New Chemistry Graduate Student Information
Fall 2017
Satisfying Admissions Requirements

Before you are cleared by the University to register for classes you must:

- Submit official, final transcripts from all institutions where a degree was obtained. Final transcripts must have the conferred degree and the date of conferral. (Tip: Ask your registrar when the graduation information is added to your transcript before you order the transcript!)

International students are required to show an original diploma in addition to submitting transcripts. (Admissions must see the original physical diploma. They do not keep it.)

You may choose to bring with you your final transcript rather than mail it. You can drop it off at The Office of Admissions and go to Student Business Services to get your student ID. Both offices are in the General Services Complex (GSC).

Electronic transcripts are accepted by the Office of Admissions from PARCHMENT, SPEEDE, eScrip-SAFE or National Clearing House. Send the transcript to the Office of Admissions only.

If you choose to mail your transcript, the Office of Admissions addresses are online: http://admissions.tamu.edu/contact

- GRE, TOEFL or IELTS scores must be sent by ETS or IELTS to the University

- TAMU application fee is paid

- Proof of health insurance (this is usually satisfied at Check-In)

- Bacterial Meningitis Vaccine – only required if you will be younger than 22 on August 28, 2017. You may send or email vaccination proof to the Office of Admissions prior to Orientation or bring proof to Orientation. The vaccine is available on campus at the Beutel Health Center or at local pharmacies and physician offices. http://admissions.tamu.edu/meningitis

- Tuberculosis Screen – international students only! This must be done before your ISS Check-In appointment! This screening is available on campus at Beutel Health Center. The Tuberculosis Screening Form will help you determine if you need a TB test. Cost of the TB test is around $70. http://shs.tamu.edu/TB

- Update Contact Info in Howdy – as soon as you know your new address, add it to Howdy, update your preferred email address to your @tamu account, update your emergency contact info, etc.

- Set-up of Heartland Account for Refunds – as soon as you have a local/US bank account and receive an email from Heartland with your Key, you can set this up via Howdy. http://sbs.tamu.edu/refunds

Registration for classes will occur during Orientation on August 17.
New Grad Student Orientation Schedule

International students: please complete ISS Check-In before Monday, August 14.

**Saturday, August 12**
- To be announced
- English Language Proficiency Exam (ELPE) – *International students only!* GSC

**Monday, August 14**
- 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM  Department Check-in and Welcome, CHEM 2104
- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  Payroll Orientation and Insurance Meeting, CHEM 2104
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*  Lunch, Chemistry Lobby by CHEM 100
- 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  Graduate Program Overview, CHEM 2104
- 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  Biological Placement Exam, CHEM 2104

*Note: Lunch is catered on August 14. For other days, there are many restaurants within a short walk from the Chemistry Department. [Visit Dine on Campus](https://new.dineoncampus.com/tamu)

**Tuesday, August 15**
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  Inorganic Placement Exam, CHEM 2104
- 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  Organic Placement Exam, CHEM 2104
- 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  Lunch
- 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  Physical Placement Exam, CHEM 2104

**Wednesday, August 16**
- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  Analytical Placement Exam, CHEM 2104
- 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM  How to Select a Research Advisor, CHEM 2104
- 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM  Poster Session, ILSB Lobby

**Thursday, August 17**
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  Course Advising, CHEM 2104
- 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM  Registration *by appointment!* Grad Office, CHEM 114

**Friday, August 18**
- 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM  Teaching Assistant Sign-Up, HELD room TBA

**Monday, August 21**
- 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM  Graduate Student Benefits Orientation, CHEM 2104
- 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM  Student Counseling Services Presentation, CHEM 2104
- 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM  International Student Late Check-In with ISS, *by appointment only!* SCC

**Tuesday, August 22**
- 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM  Fire Extinguisher Training, CHEM 2104
- 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  Safety Training, CHEM 2104

**Wednesday, August 23**
- 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  Teaching Assistant (TA) Training, HELD 100

**Thursday, August 24**
- *No orientation events*
- International Student Conference, MSC

**Friday, August 25**
- 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  Course-specific TA Training, HELD room TBA

