

COMM 3301-001, Reporting: 202620

CRN: 23393

Spring 2026

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Department of Sociology and Communication

TDP (time, day, place)

9:30-10:45 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday: Room 321 of the Central Academic Building

INSTRUCTOR

Teresa Talerico, clinical assistant professor of communication

Phone: 210-784-2810 **Office:** Room 319B of CAB **Email:** Please use ttalerico@tamus.edu. Don't contact me in Blackboard messages.

Office hours: 2-3 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon Wednesday or by appointment.

DO NOT SUBMIT PDFS UNLESS I SPECIFICALLY REQUEST THEM.

DESCRIPTION

Theory and practice in news gathering, reporting and writing: Students will cover news beats on campus and in the surrounding area. The strongest work will be eligible for publication in [The Mesquite](#), a student-run news site, or [The Cypress](#), a news site that covers Castroville.

OBJECTIVES

- Build on principles and skills from COMM 2311, Media Writing and COMM 2305, News Editing.
- Explore advanced reporting and writing such as beat coverage, profiles, localizations, investigative journalism and data reporting.
- Practice a digital-first journalism philosophy in a deadline-driven environment.
- Cultivate campus sources and story ideas as a beat reporter.
- Understand methods and practice of community engagement.
- Consider and apply ethics in web-based storytelling as it relates to fairness, accuracy and truth-seeking in a digital age.
- Uphold accuracy, fairness and other ethical standards prescribed by the Society of Professional Journalists.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Free digital textbook: ["Inside Reporting, 3rd Edition,"](#) by Tim Harrower

Free online access to ["The AP Stylebook, 57th Edition: 2024-2026"](#)

EVALUATION

40% — Mesquite stories
20% — Non-Mesquite homework
10% — Discussions
5% — Quizzes
10% — Beat Exercises
15% — Final Exam and Presentation

ASSIGNMENT CATEGORIES

Mesquite or Cypress Story Assignments

Story	Word count	# of sources	Description	Deadline
Story 1: Beat News Brief	200-400	At least one	Short story such as an advance or small bit of news	Feb. 16
Story 2: Beat News Story	600-800	At least two	Longer news story	March 16
Social Media Post	See Blackboard	Something newsworthy about your beat for social media.	Examples: photo/graphic and text for Instagram or a video for an Instagram reel.	April 6
Story 3: Beat In-Depth	800-1,000	At least three	Profile or localization	April 13
Story 4: Meeting coverage	600-800	Multiple	Cover a meeting	April 27

Please note: You must write your stories in a Google Doc so I can see the version history and the evidence of your work to craft the story in your own words. Do not copy and paste the story from Microsoft Word or another platform.

Stories that demonstrate solid interviewing, reporting, writing and fact-checking, with only minimal revisions necessary, will be eligible for publication on The Mesquite's or the Cypress' website. The student will receive extra credit for the revisions.

Non-Mesquite Homework: Includes a "License to Snoop" assignment using online databases and a court exercise in which students watch a hearing and then critique an Express-News story that covered it. It also includes two of three reflections required by the university for this experiential course:

Beat Exercises: They include weekly beat check-ins with sources, follow-ups, reach-outs and other evidence of effort, persistence and ingenuity.

Quizzes: Online quizzes will primarily cover handouts, the 3301 Refresher and AP Style. I will also administer in-class news quizzes based on the previous day's [San Antonio Express-News](#).

Online Discussions: Students will post an answer to a discussion question and respond to at least one classmate.

Final Exam and Presentation: The online final will review what we learned throughout the semester. It will include the last of three reflections required for this experiential course. Presentations will explore the student's experience covering a beat.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Etiquette

Show up to our class meetings on time and stay the whole period. Each class meeting will be a combination of a lecture, class exercise and a news lab. Punctuality and attendance are crucial in journalism. Those arriving more than 20 minutes late are counted absent. Those who leave early are counted absent.

I will allow four absences for any reason. I will drop your letter grade by 2 percent for each additional absence. I will award 2 points to your total grade at the end of the semester for perfect attendance. That means attending every class meeting, arriving on time and staying for the entire class period.

Read this course syllabus closely. You and the instructor must follow it as a legal contract. Knowing its contents will greatly enhance your likelihood of success. If you have questions or need help, contact me by email or phone. Follow assignment directions to the letter.

Journalism is a deadline-driven business. Meeting deadlines is extremely important. I deduct

10 points a day for late assignments.

Submitting Assignments

DO NOT SUBMIT PDFS UNLESS I SPECIFICALLY REQUEST THEM. DO NOT SUBMIT TEXT ENTRIES IN BLACKBOARD.

For non-Mesquite homework, use Microsoft Word or Google Docs. Upload the file or link to the Google Doc in Blackboard.

