We’ve Got It Covered
2014

Department of Chemistry
Texas A&M University
Department of Chemistry
P.O. Box 30012
College Station, TX 77842
(979) 845-5345
Welcome to Texas A&M University!

Dear Graduate Student,

We Have it Covered 2014 is meant to help Chemistry graduate students relocate to the Bryan–College Station area and become a vital part of our program. This booklet includes information about the Department of Chemistry and the community that will be your home for the next several years. Please take time to review it. We hope that it makes your transition to Texas A&M University, the Department of Chemistry, and the State of Texas a little easier.

The Department of Chemistry Graduate Office is available to assist you at all times. It is your liaison between university offices such as the Office of Graduate Studies, the College of Science, Student Financial Aid, the Office of Graduate Admissions, International Admissions, and International Student Services. Each member of this office has experience that will help you as you progress through the many stages of graduate study. We are looking forward to working with you throughout your years at Texas A&M University.

We would appreciate any comments you may have to improve We Have it Covered.

Sincerely,

Dr. Simon North   Dr. Joanna Goodey-Pellois   Dr. Oleg Ozerov
Graduate Advisor  Associate Graduate Advisor  Graduate Recruiting Coordinator
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Bryan – College Station

The twin cities of College Station and Bryan, or “Aggieland,” are conveniently located at the heart of the Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio triangle and are easily accessible from all parts of the state.

Bryan, population 78,000, was established in 1859 and named in honor of William Joel Bryan, nephew of Texas pioneer Stephen F. Austin. Incorporated in 1871, Bryan prospered due to its agricultural resources and a railway system completed in 1876. The same year, the State of Texas established the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas just south of Bryan. This was the first public institution of higher education in the state.

College Station, population of 97,800, was planned as a model community by college professors when the growing college could no longer accommodate their homes on campus. College Station, named as a railway stop by the Postal Service in 1877, burgeoned in the 1960s, as the college opened its doors to women and became Texas A&M University.

Today the two cities form a delightful community to visit and a business and tourism destination with a unique blend of cultural opportunities. The climate is classified as subtropical. Winters are mild, with short spells of cold weather, lasting a few days. Snow is rare. The average January temperature is 39°F. Spring and fall are variable with occasional dramatic thunderstorms. Summer is always warm with an average daytime temperature in July of 95°F.

The Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau website has many useful links to information about the cities and events around town: http://visitaggieiland.com

Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University, the state’s first public institution of higher education, was opened on October 4, 1876 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The school owes its origin to the Morrill Act of 1862, which established the nation’s land-grant college system. In 1963 the name of the school was changed to Texas A&M University, more accurately reflecting its expanding role as a leader in teaching, research, and public service for the state, nation and world. The letters “A” and “M” are a link to the university’s past; they no longer represent any specific words as the curriculum has grown to include not only agriculture and engineering, but architecture, business, education, geosciences, liberal arts, medicine, science, and veterinary medicine. It is now the research-intensive flagship of the Texas A&M University System.

Texas A&M University has over 53,000 students from all 50 states and 115 countries, of those 10,000 are graduate students. The university faculty includes winners of the Nobel Prize, the Wolf Prize, the National Medal of Science, the Pulitzer Prize, members of the
National Academies of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine.

Texas A&M University is one of the few universities to hold land-, sea- and space-grant status, and is one of 60 members of the Association of American Universities (AAU). Its annual research expenditures are over $820 million; its endowment, among the top ten in the nation, is approximately $5.6 billion. The five libraries contain almost four million books, with access to 400,000 e-books, and hundreds of databases. U.S. News and World report recently ranked Texas A&M third nationally as a “best value” among public universities. Washington Monthly ranked it first in the nation for “tangible contributions to the public interest.”

For more information go to http://www.tamu.edu/about/index.html

**Texas A&M Traditions**

Texas A&M has developed a rich heritage of traditions that have helped to develop character, leadership, unity, and public service in all its graduates. Students pride themselves on upholding these traditions and values. Visit http://traditions.tamu.edu/traditions to learn more.