*Note: This schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted online and/or distributed prior to the start of Orientation on August 14, 2017.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Aug. 14</th>
<th>Tuesday, Aug. 15</th>
<th>Wednesday, Aug. 16</th>
<th>Thursday, Aug. 17</th>
<th>Friday, Aug. 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Department Check-in and Welcome CHEM 2104</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teaching Assistant Sign-up HELD - TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Inorganic Placement Exam (110 minutes) CHEM 2104</td>
<td></td>
<td>Analytical Placement Exam (100 minutes) CHEM 2104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Payroll Orientation and Insurance Meeting CHEM 2104</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Organic Placement Exam (110 minutes) CHEM 2104</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Graduate Program Overview CHEM 2104</td>
<td>How to Select a Research Advisor CHEM 2104</td>
<td></td>
<td>Registration By Appointment! Chem Grad Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Biological Placement Exam (120 Minutes) CHEM 2104</td>
<td>Physical Placement Exam (110 minutes) CHEM 2104</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poster Session ILSB Lobby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Aug. 21</th>
<th>Tuesday, Aug. 22</th>
<th>Wednesday, Aug. 23</th>
<th>Thursday, Aug. 24</th>
<th>Friday, Aug. 25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Fire Extinguisher Training CHEM 2104</td>
<td>TA Training Heldenfels 100</td>
<td>No Orientation events today!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Graduate Student Benefits Orientation CHEM 2104</td>
<td>International Student Conference MSC *Recommended,</td>
<td>Course Specific TA Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Student Counseling Services CHEM 2104</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time and location will be assigned at Wednesday’s TA Training.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>ISS Check-in opportunity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted online and/or distributed prior to the start of Orientation on August 14, 2017.
# Table of Contents

Satisfying Admissions Requirements ................................................................................................. 2
New Grad Student Orientation Schedule ............................................................................................. 3
PhD Program in Chemistry .................................................................................................................. 7
  Chemistry Graduate Office ............................................................................................................... 7
  Chemistry Business Office ................................................................................................................ 7
Orientation ........................................................................................................................................ 8
  English Language Proficiency Exam (ELPE) ...................................................................................... 8
  International Student Services Orientation & Check-In ................................................................. 8
  Department Check-In ....................................................................................................................... 9
  Department Placement Exams ......................................................................................................... 9
  Course Advising/Registration ........................................................................................................ 9
  Orientation Social Events ............................................................................................................... 10
  International Student Conference .................................................................................................. 10
Financial information .......................................................................................................................... 10
  Stipend......................................................................................................................................... 10
  Student Financial Aid ..................................................................................................................... 10
  Tuition and Fees ............................................................................................................................ 10
Health & Wellness .............................................................................................................................. 10
  International Student Health Insurance ......................................................................................... 11
  US Citizen/Permanent Resident Health Insurance ....................................................................... 11
  Health Centers .............................................................................................................................. 11
  Student Counseling Services ......................................................................................................... 11
  Fitness & Wellness ......................................................................................................................... 12
Student ID Card .................................................................................................................................. 12
Transportation & Parking ................................................................................................................... 12
  Arriving in Texas ............................................................................................................................ 12
  Shuttle Bus Service on- and off-campus ......................................................................................... 12
  Driver License and Vehicle Registration ....................................................................................... 13
  Parking Permits ............................................................................................................................. 13
  Bicycles & Bike Share ...................................................................................................................... 13
  Ride Share ...................................................................................................................................... 14
  Car Share ....................................................................................................................................... 14
Housing .............................................................................................................................................. 14
  Temporary Housing ...................................................................................................................... 14
  Room/Roommate Search – Aggie Search ....................................................................................... 14
  Off-Campus Student Services ...................................................................................................... 14
Utilities ............................................................................................................................................... 14
Telephone .......................................................................................................................................... 15
Television ............................................................................................................................................ 15
Internet .............................................................................................................................................. 15
Banking .............................................................................................................................................. 15
Libraries ............................................................................................................................................ 16
Post Offices ....................................................................................................................................... 16
Police ................................................................................................................................................. 16
Places of Worship ............................................................................................................................. 16
Tip:

Plan to arrive in College Station several days prior to Orientation to take care of any personal details as there will be little free time to do so during Orientation. What are “personal details?” Getting a bank account, setting up your student ID and turning in final transcripts, getting your TB test if you are not a US citizen, grocery shopping, etc.