For Mesquite stories, always use a properly slugged copy of the story template in your personal folder in our 3301 Google Drive folder. Mesquite stories are submitted in Blackboard, stored in your personal class folder in Google Drive **AND** shared with tjalerico@gmail.com. Grades consider AP Style, content, word usage, mechanics, spelling, grammar, clarity and thorough reporting. Proofread your work with care.

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE / ChatGPT

COMM 3301 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.

In other words, **just don't**. Writing, analytical and critical thinking skills are the backbone of our communication courses. All writing assignments must be prepared by students in their own words. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Look at it this way: You are learning to be a professional communicator. Writing is the bedrock of this profession, whether it's a news article, photo caption, radio spot, press release, narrative of a TV story or film script. If you can't write, why should an employer hire you when they can just use ChatGPT? Therefore, submissions generated by ChatGPT or other AI composition software are not permitted in my courses. I reserve the right to ask to see evidence of your original drafts, rewrites, etc.

The bulk of your work will comprise news stories that include **original** interviews and legitimate information from human sources on campus. You will need to provide a source list with the dates and locations of your interviews. You will need to attribute other information to whatever website, news article or other source that you used in your reporting.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Students should follow the Student Rights and Responsibilities and Student Code of Conduct available [here](#). I will follow procedures in the code. Do not plagiarize. Your work shows your character. Make it your own. The instructor does not allow students to:

- use cell phones/personal electronics for non-academic use in class.
- work on anything other than class material during course time.

Anyone who fails to observe these will receive a warning and an absence for the first occurrence. Further violations may result in the student being asked to leave class and/or to drop the course.

TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

We may deviate from this schedule depending on breaking news and other stories that take priority.

Week 1: Jan. 20, 22

DAY 1: We will review the syllabus and handle some housekeeping before we kick-start a semester of beat reporting. Icebreaker: Campus Scavenger Hunt

DAY 2: Journalism lab and News Quiz

HOMEWORK - Student Schedule and Contract due DAY 1 in class

- Join Slack by Jan. 21.
- Expect your beat assignments by Jan. 26 through JagWire email.
- Quiz 1 on "Seven Deadly Sins" pages 150-151 and Beat Reporting pages 94-95 in the Harrower textbook, due Jan. 26
- Pre-flection on Prerequisite due Jan. 26

Week 2: Jan. 27, 29

This week we will discuss beats and news values.

DAY 1: Review News Values. Discuss Phone Folos and two assignments: Beat Research and First Beat Interview.

DAY 2: COMM 3301 Refresher, Journalism lab

HOMEWORK:

- Beat Reach-Outs due today.
- Phone Follow-Up I
- Phone Follow-Up II
- In-Person Follow-Up (extra credit)
- Quiz 2: Review "Reporting" section in the 3301 Refresher.

Week 3: Feb. 3, 5

DAY 1: Continue to review policies and tips for journalists, including some that apply specifically to reporting for The Mesquite. Traditional News Ledes. Finding Sources and Stories.

DAY 2: News Quiz. Journalism lab. Spreadsheet: First Beat Interviews: This helps me keep track of your progress.

HOMEWORK: Beat Research and Report: deadlines vary. Quiz 3 due Monday. Read Harrower "Print to the Web," "Multiple Platforms" and "Social Media, pages 158-163 and Mesquite Handbook pgs 22-32: Social Media Policy, Communication. Beat Interview 1 and 3 Story Ideas due Feb. 9

Week 4: Feb. 10, 12

DAY 1: Discuss social media, beat work.

DAY 2: Journalism lab: Work on Story 1 and submit Story 1 photo request. HOMEWORK:

- Story 1: Beat News Brief due Feb. 16
- Story 1: Photo Request due Feb. 13
- Quiz 4 due Monday

Week 5: Feb. 17, 19

DAY 1: Review and edit news briefs.

DAY 2: News Quiz. Journalism lab. Discuss ideas for Story 2: Beat News Story. Beat Reach-out 2.

HOMEWORK

- Beat Reach-out 2
- Read Features, Generating Story Ideas, Feature Style/Structure, Writing Profiles, pages 116-125 in Harrower.
- Discussion: N is for No. 1

Week 6: Feb. 24, 26

DAY 1: No class (Prof. Talerico's medical treatment). Work on Story 2.

DAY 2: Explore personality profiles and localizations so you can decide which one to write this semester. Mine a source on your beat.

HOMEWORK:

- Class Exercise: Profile or Localization?
- Discussion O is for OK
- Read Chapter 7 of Harrower.

Week 7: March 3, 5

DAY 1: Discuss public information. Review public information quiz.

DAY 2: News Quiz. Work on Midterm Reflection. Journalism lab. Work on Story 2 and photo request.

