

Introduction to Life Sciences I (Non-Majors)
BIOL 1308 (3 credits)
Texas A&M University San Antonio, College of Arts and Sciences
Lecture Syllabus and Schedule Spring 2026

Instructor: Mr. James Rogers, M.S.

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Student Conference Hours: Mondays 3:30-6:00 P.M. via Zoom and by appointment

Class Meeting Times and Location:

Meeting Times: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00-3:15 P.M.

Location: STEM 141

Section: 002

CRN: 25155

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Textbook (E-book): McGraw Hill; Biology: The Essentials, 4th Edition, Marielle Hoefnagels

- Book fee was assessed – you should have access on the first day of class through the online Connect system. *Do not pay again if you hit a paywall!*
- You may also purchase a loose-leaf copy at a special rate from the publisher. This is a great option if you know you will need a physical copy of the text. Order using the link within Connect.

Connect: Connect is the online learning platform that accompanies your textbook. You must register for it separately. *Student registration can be found via the link provided on Blackboard.* This is also the same location your eBook can be found.

Blackboard: This is where you will go for lecture notes, assignment submission links, grades, and weekly announcements. Power-point versions of lectures will be posted on Blackboard; Announcements regarding lectures or labs may be posted on Blackboard; Grades for individual assignments, labs, etc. will be posted on Blackboard as we go along.

Recommended (HIGHLY) Material: You will be required to bring an **882-E scantron** for each of your exams (4 total; see schedule) and **a pencil**. You can purchase a scantron packet from the bookstore.



You are also **HIGHLY** encouraged to work off of a **computer or laptop with audio/microphone** as a phone does not have the capacity to run some of the virtual material. *If you need a computer or wi-fi, please contact IT directly for assistance.* IT contact information can be found in the Table of Contents in Blackboard as well as the University website. Furthermore, computer labs on campus are open and available to you! Finally, it is up to the student to have a **stable internet/browser connection** when conducting any online coursework.

Catalog Description and Prerequisites:

1308. Introduction to Life Sciences I. 3(3-0)

This course is designed for non-science majors and examines the basis of biology in the modern world and explores biology as a science - a data-driven process of gaining new knowledge – as well as the impact of biological science on society. Topics in this course include the study of life at the cellular level, investigating cellular structures, chemical processes, cell metabolism, cell division, gene expression and introducing patterns of inheritance. Includes experimental hands-on exercises. This course meets the standards for the Life and Physical Sciences category of courses under the core curriculum.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to have a strong grasp of the scientific method – specifically to:

- Ask scientific questions of their world
- Demonstrate the ability to read and understand scientific literature written for the educated lay reader
- Critique and analyze claims of others in a scientific context
- Construct reasonable hypotheses
- Formulate and defend alternative explanations and models on the basis of evidence
- Communicate effectively in oral and written forms
- Demonstrate awareness of specific technology that is used to carry out biological investigations
- Use computers for data analysis, literature searches and retrieval of data from reliable databases

Students will be able to understand the science of biology, both its past and present impacts on society by being able to:

- Analyze how progress in biology depends heavily on the political, social, economic and cultural influences occurring within a society at any given time
- Discuss historical changes in biological theories over time
- Recognize the integration of mathematics, physics, chemistry, and geology into the study of biology
- Understand the impact of science and technology on the global society
- Discuss and identify ethical issues that new technology raises
- Demonstrate the application of biological concepts to:
 - Personal issues
 - Society
 - Economics
 - Technology
 - Ethical issues

COURSE CONTENT

List of Topics:

1. Nature of Science
2. Characteristics of Life
3. Chemistry of Life
 - a. Role of water
 - b. Carbon and the Molecular Diversity of Life
 - c. The structure and function of macromolecules (sugars, lipids, proteins, nucleic acids)
4. The Cell Theory
 - a. Prokaryotic vs. Eukaryotic cells
 - b. Cellular organization
 - c. Cellular membrane structure and function
5. Cellular Energetics