If you have a question about something not covered in the Table of Contents and you cannot find the answer using the search box on tamu.edu, please email your question to the Chemistry Grad Office at gradmail@chem.tamu.edu.
PhD Program in Chemistry

The Doctor of Philosophy degree prepares a student for positions in university research and teaching, industrial laboratories and government agencies. The major emphasis in our doctoral program is research.

Shortly after entering the Ph.D. program students choose a major area of study such as inorganic, organic, analytical, physical or biological chemistry, as well as a research advisor. The first two semesters of graduate study are designed to provide students with fundamental knowledge in their general area of research. The average course load for the first year is four to six graduate-level classes, depending on the student's background. A vigorous seminar program offers students an opportunity to broaden their scientific knowledge as well as to keep up with new discoveries and advances in their chosen field.

Most students teach undergraduate laboratories during their first year of study. This normally entails teaching two or three laboratory sections, grading exams and laboratory reports, and holding problem sessions or assisting with the helpdesk in the general or organic programs. Students are provided with extensive training prior to entering the laboratory as a teaching assistant.

In addition to coursework, seminars and research, students take a series of cumulative exams during their first two years. During the third year of study, students take preliminary written and oral examinations. Students complete their degree requirements with a final oral defense, a department seminar, and the writing of a dissertation. Most students take five years to obtain their doctoral degree.

Detailed information on policies and guidelines are available online: [http://www.chem.tamu.edu/academics/graduate/degree-programs/](http://www.chem.tamu.edu/academics/graduate/degree-programs/)

Chemistry Graduate Office

The Chemistry Graduate Office, located in Chemistry 114, offers assistance and advice throughout your stay at Texas A&M University. (979) 845-5345

Dr. Simon North, Department Head and Graduate Advisor  
Dr. Joanna Goodey Pellois, Associate Graduate Advisor  
Ms. Sandy Manning, Program Coordinator  
Dr. Oleg Ozerov, Graduate Recruiting Coordinator  
Ms. Valerie McLaughlin, Admissions and Recruiting Program Coordinator

Chemistry Business Office

The Business Office issues keys, handles Human Resources and Payroll activities, provides purchasing assistance for laboratories, etc. The business office is located in Chemistry 119.

Mrs. Julie Zercher oversees graduate student financial matters, such as tuition, scholarships and fees. She is in Chemistry 120X. (979) 845-0113
Orientation

Chemistry’s Two-Week Orientation Begins Monday, August 14th!

All events of Chemistry’s Orientation are mandatory for all new students and take precedence over all other University Orientation events! Department of Chemistry orientation consists of payroll and benefit (health, dental, life, vision, etc.) information, placement exams, international Check-In and Orientation, advising and fall semester course registration, safety trainings, teacher assistant and lab coordinator trainings, etc. Casual attire is appropriate during orientation.

English Language Proficiency Exam (ELPE)

NEW University Rules will go into effect for Fall 2017! As soon as they are officially released we will send out the new rules and how they may effect international students. You will be pre-registered for the August 12 English exam.

International Student Services Orientation & Check-In

ISS Online Orientation and in-person Check-In are mandatory for all international students! You must complete ISS Online Orientation before you can schedule a Check-In appointment. Registration for Online Orientation is available here: http://isstraining.tamu.edu/orientation/

The purpose of Check-In is to confirm students have arrived in the US and are complying with US Government regulations. ISS recommends you plan for Check-In to take at least 1 hour and to arrive only at your appointed time. You must clear Check-in before Chemistry Orientation!

