

# ENGL 1302: Composition II

Asynchronous Online Course

Texas A & M University-San Antonio

## Who is my instructor?

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Instructor	Dr. Elizabeth Olaoye
Email	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Olaoye@tamusa.edu">Elizabeth.Olaoye@tamusa.edu</a>
Office	Classroom Hall 314F
Phone number	210-784-2675
Office Hours	Tue. & Thur. 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm, and by appointment Mondays: 9 am-2 pm over Zoom (Note:It is important to schedule Zoom appointments ahead of time through email) <a href="#">What is “Office Hours?”</a>
Personal Zoom meeting room	<a href="https://tamusa.zoom.us/my/elizabetholaoye">https://tamusa.zoom.us/my/elizabetholaoye</a>

## What do I Need for this Course?

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**Textbook:** There's no textbook required for this course. All your readings will be provided on Blackboard for easy access

**Writing materials:** For each of our meetings, you should come to class with a notebook and a pen

**Laptop:** You will need a fully charged laptop for each of our classes and internet access at home.

## What is this Course About?

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This course builds on the reading and writing skills developed in ENGL 1301 and invites students to enter into academic discourse through research wherein they will be asked to synthesize and respond to a variety of perspectives on a topic of their choosing. Students will also read and compose a variety of texts oral, written, and visual.

## How should I Maintain Netiquette in this Course?

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Since this is an online course, all activities will be conducted online. Netiquette refers to guidelines for respectful online behavior. In cyberspace, it's easy to forget you're interacting with real people. Here are some key points for effective online communication:

- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as different political and religious beliefs, plus just differences in general.
- Use good taste when composing your responses in Discussion Forums. Swearing and profanity are also part of being sensitive to your classmates and should be avoided. Also, consider that slang can be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
- Don't use all capital letters when composing your responses, as this is considered "shouting" on the Internet and is regarded as impolite or aggressive. It can also be stressful on the eye when trying to read your message.
- Be respectful of others' views and opinions. Avoid "flaming" (publicly attacking or insulting) them, as this can cause hurt feelings and decrease the chances of getting all different types of points of view.
- Be careful when using acronyms. If you use an acronym, it is best to spell out its meaning first, then put the acronym in parentheses afterward, for example: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). After that, you can use the acronym freely throughout your message.
- Use good grammar and spelling and avoid using text messaging shortcuts.

## What is the Course Structure, and What are the Key Assignments?

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ENGL 1302 typically consists of three units, each addressing a distinct question.

The first unit asks, “How Do We Read Texts Rhetorically?” This unit introduces students to ENGL 1302 and prepares students for the course. The unit also asks students to consider rhetorical strategies for responding to the presence and influence of arguments and persuasion in several contexts of languaging, including academic contexts. Students analyse a variety of texts, complete in-class writing and reflective exercises related to those texts, and develop and compose the “My Rhetorical Self” and “Rhetorical Analysis” Assignments. This part of the assignment invites students to analyze the linguistic and rhetorical choices an “author” makes in the production of a text. The Unit wraps up with a visit to the University Library as students prepare to compose their research questions. In addition to publishing their Unit 1 portfolios, students participate in exercises related to readings, engage in reflective writing and discussion with their Writing Communities, and submit weekly Labor Logs.

The second unit explores how students can develop rhetorical skills to effectively participate in academic discussions. Unit 2 asks, “How Do We Develop Rhetorical Skills to Effectively Engage in Academic Discourse?” Students read about several ways they can participate in academic conversations by conducting research using specific research questions. They also explore various ways in which research can be presented, and complete in-class writing and reflective exercises. Students publish their Unit 2 portfolios at the end of the unit, and they submit their Annotated Bibliographies at the end. Students continue to submit Labor Logs, Labor Journals, weekly Writing Tasks, and Reading Notes.

The final unit asks, “How Do We Synthesize Sources in an Academic Argument?” Students use their Annotated Bibliographies to craft an argument paper that synthesizes sources. They also create an infographic version of their synthesis essay for a target community. Unit 3 portfolios are published at the beginning, final portfolios at the end, with summative feedback provided during one-on-one conferences. Students submit their final Labor Logs, Journals, and Reading Notes.

## **Which Assignments will I Write and When are They Due for Submission?**

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This semester, you’ll do a lot of writing. Most of it will be “low-stakes” assignments, but you’ll also complete one major “high-stakes” project: a digital writing portfolio. We’ll go over the details in class, but for now, keep in mind that the portfolio is your main project for the semester. To prepare for it, you’ll complete several smaller writing assignments, including:

- 3 unit assignments
  - Rhetorical Analysis
    - Part 1: Self Analysis (My rhetorical Self Essay)

- Part 2: Rhetorical Analysis
- Annotated Bibliography
- Synthesis
  - Written Synthesis
  - Infographic Remix
- 3 labor journals/end-of-unit reflections
- in-class writing exercises as assigned

I'll also ask you to complete weekly Labor Logs and Reading Notes. I'll give you all more information about these assignments later.