- a. Cellular respiration
- b. Photosynthesis
- c. Role of enzymes
- 6. Cell Cycle: Mitosis and Meiosis
- 7. Genetics
 - a. Introduction to Mendelian Genetics
 - b. Structure and function of DNA

Grading and Methods of Assessment:

The student will be able to answer correctly at least 70% of the questions on scheduled exams, homeworks, and quizzes. Lecture exams, homeworks, and quizzes can consist of true or false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, and short essay questions. All assessments are based on 100 points scale.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Four Lecture Exams	60%
SmartBook Homeworks	20%
Virtual Lab Activities	10%
Connect Quizzes	10%
	Total = 100%

**** HINTS FOR SUCCESS.** Complete assignments and submit them in on time. Do not wait until the night before to study for an exam or complete an assignment. **

Grades will be posted in Blackboard. For the final letter grade, your grade will be based on the scale shown below:

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = below 60

- Competencies will be demonstrated on homework, quizzes, activities/projects, and exams. Exams may have a combination of essay, listing, matching, multiple choice, and true/false questions. All types may not be included on each exam.
- A student must master 70% of the competencies in order to receive credit for the course. A student demonstrating 90% or more knowledge of all competencies will receive an A in the course.

3. All **Connect homework and quiz** submissions will be **online**. There may be several activities that are conducted during class time and/or outside with either in-class and/or online submissions.
4. All **exams** will be **face-to-face** during scheduled class time.
5. All exams and assignments will be graded on a point system.
6. All exams and assignments are scheduled on the tentative syllabus schedule and Blackboard Calendar.
7. You may turn assignments in ahead of the deadline, but if you miss the deadline, your assignment will be assigned a **zero**. **I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK.**
8. There is the potential for extra credit opportunities for this class. These will be announced during class time so be sure to attend class regular because not all can be made up.

Lecture Exams (60%):

1. You will be given **four (4) Lecture Exams**.
2. The Final Lecture Exam is cumulative with most of the questions coming from the final chapters in the course.
3. Your Lecture Exams will consist of approximately 50 questions in the format stated in Grading Scheme #1 above. Exams are out of 100 points. Exams will be **given during the scheduled class time**; Feedback will be limited and provided during office hours or by appointment.
 - Exams must be taken on the scheduled class date/time in syllabus & Blackboard.
4. Exams must be taken/conducted when scheduled.
 - You may make up an exam **only if**
 - you contact me within **one day (24-hours)** of the scheduled exam
 - your absence is one approved by college policies (illness, death in the family, other immediate-family emergencies). Documentation will be required.
 - Again – **if I do not hear from you within 24 hours of the scheduled exam, you have forfeited the right to make up the exam.**

SmartBook Homeworks (20%):

1. Each chapter will have a SmartBook Homework Assignment using Connect. SmartBook allows you to learn about the material, using the textbook within the Homework Assignment, and then answer questions or just go straight to the questions, your choice. Since this is Homework, I highly recommend that you choose to review the material highlighted in Yellow for you just before you answer the questions. These assignments have no time limit.
2. All Homework Assignments will be available beginning the first day of class so you may work ahead, however these assignments are due by the date stated in the syllabus. These assignments will not be available for late submission. You may use these graded assessments to study for the Course Module Quizzes and Lecture Exams.
3. The lowest Chapter Homework Assignment will be dropped.
4. Chapter homework assignments may not be made up as you are allowed one drop.

Connect Quizzes (10%):

- You will complete a series of Connect Quizzes covering the material from the chapters you will study this semester. I will drop your lowest Connect Quiz grade.
- All Connect quizzes will be available beginning the first day of the course unit; however, each quiz is timed (20 minutes for 20 questions with 2 attempts); therefore, it is recommended to complete the corresponding homework(s) first then take the quiz for each exam.
- Quizzes will cover the main ideas for each exam.
- Connect Quizzes cannot be made up.

Virtual Labs (10%)

- Multiple virtual labs will be given for each lecture unit to help supplement the material. These can be found in Blackboard with the links going to McGraw-Hill Connect. One virtual lab will be dropped.