If you are arriving for Summer Session I or II: please Check-In at the ISS Office in The Pavilion, Room 110 prior to the first day of the Summer Session. (Before May 26 for term I & II or before July 3 for only term II.)

If you are arriving for the Fall: Check-In is available by appointment from July 28 – August 11 in The Pavilion, Room 110. Plan to check-in with ISS before Chemistry Orientation. The Check-In days that do not conflict with Chemistry Orientation are August 18 or the afternoon of August 21. Other Check-In times conflict with Chemistry’s orientation schedule.

Before your appointment:

- Complete the TB screening or turn in proof of screening at Beutel Health Center (pg 2)
- Log in to Howdy Portal to update your local address and your emergency contact information.

You must bring to your Check-In appointment:

- Original I-20/DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility (stamped at port of entry)
- Original Passport with visa and admissions stamp in passport
- I-94 (electronic or paper)
- Offer Letter
**Department Check-In**
Department of Chemistry Check-in consists of payroll and benefit (health, dental, life, vision, etc.) information.

**You must bring the following items with you to the Department Check-In on August 14th:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Students</th>
<th>Domestic Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Passport</td>
<td>1) Government issued ID (driver’s license, military ID, passport, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) I-94 and I-20</td>
<td>2) Social Security Card <em>(Original card only! Copies are not accepted.)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Bank information for paycheck (routing number and account number)</td>
<td>3) Bank information for paycheck (routing number and account number)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Department Placement Exams**
During the first week of orientation, the Department of Chemistry will administer American Chemical Society (ACS) standardized exams to assess your knowledge in the areas of Analytical, Inorganic, Organic and Physical chemistry, and a departmental exam for Biological chemistry. The exam scores are used by faculty to advise you on courses to take in your first semester. In general, higher scores will afford you more control over the courses you take and may favorably impact the selection of your research advisor. Any good undergraduate class should prepare you for the placement exams. The scores become part of your permanent student file.

**Biological Exam** – August 14, 9:00 am  
Key Areas: Structure and Function of Proteins and Nucleic Acids

**Inorganic Exam** – August 15, 9:00 am  
Key Areas: Fundamentals, Redox, Acid-Base and Solid-State Chemistry

**Organic Exam** – August 15, 11:00 am  
Key Areas: Reactions and Theory of Reactions.

**Physical Exam** – August 15, 2:00 pm  
Key Areas: Kinetics, Thermodynamics, Quantum mechanics

**Analytical Exam** – August 16, 9:00 am  
Key Areas: Data evaluation, Aqueous equilibrium chemistry including acids/bases, Electrochemistry, Spectroscopic methods, Analytical laboratory techniques, Separations

**Course Advising/Registration**
Faculty members will advise new students about course selection during Orientation, on Thursday, August 17. They use your research interests, academic record, GRE scores and placement exam scores as guidance for course selection. Once you have finished advising you will be allowed to register for courses.
**Orientation Social Events**
The Graduate Student Association of Chemistry (GSAC) usually hosts an evening social and other organizations may also host social events. These will be announced closer to Orientation.

**International Student Conference**
The optional International Student Conference, held on Thursday, August 24, is a resource fair for new international students to learn about on- and off-campus services. The conference is FREE, but requires registration: [http://iss.tamu.edu/Events/ISC](http://iss.tamu.edu/Events/ISC)

**Financial information**

**Stipend**
Your monthly stipend will be $2,050 before taxes. You will be paid once a month on the first working day of the next month for work performed in the previous month. Therefore, your first paycheck will arrive on Monday, October 2, for August 28 – September 29. If the first of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, you will be paid the next working day. For example: if the first of the month falls on a Saturday, you will be paid on the following Monday, the next working day. This will be explained during the payroll session of orientation.

**Student Financial Aid**
If you need funding for the month or two after your arrival before you receive your first paycheck, the Student Financial Aid office has information regarding short-term loans and other options. Some students choose this option during the first couple of months of school. The financial aid office website is [https://financialaid.tamu.edu/](https://financialaid.tamu.edu/). Contact the Financial Aid Office if you have questions.

