appointment

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the processes involved in the formation of the Earth's physical environment. Emphasis is on the general studies of flora, fauna, weather, climate, vegetation, soils, and landforms. A focus on meteorology will be integral to the course.

Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate level students

Credit(s): 3 (3-0-0)

Course Overview: Physical geography synthesizes and connects elements of our physical environment as they relate to human beings. Like other branches of geography, it examines spatial relationships – not only where things are, but also the processes that underlie the observed patterns. The objective of this course is to provide a systematic introduction to physical geography, including the major components of the earth system (atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere) as well as regulatory processes, distribution patterns of important aspects, and impacts of human activity. The course begins with an introduction to meteorology and the influence of weather and climate patterns on the earth. The second section applies weather and climate knowledge gained in Unit 1 to understandings about earth's hydrosphere and biosphere. The final section of the class focuses on landform geography and geomorphology.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this class, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the laws of science that operate in the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere to produce geographic patterns of weather, climate, life, and landforms
- Describe the physical principles and processes governing the circulation and characteristics of the atmosphere and climates on Earth
- Illustrate the movement of water through the Earth's various systems, and link these movements to patterns of major water quantity and quality issues

- Summarize the factors that control the distribution of organisms and map basic global patterns of vegetation types
- Evaluate theories about natural and anthropogenic climate change and use current understanding about climate change to address local to international-scale policies designed to address this issue

Course Structure:

Unit 1: Meteorology and Climatology

Unit 2: Hydrosphere and Biosphere

Unit 3: Landforms and Geomorphology

Required Textbooks:

Mason, J., Burt, J., Muller, P., & Blij, H. de. (2015). *Physical Geography: The Global Environment* (Fifth edition). Oxford University Press.

- VitalSource: <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/physical-geography-the-global-environment-joseph-mason-jason-burt-v9780190929084>

(optional) Textbook Study Resources: https://learninglink.oup.com/access/mason-physical-geography#tag_unit-01

Course Assignments & Grading

Grading Structure

Exams (3 @ 100 pts each)	60%
Weekly activities/quizzes (10 @ 10 pts each)	20%
Final Project (100 pts)	20%

- Exams: Each exam will require students to demonstrate their understanding of terminology associated with content learned in each of the three corresponding units. There will be no comprehensive final exam.
- Weekly Activities: In addition to standard lecture and discussion, there will be time allotted in ten classes throughout the semester for completing an in-class assignment. These assignments may include hands-on group activities or individual assignments, such as worksheets or quizzes. Students are responsible for submitting the completed assignment by the deadline. These will typically be due by the end of class unless otherwise indicated on Blackboard.

- Final Project: Students will complete a group-based final project that investigates the relationship between humans and the physical environment. Some class time will be devoted to the project in the final week of the semester. More details will be provided by the end of Unit 1.

Unless otherwise indicated, all course assignments will be submitted and graded within Blackboard along with any feedback from the instructor. Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to check your grade in Blackboard regularly. **Your final score will be the Overall points column listed on Blackboard**, so you will be able to follow your progress throughout the semester. Please notify me of any apparent discrepancies in your score.

If the calendar on Blackboard shows the due date of an assignments as Friday August 28, this means it will be due by 11:59pm on Friday August 28. **Exceptions to this are in-class assignments, which are due by the end of class.** (See “Late Policy for Assignments/Exams” section below for information on late penalties).

I don’t drop lowest-score or missed assignments from your grade in this course, but I will occasionally offer extra credit opportunities. Additionally, no extra credit assignments, late assignments, or re-do assignments will be accepted toward the end of the course. The easiest way to get a higher grade in the course is to be diligent in completing all assignments promptly and carefully throughout the semester.

Important Note:

The excuses “I don’t have WiFi/internet” and “I had trouble uploading to Blackboard” will **not** be accepted as reasons for not submitting work.

If you are having wi-fi problems, I recommend having a “Plan B” internet option just in case your primary WiFi experiences issues (ie. phone hotspot, café/restaurant wifi, asking a friend/neighbor, etc.). The best solution is to not wait until the last minute to submit your assignment.

If you are having problems uploading to Blackboard, you can email me your assignment before the deadline. It is your responsibility to confirm that your assignment has uploaded successfully to Blackboard.