Makeup Policies:

In case you have an extenuating circumstance and a University Excused Absence, make-up opportunities may be allowed for:

- a. Hospitalization,
- b. Hospitalization of an immediate family for which you are the primary caretaker, or
- c. Other extreme circumstances.

If any of the above prevents you from turning in an assignment by the due date, you must contact me within 24 hours of the due date and provide documentation. Any makeups are based on instructor discretion as needed. Connect Quizzes, Chapter Homeworks, and most other online assignments may not be made up as they can be submitted online, ahead of time, and as some are already dropped. Due dates for anything assigned will be strictly enforced.

Attendance / Participation:

This is a face-to-face course; therefore, actually coming to class is important. I will randomly take attendance during some lecture days for potential extra credit for the next lecture exam, which can consist of roll call, activity participation, question of the day submissions, etc. Therefore, if you miss class and attendance is taken, you have forfeited any potential extra credit for towards the next lecture exam for that day unless you provide a university-excused absence with documentation (per the syllabus). *If you also miss class, you will be responsible for obtaining missed information from your classmates and/or reading the textbook.*

Blackboard and Course Communication:

All grades and assignments will be posted and accessible through the course's Blackboard site. Students must log-in regularly to both the Blackboard site and to their TAMU-SA email account to keep updated on information related to the class. Each student **MUST** have an active TAMU-SA email account. This will be the email address that is used for any communication between me and you. Students who e-mail me Monday-Thursday ordinarily can expect a response within 48 hours. Students who e-mail Friday-Sunday ordinarily can expect a response by 9:00 PM on Monday.

Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you

should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

NOTE: Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Student Obligations:

1. **Attendance:** Regular and punctual attendance in all classes and laboratories, day, and evening, is required. Students who are absent for any reason should always consult with their instructors prior to absence (if possible). Both tardiness and early departure from class may be considered forms of absenteeism. A student may be dropped if there are excessive absences. Review the college policies on attendance and excessive absences as stated in the college catalog.
2. Students who have not withdrawn themselves or requested withdrawal by the Withdrawal date and stop attending class after this date will receive a performance grade (A/B/C/D/F).
3. It is not the instructor's responsibility to provide a student with any notes, assignments, or reviews missed due to student absence. All materials may be obtained by contacting the instructor during office hours, getting with a classmate, and/or downloaded from your Blackboard course. All material for the course is located on Blackboard.
4. **Email Etiquette:** Professional email etiquette is a requirement when communicating with me online. A proper greeting (e.g., Mr. Rogers, Hello Mr. Rogers, etc.) with a coherent message needs to be included with every email sent to me. **Emails that do not satisfy these conditions will be ignored.**
5. **Assignments:** All chapter homework and other assignments are due on the Blackboard website by their respective due dates. You are encouraged to get ahead on the homework assignments and quizzes. Once the deadline has passed, your score will be zero with no make-up opportunity if it has not been completed, unless your instructor states differently. Blackboard will have a calendar displaying when all assignments and quizzes are due. It is the student's responsibility to frequently check this calendar. Finally, it is up to the student to have a stable internet/browser connection when conducting online assignments.
6. **Grades:** All grades are final at the end of the semester. If there is an issue at any point during the semester, please make an appointment with me and be prepared to defend your case (i.e., bring ALL assignments, documentation, etc.). Grades may be reviewed within one week of receiving them.
7. **Cheating:** Students are expected to not utilize outside sources (e.g., notes, peers, and/or websites) when taking quizzes and lecture exams. Students that are caught cheating on lecture exams will be given a zero for the assessment. Students that cheat a second time on a lecture exam will be given an F in the course.
8. **Studying Tips:** In College, it is expected that for every credit hour you spend in class, you spend 3 hours working on that material at home. Thus, in the class, it is expected that in addition to coming to class, you also spend 9 hours a week on outside work pertaining to this class. This of course takes time-management skills. Please take this into consideration when planning your semester activities.
9. **Laptops and Cell Phones:** If you are going to use your laptop for taking notes, please sit in the back row as research has shown computers disrupt others around and behind you. If I catch you doing something other than taking notes on your computer, you will be asked to leave. ALL cell phones must be placed on silent or off and put away during class time. If you are caught using a cell phone then you will be marked absent and possibly asked to leave the class. Please inform me prior to class if you are expecting an

emergency notification. * **Please coordinate with IT and feel free to use the campus resources such as computer labs, as needed.**