**Tuition and Fees**
The Department of Chemistry pays all tuition and mandatory fees assessed by the University. You are responsible for any extra fees such as parking, sports pass, ELPE fees, ESL courses, health insurance for international students, etc. There is a $100 property deposit fee (billed to your account) required of all students. This deposit is refunded after graduation. Please see Julie Zercher in CHEM 120X if you have any questions regarding fees or financial matters.

**Health & Wellness**
All graduate students employed by the Department of Chemistry as a Graduate Assistant Researcher (GAR), Graduate Assistant Teacher (GAT) and some fellowships are eligible for health insurance benefits. Benefits-eligible students receive a monthly employer contribution toward their health care plan beginning the first of the month after their 60th day of employment.
International Student Health Insurance
All international students are automatically enrolled by the University in Gap Insurance. This insurance covers August, before you become an official employee. You will automatically be billed $165 for the Gap Insurance. In addition, during the 60 day period before insurance eligibility, international students will be auto-billed for System Student Health Insurance Plan (SSHIP), unless proof of insurance from another source. The 2016-2017 rate was $158/month. Insurance will be explained in detail during Orientation. http://iss.tamu.edu/Prospective-Students/Health-Insurance

US Citizen/Permanent Resident Health Insurance
If you are on a parent’s health plan, you may choose to stay on that plan for the first 60 days of employment. If you choose any TAMU health plan, you are responsible for the total amount for the first 60 days of employment. (The 2016-2017 rate was $158 per month.) After the 60 day period, if you choose the Graduate Student Plan, the department will cover the cost of your insurance.

Health Centers
All students can utilize Beutel Health Center on campus. There are 4 hospitals in the area, and a variety of quick clinics around town associated with hospitals or independently owned. When choosing a hospital, clinic or doctor, be sure to check with your insurance for the preferred vendor list.

A.P. Beutel Health Center (on campus) http://shs.tamu.edu/mobile
For emergency assistance on campus, dial 9-911.

College Station Medical Center http://www.csmedcenter.com/College-Station-Medical-Center/home.aspx

The Physicians Centre Hospital http://thephysicianscentre.com/

St. Joseph Regional Health Center http://www.st-joseph.org/

Scott & White College Station Hospital http://www.sw.org/location/college-station-hospital

Student Counseling Services
Student Counseling Services provides personal counseling, workshops and group counseling, stress management and biofeedback training, couples counseling, crisis intervention, and a variety of other offerings. Your student service fee funds the Student Counseling Service. There are no additional fees to use their services. The SCS web site has complete information about the current schedules and a selection of self-help materials: https://scs.tamu.edu/

Student Services @ White Creek (Bus route 3)
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday
Appointments and help: (979) 845-4427

In case of crisis emergency after hours, call the Student Counseling Help Line: (979) 845-2700
**Fitness & Wellness**
There are plenty of gyms and fitness studios for cross-fit, yoga, Pilates, boxing, etc., around town, as well as 5K charity runs, the BCS Marathon, hiking, biking and watersports to lure you out of the lab.

**Student ID Card**
Your student identification (ID) card or “Aggie Card” is essential not only for picture identification but allows you to utilize campus facilities such as the library and student recreational center, access your building after hours and on holidays, qualify for student-only discounts around town, etc. The Department of Chemistry requests you obtain your student ID when you arrive to town or during the orientation weeks when there are no activities scheduled.

The ID office is in Suite 2801 of the General Services Complex (GSC). The GSC can be accessed by car [http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/?bldg=1800](http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/?bldg=1800) or on-campus shuttle bus route 2 (Replant) or route 6 (12th Man) [http://transport.tamu.edu/busroutes/](http://transport.tamu.edu/busroutes/)

**What you must bring with you when you go get your Student ID:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Students</th>
<th>Domestic Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Chemistry offer letter</td>
<td>1) Chemistry offer letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) I-20, DS-2019, etc.</td>
<td>2) Government issued ID: driver's license, military ID, passport, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Passport (for ID purposes)</td>
<td>3) UIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) UIN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transportation & Parking**