Late Policy for Assignments/Exams

Please note that **this is not a self-paced class**. You will have assigned deadlines, and work must be submitted on time to receive full credit. You may not save up your assignments to complete

in the final weeks or days of the semester. Each assignment sequence must be completed on schedule; you can't work ahead or get behind and be successful.

Assignments must also be completed on time or late penalties will apply. Late homework will be marked with a **-10% penalty per each day it is overdue**, with a **maximum penalty of -50% (late work will not be accepted more than 5 days after the submission deadline)**. Homework submitted more than 5 days after the deadline without an official excuse will be marked as "0". These late penalties apply to the maximum grade possible on an assignment.

Note: *Most assignments in GEOG 1301 will be in-person and due before the end of class, so late penalties may not apply unless I give extra time outside of class to complete an assignment.*

Please note that all deadlines in the syllabus and on Blackboard are in the Central time zone. Make sure your computer clock and Blackboard clock match, otherwise your assignment could be marked as late.

Exam deadlines cannot be rescheduled *without prior approval*. Exams must be completed on time, no late submissions are allowed without prior approval. An *unexcused* absence on an exam day (ie. not communicating with me about your absence prior to the start of class) will result in an automatic failure of the exam.

Technology Requirements

- Reliable internet connection
- A working computer with a current operating system (laptops are available to rent on campus)
- A current web browser such as Google Chrome (preferred), Mozilla Firefox, or Apple Safari
- Reliable data storage for your work, such as a USB drive or One Drive cloud storage
- Smartphone with the "GPSCoordinates" app (*see me if you can't access this*)

Intellectual Property

In this course, readings, assignments, and other teaching content will be made available online. Please do NOT share this content outside the context of this course. This content is the intellectual property of the faculty and they may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit written consent of the faculty member. Further, students may not share content or assignments with those not in the class or upload them to any other online environment.

Attendance

When you miss class, you miss important information. I will allow three unexcused absences before a penalty is applied (exceptions are for those with prior DSS approval from the university). After that, your final grade at the end of the semester **will be penalized 10% (one letter grade) once your number of unexcused absences exceeds 10% of the total number of classes in the semester (more than 3 unexcused absences)**. Except in the case of an emergency, communication *after* the absence has occurred will not be considered excused. In case of emergency, you can fill out the Student Absence Notification Request Form at this link: <https://www.tamusa.edu/dean-of-students/class-absence-notification-request.html> . Please read the website to confirm what is considered an emergency vs non-emergency.

If you need to reschedule an exam, you can send me a request to excuse your absence on exam. A note is required from a doctor/coach/professor, etc. before I approve your absence. **In the first week of class, if you do not attend class, access Blackboard, or complete the assignments, you will be dropped from the course.**

Course Policies and Procedures

Class Conduct

Because the university classroom is a place designed for the free exchange of ideas, we must show respect for one another in all circumstances. This can be achieved by exhibiting patience and courtesy in our exchanges. Appropriate language and restraint from verbal attacks upon those whose perspectives differ from your own is a minimum requirement. Courtesy and kindness are the norm and expectation for those who participate in my class.

Any discussion sessions are a way for you to share your ideas and learning with your colleagues in this class. We are colleagues in learning and these sessions are meant to be a safe and respectful environment for us to learn. Please remember to be respectful and courteous to your colleagues and refrain from talking or having a conversation while the instructor or another student are speaking. This will reduce the amount of distractions, and is a sign of respect to those around you, especially to the instructor or student that is sharing.

Communication Expectations

Expectations for Students

Be aware that access to your university account is critical for success in this course. In addition to your university email, throughout this course you will use your university account to access Blackboard, library resources, and more. If you are not already in the habit of checking your email regularly, I encourage you to check your email at least once daily throughout the duration of this course.

Expectations for Instructor

I am very accessible and enjoy helping students, so I will always do my best to make time for you. If you have any questions throughout the semester, you can connect with me during office hours, via email, or before/after class. Generally, I will reply to emails within 24 hours (except on weekends). Course announcements will be made through Blackboard, which will be sent out to your university email address. I recommend you adjust your notification settings in Blackboard to receive emails for important content or information updates. Feedback on assignments and grades will typically be provided within 5-10 days.