10. **Questions:** Biology is an exciting discipline in the sciences, and one that I really enjoy teaching. If you have any questions over the content, email me, and I will do my best to guide you.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Unit	Date	Lecture Topic	Pre-Reading and Homework Activities	Assignments Due Date
1	W 1/21	Introductions, Syllabus, and Course Expectations		
	M 1/26	Chapter 1: The Scientific Study of Life	1. Chapter 1 SmartBook	Sun, 2/1 @11:59PM
	W 1/28	Chapter 1: The Scientific Study of Life Chapter 2: Science, Chemistry, and Cells		
	M 2/2	Chapter 2: Science, Chemistry and Cells	1. Chapter 2 SmartBook 2. Connect Quiz 1	Sun, 2/8 @11:59PM
	W 2/4	Chapter 3: Cells		
	M 2/9	Chapter 3: Cells	1. Chapter 3 SmartBook 2. Connect Quiz 2 3. Unit 1 Virtual Labs	Sun, 2/15 @11:59PM
	W 2/11	Review		
	M 2/16	EXAM 1 In-class		
2	W 2/18	Chapter 4: The Energy of Life		
	M 2/23	Chapter 4: The Energy of Life	1. Chapter 4 SmartBook	Sun, 3/1 @11:59PM
	W 2/25	Chapter 5: Photosynthesis		
	M 3/2	Chapter 5: Photosynthesis	1. Chapter 5 SmartBook 2. Connect Quiz 3	Sun, 3/15 @11:59PM
	W 3/4	Chapter 6: Respiration and Fermentation		
	M 3/16	Review	1. Chapter 6 SmartBook 2. Connect Quiz 4 3. Unit 2 Virtual Labs	Tue, 3/17 @11:59PM
	W 3/18	EXAM 2 In-class		

Unit	Date	Lecture Topic	Pre-Reading and Homework Activities	Assignments Due Date
3	M 3/23	Chapter 7: DNA Structure and Gene Function	1. Chapter 7 SmartBook	Sun, 3/29 @11:59PM
	W 3/25	Chapter 7: DNA Structure and Gene Function		
	M 3/30	Chapter 8: DNA Replication and Mitosis	1. Chapter 8 SmartBook 2. Connect Quiz 5	Sun, 4/5 @11:59PM
	W 4/1	Chapter 8: DNA Replication and Mitosis		
	M 4/6	Chapter 9: Sexual Reproduction and Meiosis	1. Chapter 9 SmartBook 2. Connect Quiz 6	Sun, 4/14 @11:59PM
	W 4/8	Chapter 9: Sexual Reproduction and Meiosis		
	M 4/13	Review	1. Unit 3 Virtual Labs	Tue, 4/14 @11:59PM
	W 4/15	Exam 3 In-class		
4	M 4/20	Chapter 10: Patterns of Inheritance	1. Chapter 10 SmartBook	Sun, 4/26 @11:59PM
	W 4/22	Chapter 10: Patterns of Inheritance		
	M 4/27	Chapter 11: DNA Technology	1. Chapter 11 SmartBook 2. Connect Quiz 7	Sun, 5/3 @11:59PM
	W 4/29	Chapter 11: DNA Technology		
	M 5/4	Review	1. Unit 4 Virtual Labs	Tue, 5/10 @11:59PM
	TBD	EXAM 4 In-class		
Final Exam Date is TBD				
Census Date - Wednesday, February 4th				
Last Day to Drop a Course with an Automatic "W" – Friday, April 17th				
Last Day of Class – Monday, May 4th				

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 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. 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, 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.

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 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. 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, 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; 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 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
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](#) as available on our website.

No Use of Generative AI Permitted for BIOL 1309

This assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.