**Arriving in Texas**
Information on transportation to the Bryan/College Station area from Houston, Austin or Dallas can be found on the ISS website at [http://iss.tamu.edu/Prospective-Students/Arrival-Information#0-TransportationandTemporaryAccommodationUponArrival](http://iss.tamu.edu/Prospective-Students/Arrival-Information#0-TransportationandTemporaryAccommodationUponArrival)

**Ground Shuttle** runs scheduled shuttles to and from Houston airports and the College Station airport: [https://www.groundshuttle.com/](https://www.groundshuttle.com/)

**Streamride** runs scheduled vans to and from Austin Bergstrom airport and College Station Airport. [http://www.streamride.com/](http://www.streamride.com/)

**Shuttle Bus Service on- and off-campus**
Texas A&M University provides both on-campus and an extensive off-campus shuttle bus services that students, faculty and staff can use. A valid University ID is required to ride off-campus buses. Route and schedule information can be found here: [http://transport.tamu.edu/busroutes/](http://transport.tamu.edu/busroutes/)
Driver License and Vehicle Registration
If you are establishing permanent residency in Texas, you should obtain a Texas driver license within 90 days or arriving in Texas. You must bring proof of identity, auto insurance, Texas vehicle registration, and social security number. If your unexpired out-of-state or Canada, South Korea, Taiwan, Germany or France drivers license is valid, you are not required to take a driving or a written test, but an eye exam is required. Licenses from other countries require the driver take both the written and skills tests. [http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/)

To register a vehicle in Texas, you must first have it inspected. You can get a vehicle inspection at various service stations, car dealerships, and auto shops in town. Once you have completed the inspection, the vehicle is registered at the county tax office. You will need to bring the title of your car, safety inspection, proof of insurance, and ID when registering your vehicle. The fee varies depending on the vehicle. [http://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/new-to-texas](http://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/new-to-texas)

Parking Permits
If you plan to purchase a parking pass for the 2017-2018 academic year, visit [http://transport.tamu.edu/parking.aspx](http://transport.tamu.edu/parking.aspx) to register online for your permit before July 5 at 5:00pm. You will use your NetID to login to the transportation website. The permit cost will be billed to your student fees.

The closest student parking areas to the Chemistry Building are Lots 50 and 51, and the Northside Parking Garage (NSG). Lot 50 and Lot 51 unnumbered space is $300 for the academic year. Northside Parking Garage unnumbered space is $485 for the academic year. The Night and Weekend Permit is $96. Motorcycles and mopeds are $96 for the academic year.

Frequently asked questions about parking permits are answered here: [http://transport.tamu.edu/Parking/faqpermit.aspx](http://transport.tamu.edu/Parking/faqpermit.aspx)

Bicycles & Bike Share
Currently there is no parking permit for bicycles. However, registering your bike is encouraged and free. Information regarding bicycle regulations (they are considered moving vehicles and are subject to the same road laws as cars!), registration, leasing and borrow-a-bike programs is found at [http://transport.tamu.edu/Alternative/bicycles/services.aspx](http://transport.tamu.edu/Alternative/bicycles/services.aspx)

The Hub is an on-campus DIY bike repair facility run by Rec Sports Outdoor Adventures. It’s located across from the Quad on Lubbock Street and offers tools and sells an assortment of bike repair items and bike accessories. They are usually open in the afternoons.

There are 6 bicycle maintenance stations on campus, the closest to Chemistry are between the Academic Building and Cushing Library, and near the north side of Halbouty. [http://transport.tamu.edu/Alternative/bicycles/files/bikerack.pdf](http://transport.tamu.edu/Alternative/bicycles/files/bikerack.pdf)
Ride Share
Zimride ride share and other alternative transportation idea information is found at http://transport.tamu.edu/Alternative/rideshare.aspx

Car Share
Zipcar offers car share and rent-by-the-hour options. Information is found at http://www.zipcar.com/universities/texas-a-and-m

Housing
Housing in Bryan-College Station is easily available, but it is important to start looking early for accommodations that meet your needs. There are several services that can help you find a place to live.