Other Course Communication

-Ask questions. My hope is that we can create a classroom environment where you feel comfortable raising your hand during class and actively engaging with the lectures, but if you prefer to ask questions privately, I will be available after class, during my office hours, or via email. Even so, I encourage you to ask during class because there may be someone else who has the same question. When you ask questions, it shows me you're interested and want to improve your knowledge, so I'm happy to help!

-Cell phones. The use of cell phones during class time is strictly prohibited. Please turn it off or put it on silent. Unless otherwise instructed for a class exercise, or because you have told me in advance that you need it for a specific reason, no phones during class.

-Laptops. Laptops and tablets are allowed in class for note-taking and class-related assignments only. If it seems your computer is becoming a distraction during class, I will approach you about being more disciplined in how you use it during class time.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result in a minimum academic penalty of your failing the assignment, and could result in additional disciplinary measures. This includes improper citation of sources, using another student's work, using AI-generative (artificial intelligence) technology (ie. ChatGPT, etc.) to write answers in exams/assignments, and any other form of academic misrepresentation.

Regarding AI-use in particular, GEOG 1301 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 (or image-generating) 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.

Please note that this is NOT a collaborative class, meaning that all assignments, exams, and projects are to be completed solely by each individual student (with the exception of group projects), which means no sharing or copying answers. You may discuss assignment instructions, have study groups, or work through technical challenges with your classmates, but that is the extent of help you may give each other.

For more information on Academic Misconduct at TAMUSA, visit

<https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/dishonesty/>

Note: *If I suspect a student has cheated on an assignment/exam/project, I will contact you privately and, if I determine a violation has occurred, will fail the assignment. If a second violation occurs, I will submit a report to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and they will determine if a violation has occurred (which would result in failure of the assignment).*

Course Calendar

	Day	Date	Topic	In-class Assignment
1	T	8/25/2026	Intro to (Physical) Geography	
2	R	8/27/2026		Nature Pics (BB lockdown setup; bring laptop)
	M	8/31/2026	Last day to register	
3	T	9/1/2026	Earth-Sun Relationships	
4	R	9/3/2026		Activity 1
	M	9/7/2026	Labor Day—NO CLASSES	
5	T	9/8/2026	The Atmosphere	
	W	9/9/2026	Census date: Drop day for students not paid in full or enrolled	
6	R	9/10/2026	The Atmosphere (cont)	Activity 2 - Quiz
7	T	9/15/2026	Weather Systems	
8	R	9/17/2026		Activity 3

	Day	Date	Topic	In-class Assignment
9	T	9/22/2026	Climate Systems	
10	R	9/24/2026		Activity 4 - Quiz
11	T	9/29/2026	Unit 1 Exam Review	
12	R	10/1/2026	UNIT 1 EXAM	Bring laptop
13	T	10/6/2026	The Hydrosphere	
14	R	10/8/2026		
15	T	10/13/2026		Activity 5
16	R	10/15/2026	Ecological Concepts	
17	T	10/20/2026		Activity 6 - Quiz
18	R	10/22/2026	Unit 2 Exam Review	
19	T	10/27/2026	UNIT 2 EXAM	Bring laptop
20	R	10/29/2026	Landforms and Geomorphology	Activity 7 (scavenger hunt)
21	T	11/3/2026		
22	R	11/5/2026		Activity 8 - Quiz
23	T	11/10/2026		
24	R	11/12/2026	Weathering & Coastal Systems	Activity 9
	M	11/13/2026	Last day to drop with "W"	
25	T	11/17/2026	Desert & Glacial Systems	
26	R	11/19/2026	Human-Environment Impacts	Activity 10 - Quiz
27	T	11/24/2026		
	W	11/25/2026	Study Day—NO CLASSES	
	R	11/26 – 11/29	Thanksgiving Recess (no classes)	
	M	11/30	Last day to withdraw from university	
27	T	12/1/2026	Unit 3 Exam Review	
28	R	12/3/2026	Last Day of Class UNIT 3 EXAM	Bring laptop
	T	TUES 12/8 @ 10-11:50am	FINAL PROJECT & GROUP PRESENTATIONS DUE	

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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:

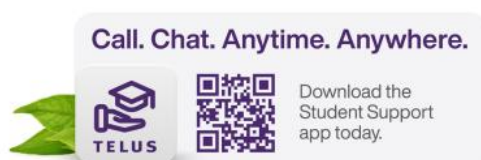
Appointments available MATH Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed

	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.

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