HOMEWORK:

- Midterm Reflection due Friday night. -Quiz 7: Texas Public Information Act.
- Story 2 due Monday after spring break

- Read pages 108-109 of Harrower.

*Are you writing a profile for Story 4? You should have your subject nailed down and agreeing to be profiled NOW.

Spring Break: March 9-14

Week 8: March 17, 19

DAY 1: We will discuss covering meetings. From student clubs to the San Antonio City Council to the Texas A&M System Board of Regents, meetings are where actions are taken and policies are made. Quick review of meeting coverage, with a meeting story due by April 13. Journalism lab.

DAY 2: No class. Prof. Talerico is in Denton for TIPA convention.

HOMEWORK: Quiz 5, Texas Open Meetings Act. Read pages 44-51 of Harrower. Sign up for a Zoom meeting with me about Story 3.

Week 9: March 24, 26

DAY 1: Nontraditional ledes and nutgrafs. DAY 2: News quiz. Journalism lab.

HOMEWORK:

- Quiz P is for p.m.

Week 10: March 31, April 2

DAY 1: Work on social media posts.

DAY 2: Journalism lab: Track down a national association related to your beat.

HOMEWORK:

- Track down a national association, due Friday.

- Quiz: Q is for queen; R is for reign due Monday

- Social media post due Monday

Week 11: April 7, 9

DAY 1: Investigative and Database Reporting. Review a few social media submissions.

DAY 2: News quiz. Journalism lab. Photo request for Story 3

HOMEWORK:

- "License to Snoop"

- Read "Covering Accidents, Disasters, Fires" pages 98-101" and "Covering Crime" 102-103 in textbook.

- Discussion: S is for semesters

- Story 3: Profile or localization

Week 12: April 14, 16

DAY 1: Discuss Story 4. Review an example of breaking news coverage in The Mesquite.

DAY 2: Journalism lab. S is for semesters discussions is due tonight.

HOMEWORK:

- Discussion: T is for TK due next Thursday of next week.

Week 13: April 21, 23

DAY 1: Journalism lab: Editing and revising of Story 3.

DAY 2: News quiz and TK

HOMEWORK: - Sign up for beat presentations. Story 4: Meeting story due Monday. Quiz: U is for U.S. Read "Covering Courts," pages 104-105 in Harrower.

Week 14: April 28, 30

We will possibly do a courthouse field trip this week. Stay tuned. From OJ Simpson and Jeffrey Dahmer to Jodi Arias and Derek Chauvin, courtroom trials can be some of the most riveting news coverage. This week we will discuss covering courts, including my own "baptism by fire," the Branch Davidian trial.

DAY 1: Discuss covering courts.

DAY 2: Beat presentations

Homework:

- Quiz 10: V is for versus
- Court quiz
- Read the obituary section in our Harrower textbook.

Week 15: May 5, 7

Day 1: Discuss obit writing. Discuss final exam.

Day 2: Presentations.

Homework:

- Obit assignment
- W is for -ward discussion
- I will post Part I of the Final Exam Nov. 25. It consists of multiple choice, true/false and short-answer questions on what we have learned this semester, such as types of stories, AP Style, ledes, gathering information and more. It is an open-book final exam.

Week 16: Final Exam and Presentations

May X: More presentations

Final Exam: due at 11:59 p.m. TK

Important Dates

Jan. 19	MLK Day. No classes.
Jan. 27	Last day to register

Feb. 4	Census Date
March 9-14	Spring Break
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic W
May 1	Last day to withdraw from university
May 4	Last day of classes
May 5	Study Day. No Classes
May 6-12	Final exams
May 15	Grades due by noon
May 18	Grades available in JagWire

Course Material, Academic Freedom and Students' Rights

The materials and activities in this class were developed based on my subject matter expertise as a journalist with more than 20 years of experience reporting for newspapers, writing for magazines and editing in both media. They align with norms and best practices in the discipline you are learning.

As the Student Handbook states, “students will be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views in any course of study and to withhold judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.”

As an instructor, I will respect the rights outlined in the handbook, including “respect for personal feelings; freedom from indignity of any type, freedom from control by any person except as may be in accord with Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and conditions allowing them to make the best use of their time and talents toward the objectives which brought them to this University.” I ask that you respect the rights of your classmates to learn and have a positive experience in this class.

I ask that you respect academic freedom, which presumes that “teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject.”

If you have a problem with materials in this course, please contact me for an explanation of why these materials are disciplinarily legitimate and to discuss strategies for completing the work in a manner that is acceptable to you and that meets course objectives. I ask that you do so before or after class and not disrupt the learning experiences of others if you have objections.

The complete academic calendar is available online:
<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>

Texas A&M University San Antonio 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 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 SafeZoneApp 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](#) is available on our website.