Temporary Housing
The Department of Residence Life offers the Aggie Hostel program. Aggie Hostel is an on-campus short term housing option with a maximum stay of two nights. http://reslife.tamu.edu/guests/hostel/

There are many hotels in the area: http://www.visitaggieland.com/hotels/hotels-motels-inns/

Room/Roommate Search – Aggie Search
AggieSearch is a free service from the Department of Student Life. You can learn about housing availability and price, property locator services, or search for roommates. You may also create a profile and be notified with postings that match your search criteria. Visit http://aggiesearch.tamu.edu for more information.

Off-Campus Student Services
The Off-Campus Student Services office is dedicated to providing programs and services to all students who live off campus and for adult (non-traditional) and graduate students attending Texas A&M University. Resources are made available to assist students in locating off campus housing, navigating leasing concerns, and connecting to the university. http://studentlife.tamu.edu/agoss

Off Campus Survival Manual http://studentlife.tamu.edu/agoss.offcampuspublications

Utilities
Unless your apartment complex or landlord provides utilities, you must arrange for these services. If your apartment or house uses gas for heating and/or cooking, you need to arrange for this, too. Utility rates are different in each city. Each utility has a website explaining rates and billing procedures. The size of your utility bill each month is user dependent, so estimates are difficult.
College Station Utilities

Bryan Texas Utilities
http://www.btutilities.com/

College Station Sanitation

City of Bryan Residential Garbage Collection

Atmos Natural Gas – Bryan & College Station
http://www.atmosenergy.com/

TelephoneNumber

All national wireless carriers provide cellular coverage in the area. Residential telephone service is available bundled with internet and/or TV services or ordered separately from internet and TV services.

Television

Most apartments and some rentals have prearranged agreements with cable companies. Please check your rental contract for services included with your lease.

Suddenlink Cable
http://www.suddenlink.com

Direct TV
http://www.directv.com/

Dish Network
http://www.dish.com/

Internet

Internet service is provided by Suddenlink Cable (see contact information above) or by Verizon (DSL) bundled with Direct TV or Dish Network. Cellular-based internet is also available from any of the national cellular carriers. Please check your rental contract for services included with your lease. There is free wi-fi on campus for registered students, faculty and staff, as well as open-access computer labs for student use.

Banking

There are many banking options available in Bryan-College Station, from large national banks such as Wells Fargo and Chase to local banks such as Aggieland Credit Union and Brenham National Bank. A search on Google will yield lots of choices. Be sure to research each bank’s services as not all services and fees are equal.
Libraries
There are five libraries on the Texas A&M University campus and two city libraries. Information for all campus libraries and library services is available at http://library.tamu.edu/ The Bryan/College Station Library System website is http://www.bcslibrary.org/

Chemistry specific information can be found at http://guides.library.tamu.edu/chemistry?hs=a. In addition, the Science Librarian, David Hubbard, holds office hours in the Chemistry Building once a week.

Post Offices
There are three local post offices: One on campus (near Sbisa dining hall, University Drive and College Main) which is open 9:00 am – 4:30 pm M-F, and one each in Bryan and College Station. Visit usps.com to find locations and counter hours or call 800-ASK-USPS® (800-275-8777).

Police
The major responsibility for the safety and well-being of students, faculty and staff members at Texas A&M University rests with the University Police Department. Department personnel are sensitive to the unique nature of the university community. https://upd.tamu.edu/Pages/Home.aspx

The University Police authority includes the 5,500 acre campus, more than 500 buildings owned by Texas A&M including Easterwood Airport and the Bush Presidential Library and Museum, and up to the thresholds of the bars on University Drive. The University Police Department cooperates with other law enforcement agencies at the local, county, state and federal level.

For emergencies on-campus, dial 9-911 from a campus phone or 911 from a cell phone.

To report a crime on campus or to conduct other police business on a non-emergency basis call (979) 845-2345.

The Bryan Police Department non-emergency number is (979) 361-3888.