*Aggie*—A student of Texas A&M

*Howdy*—The greeting that Aggies use to make Texas A&M the friendliest campus in the world

*12th Man*—Students stand to support their team

*Reveille*—The Texas A&M mascot

*Muster*—Aggies worldwide gather each April 21 renewing friendships, remembering those Aggies that are gone and honoring the time spent at Texas A&M

*Silver Taps*—Monthly campus memorial service held the first Tuesday of each month and dedicated to students who died the previous month

*Yell Leaders*—Elected by students to lead "yells" at sporting events

*Corps of Cadets*—The largest uniformed student body outside of the U.S. Military Academies. Cadets are seen wearing uniforms to class. Thirty percent of graduating cadets are commissioned branches of military service.

*The Big Event*—Held each spring, it is the nation’s largest student-run, one-day community service event

**Aggie Code of Honor**

An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.
http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Default.aspx

Academic Calendar

Fall 2014 classes start on Monday, September 1. The academic calendar is available online at: http://registrar.tamu.edu/general/calendar.aspx The University’s Calendar of Events is online at http://calendar.tamu.edu/

University Policies and Rules

A complete listing of student rules is at http://student-rules.tamu.edu
Texas A&M University rules are at http://rules.tamu.edu
Texas A&M University System policies are at http://tamus.edu/offices/policy

Housing Information

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. Do not forget that summers are quite warm and air conditioning is almost a must.

Adult, Graduate, and Off Campus Student Services (AGOSS)

The AGOSS office is dedicated to providing programs and services to all students who live off campus and for the increasing population of 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. Useful handbooks include: 2014 Off Campus Survival Manual, Little Maroon Handbook, and Little Aggie Handbook.
http://studentlife.tamu.edu/agoss.offcampuspublications

Adult, Graduate, and Off Campus Student Services
(979)845-3111
Cain Hall, Suite B117
Texas A&M University
Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

University-Owned Apartments

TAMU-owned apartments are available to married, full-time undergraduate and graduate students, as well as to single graduate students. These are furnished apartments; rent
ranges from $577-$1154 per month. The rent includes water and gas, while electricity is individually metered. Phone lines are pre-installed although residents need their own phone and must select their own long distance service. Absolutely no pets are allowed.

The apartments are located on the north side of campus on the corner of South College Ave. and University Drive. An application may be filled out only if you are accepted to the University. There is a $25 non-refundable application fee. A $300 deposit fee will be required when notified of assignment. Due to the convenient location and reasonable prices, these apartments usually have a long waiting list (about 12-18 months), so an early application is suggested. Applications and information are available on-line.

University-Owned Apartments
(979) 845-4744
http://reslife.tamu.edu/apartments
Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

AggieSearch

AggieSearch is a free service from the Department of Student Life. You can learn about housing availability and price, utility information, 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.

Property Managers and Locator Services

Most private locator services are free, but be sure to ask how they operate before using their services.

AggieLand Apartment Finders
(979) 693-4900
http://www.aggielandapartmentfinders.com/

At Homes Properties
(979) 696-5357
http://www.athomepm.com

Alpha Omega Properties, Inc.
(979) 774-7820
http://www.alphaomegaproperties.com

Luxor Management Group
(979) 694-0320
http://www.luxormanagement.com

Equity Real Estate
(979) 696-4464
http://www.equitybcs.com/joomla/

On-Line Real Estate Services, Inc.
(979) 268-8620
http://www.bcsonlinerealestate.com

Transportation Around Town
Bus

The District, or “The D” is the public bus system in Bryan and College Station. There are seven routes covering the area. The buses run weekdays from 5:00 am until 7:00 pm. http://www.btd.org/BryanCollegeStation.htm
(979) 778-4480

TAMU Shuttle Bus Service, see below.