In addition to writing a lot, we're also going to read a lot. Each week I'll ask you to "read" one, sometimes two, pieces. These pieces may be academic articles, they may be spoken word performances, they may be visual images, etc. The readings will inform and support the work we do as writers.

Because we're using Blackboard, and because you're creating a digital portfolio, you'll need to make sure you have reliable Internet access. If that's a problem for you, let me know (if you feel comfortable letting me know), and we can figure out some solutions.

## How Will I be Graded?

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In this course, we will use a labor-based grading system designed to support your growth as a writer. Rather than focusing solely on polished outcomes, this approach emphasizes the quality and consistency of your effort: your grade depends on the work you complete, your ability to meet deadlines and expectations, and the time and energy you invest in developing as a college-level writer. During the first weeks of class, I will provide you with the numerical grade breakdown so you have a clear picture of how your work will be assessed. Assignments will be evaluated weekly, with both group and individual feedback offered as needed, and you may check your cumulative grade at any time on Blackboard. Please note that work submitted on time but not meeting expectations will be marked incomplete; work turned in after the deadline will be considered late; and work not submitted at all will be recorded as missing. If you anticipate difficulty meeting a deadline or wish to revise an assignment, please reach out to me in advance—by email or during office hours—so that we can make a plan together.

## Who is the Instructor?

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I'm Elizabeth Olaoye, and I'm thrilled to be working with you this semester. I'm a firm believer that writing and communication are some of the most powerful tools we have as humans, and I've made it my mission to help students like you grow and flourish as writers. I promise to give my all in supporting you throughout this course.

Let me share a bit about myself: I've been teaching college-level English in various capacities since I was a graduate student. My journey has taken me from being an international student myself to now holding a Ph.D. in English and the Teaching of English from Idaho State University. This experience has given me a unique perspective that I bring to my teaching, allowing me to understand and connect with students from diverse backgrounds.

My academic passion lies in Postcolonial Literature, where I explore the fascinating intersections of gender and urban spaces. I've had the privilege of publishing my research in respected journals across the globe and presenting at international conferences. But don't let all this academic talk fool you – I'm not all work and no play!

When I'm not in the classroom or buried in books, you'll find me in the kitchen whipping up new recipes (I'm always on the lookout for taste-testers!), penning down my thoughts in my journal, or dancing around to my favorite tunes. Music is my go-to mood lifter, and I'm always eager to discover new artists and genres.

With over a decade of experience teaching in ESL settings, I understand the unique challenges and joys of writing. I'm committed to meeting each of you at your current level and helping you reach your full potential.

So, are you ready for an exciting semester of growth and discovery? Let's dive in and make this course a memorable one!

## What Are My Commitments as an FYC Faculty?

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- collaborating with you with care and compassion,
- emphasizing your learning and growth,
- encouraging you to take risks and embrace failure,
- honoring variations in your reading and languaging, and
- centering and sustaining your cultural and linguistic identity

## What are TAMUSA FYC Goals?

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- increasing your rhetorical awareness,
- helping you to see yourself as a writer,

- increasing your confidence as a writer,
- deepening your introspection and self-awareness as a writer,
- increasing your skills and engagement as a reader,
- cultivating your sense of belonging as a writer,
- strengthening your critical language awareness,
- increasing your appreciation of your languaging
- inspiring creativity, risk-taking, and versatility in your writing, and
- increasing your self-determination and resilience as a writer

## What are FYC Key Terms?

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The following key terms will serve as guides for our work together this semester, helping us build a deeper understanding of writing and of language more broadly. Below, you will find these terms along with their definitions:

- **Audience:** the person or the group of people languaging is intended to affect
- **Purpose:** the intended effect or impact of languaging
- **Context:** the situation in which languaging occurs
- **Belonging:** the feeling of being valued, respected, and included as you are
- **Genre:** a specific form of languaging that is shaped by social convention and audience expectation
- **Rhetorical Awareness:** the ability to assess context and to make intentional choices when languaging
- **Languaging:** the ongoing process of developing and communicating meaning and ideas
- **Translanguaging:** the process of using one's full linguistic repertoire to interpret, understand, and communicate meaning and ideas
- **Critical Language Awareness:** the ability to examine and critique how language functions in society
- **Standard Language Ideology:** the belief that a language has an ideal, consistent, and "correct" form that should be privileged

## COURSE POLICIES



### Plagiarism

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We recognize that what constitutes plagiarism depends upon context. As such, we work with you to learn how different genres, professions, and academic disciplines define plagiarism. In the context of your FYC classes, plagiarism is defined as the intentional use of another's "language, ideas, or original (not common knowledge) material" without acknowledgement ( "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism"). If you are found to have committed plagiarism as defined here, your instructor may report you for academic dishonesty, and you may be subject to failing the assignment or even failing the class.