The College Station Police Department non-emergency number is (979) 764-3600.

Places of Worship
There is a wide spectrum of worship opportunities available in the College Station and Bryan communities. An internet search, Yelp and Meet-Up will yield many choices.

Schools and Childcare
Public education is provided by the College Station Independent School District and the Bryan Independent School District. Several private schools also serve the area.
Childcare is provided by over 800 licensed day care facilities and homes. A list of local providers can be found at: http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/default.asp

University Student Organizations
The University has student organizations for about everyone – whether you’re interested in Indian folk dancing, Quidditch, knitting, online gaming, sports cars or spelunking, you’ll find it here: http://studentactivities.tamu.edu/get-involved/join-an-organization/#organization-search

RecSports organizes intramural leagues each semester for teams and “free agents:” http://recsports.tamu.edu/programs/intramurals/ RecSports also organizes Club sports for the more competitive player: http://recsports.tamu.edu/sport-clubs/ The Chemistry grad students usually have a soccer team, ice hockey team and kick-ball team, among their other many activities.

Chemistry Student Organizations

Graduate Student Association of Chemistry (GSAC)
The Graduate Student Association of Chemistry (GSAC) represents the department's graduate student body. All graduate students are members; each division elects two representatives to serve on the GSAC Board. Beyond being a voice for the graduate students, GSAC helps with Graduate Visitation Weekend and organizes social events throughout the year. http://www.chem.tamu.edu/gsac/

Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU)
Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU) is the National Chemical Honorary Society. It was founded by several senior chemistry majors at the University of Illinois in 1899 with the purpose of promoting high scholarship and original research in all branches of pure and applied chemistry. Membership in PLU is by invitation only and is restricted to juniors, seniors, and graduate students with distinguished records of scholarship and research and that have demonstrated promise of leadership and success in the field of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, and Biochemistry. The chapter at Texas A&M University is the Beta Beta chapter. PLU sponsors a series of activities during the year to encourage the study of chemistry at all levels. http://www.chem.tamu.edu/plu/

WISE (Women in Science & Engineering)
WISE is an organization of graduate students, staff, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty at Texas A&M University. This group was created to address the specific problems that often face women in non-traditional fields. It has been noted that the most critical period in the pursuit of a graduate degree is the first year when students must adapt to a new, academically challenging environment. http://outreach.science.tamu.edu/wise.php
**NOBCChE**

*NOBCChE* is the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers student chapter at Texas A&M University. The chapter stimulates interest and promotes awareness in chemistry, chemical engineering and related areas for under-represented students. The main focus is to encourage these students to pursue advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. [http://nobcche.chem.tamu.edu/](http://nobcche.chem.tamu.edu/)

**OCDC**

*OCDC* (Organization for Cultural Diversity in Chemistry) is a university recognized organization that was established in the spring of 2014 at Texas A&M University. The organization consists of grad students, undergrad students, and postdocs of all races and nationalities. They value diversity of thought, background, ethnicity, and perspective and seek to promote and maintain a healthy department climate. [http://ocdc.tamu.edu/Home%20page/Home%20page.html](http://ocdc.tamu.edu/Home%20page/Home%20page.html)

**oSTEM**

*oSTEM* (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is a national society dedicated to educating and fostering leadership for LGBTQ+ communities in STEM fields. The main goals of an oSTEM Chapter at Texas A&M: identify, address, and advocate for the needs of LGBTQ+ students in STEM fields and to educate, assist, and engage LGBTQ+ students in STEM fields. [http://www.facebook.com/oSTEMatTAMU](http://www.facebook.com/oSTEMatTAMU)

**SACNAS**

The Texas A&M University Chapter of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) is a non-excluding organization that provides support for Hispanics/Chicanos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and any other underrepresented minority students in science, engineering and technology fields. The organization's aim is to foster the success in the attainment of advanced degrees, careers and leadership. [https://maroonlink.tamu.edu/organization/tamusacnas](https://maroonlink.tamu.edu/organization/tamusacnas)

**American Chemical Society – TAMU Chapter**