### Attendance

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Your success and development as a writer depend on active participation within a community of writers, so consistent attendance in FYC classes is crucial. Attendance counts toward your overall grade: each full week of attendance (both class meetings) earns 1 point, while attending only one class in a week earns 0.5 points. If you are struggling to attend class, please communicate with both your Academic Success Coach and your FYC instructor so we can work with you to create a plan for attending and completing the class.

### Classroom Environment

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We are committed to fostering welcoming classroom environments where all students are not only respected and understood, but are also recognized as powerful resources for building communities of writers both in the classroom and across campus. While working with classmates and instructors, we ask that you:

- respectfully share your unique experiences and perspectives
- demonstrate respect for and openness to the perspectives and experiences of others
- value the opportunity to learn from difference

Demonstrating respect for those different from you not only prepares you for success in the classroom, but it also prepares you for success as citizens and professionals in a global community.

Because we value the respectful expression and exchange of ideas, students who use violent, harassing, and/or discriminatory language will be reported to the university and may be subject to

Student Code of Conduct policies, as well as any classroom conduct or civility policies your instructor has established.

## Artificial Intelligence Policy

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The FYC program expects you to generate your own content this semester. However, there are situations and contexts within our courses where you may use generative artificial intelligence (GAI) tools to support your work as a writer. For example, GAI technologies such as ChatGPT can work well as a starting point for written assignments, assisting you with brainstorming, outlining, generating ideas, and collecting basic information about a topic/idea. Note that the emphasis here is on “support.” GAI programs have been shown to provide biased information, to circulate misinformation, and to generate writing that is, at best, mediocre. For these reasons, FYC discourages you from using GAI technology to generate content for you. If you have reason to use GAI to generate content with you, then we ask that you consult with your professor before doing so. If your professor approves your use, you should acknowledge the GAI program you have used, and you should identify which portions of the text you submit were produced by GAI. Using GAI content without your professor’s permission and/or without proper attribution qualifies as plagiarism.

**Note:** [There is guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, on the APA website.](#)

## OPEN REVISION POLICY

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I have an open revision policy. This means that you may revise and resubmit an assignment marked as a "work-in-progress" or any other assignment for extra points. If you turn in a paper and you do not feel like it was your best work, you can request a meeting with me or see me during student hours. I will give you suggestions for revision so that you can achieve the type of writing you are aiming for. We will agree on a timeframe for revisions, and I will regrade your work after your revisions.

## EXTRA-CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

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These are additional writing opportunities that will help you develop as a writer and earn additional labor points to help you boost your grade. These are self-initiated opportunities and can include submitting extra revisions, working with a tutor at the writing center, attending online Writing Center workshops or events, attending student/office hours with me to work on your assignments, etc. You will need to report the work you have done to earn points.

## Important Reminder!

Please keep in mind that I am deeply committed to your success. As your instructor, I am part of the team rooting for you throughout this semester. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns you may have. **My aim is to help you succeed as a writer this semester, and I am dedicated to doing everything in my power to make that happen. Remember, my door is always open, whether you need assistance or simply want to share your thoughts on the course material.**

## Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)



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>.

Director: Dr. Katherine Bridgman (katherine.bridgman@tamusa.edu)

Assistant Director: Sam Garcia ([samuel.garcia1@tamusa.edu](mailto:samuel.garcia1@tamusa.edu))

First-Year Liaison: Sthefany Garcia ([sgarcia1@tamusa.edu](mailto:sgarcia1@tamusa.edu))

Locations: CAB 208 and CH 304

Email address: [wldcc@tamusa.edu](mailto:wldcc@tamusa.edu)

Website: <https://www.tamusa.edu/WLDCCenter>

## Texas A&M University San Antonio Important Policies and Resources



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
SAN ANTONIO**

### 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](mailto: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 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](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 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](mailto: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:

Day of the Week	Appointments Available	Walk-in Tutoring (no appointment needed)
Monday	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	11:00 AM - 4:00 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 include 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 the [Jag E Alert System website](#). You can access more information about [Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan on our website](#). Download the [SafeZone App](#) 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 Jaguar Writing Center provides writing 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, 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 e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects.

The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the **Student Services tab**. Click on **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center** to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in real time with a tutor can schedule an **Online Appointment**. Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an **e-Tutoring appointment**. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on the [Writing Center's website](#). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing: [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@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. The [General's Store is a food pantry](#) that is available on campus as well.

## 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 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 with 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, based on 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](mailto: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. 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](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 reasonable accommodation for pregnant students as it would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that is 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. 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. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at [youngjaguars@tamusa.edu](mailto: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 students' 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.

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 Spring 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition and Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Marting Luther King Jr. Day - No Classes
January 20	First Day of Class
February 4	Census Date
March 6-23	Midterm grading period
March 9-14	Spring Break

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event</b>
April 3	Study Day - No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic withdrawal
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 5	Study Day - No classes
May 6-12	Final Exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [Academic Calendar](#) is available on our website.