Airport Shuttle

Ground Shuttle provides transportation between Bush Intercontinental Airport, Hobby Airport in Houston and College Station/Bryan.
(855)303-4415
http://www.groundshuttle.com

Taxicabs

AAA University Taxi (979) 268-8189
Advantage Taxi LLC (979) 779-8030
AA Aggieland Cab (979) 846-2285
BCS Taxi (979) 779-8294
Gold Star Taxi (979) 776-5566
Mike’s Taxi (979) 436-8107
uRide (800) 981-9693

Alternative Transportation

Zimride is a social network for ridesharing and carpooling. www.zimride.com/tamu

Hertz 24/7 offers a car share service with five locations on campus. The on demand service offers car rental by the hour or by the day.
http://transport.tamu.edu/Alternative/carshare.aspx

Transportation on Campus
TAMU Shuttle Bus Service

Transportation Services provides the university community with a convenient and economical shuttle bus system of on-campus routes and off-campus routes. The bus system is free to students. Information about on-campus and off-campus routes, maps, and times is available on-line. http://transport.tamu.edu/transit.aspx

Campus Parking

Parking and bus operations are overseen by Transportation Services. In order to park on campus you must purchase a parking permit or pay to park in garages that charge an hourly-rate. When you purchase an on-campus permit, you will be assigned a specific lot that you will be allowed to park in for the academic year (August to August). **You must register for your permit before July 8.** If you miss the permit date, permit wait-list opens August 1 and permits will be issued after September 9.

The closest student parking lot to the Chemistry Complex is Lot 50, which is about half a mile, or 0.8 km away. The closest parking garage, North Side Garage (NSG), is about a third of a mile, or 0.5 km, away. A student parking permit for Lot 50 is $275.00 for the year, and a NSG permit costs $444 per year. Night and weekend only permits are also available for $88.00. Be sure to visit the Transportation Services’ website for parking lot maps and other information.

Motorcycles, scooters, and mopeds are very useful and can be parked closer to buildings on campus. Parking permits for motorcycles and scooters are $88.00. If you have a vehicle permit, an additional motorcycle permit is available at a discounted rate.

Transportation Services
(979) 862-7275
http://transport.tamu.edu/parking.aspx
John J. Koldus Bldg., Suite 108
Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

University Bicycle Regulations

When you ride a bicycle on the Texas A&M University campus, you are considered a moving vehicle. Texas Motor Vehicle Laws govern the operation of bicycles on public roadways or paths set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. The University Police Department is responsible for the regulation of moving vehicles and bicycles on University property. Transportation Services is responsible for the regulation of vehicles and bicycles that are parked on University property.
http://transport.tamu.edu/alternative/bicycles/services.aspx

All bicyclists must operate under Texas Motor Vehicle Laws while on public and campus roadways. This includes signaling, stopping at stop signs, yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks, displaying proper illumination, and riding with the traffic flow on one-way streets in designated bicycle lanes. Bicyclists must also park and lock their bikes in
designated areas. The University Police Department offers bicycle- engraving services free of charge.

**Driver License and Vehicle Registration**

If you are establishing permanent residency in Texas, you should obtain a **Texas drivers license** within 30 days. You must bring proof of identity, auto insurance, Texas vehicle registration, and social security number. If your out-of-state license is valid, you are not required to take a driving or a written test, but an eye exam is required.

http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/

**Texas Department of Public Safety**

Drivers License Office
(979) 776-3110
2571 North Earl Rudder Freeway
Bryan, TX
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

**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.brazoscountytax.gov/?nid=189

**Brazos County Tax Office**

Auto Registration
(979) 361-4470
300 E. William Joel Bryan Parkway
Bryan, TX
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

**Utilities**

Unless your apartment complex provides free 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 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**

If you will be living within the College Station city limits you need to contact College Station Utilities. Connection fees of $15 for electricity and $10 for water will be added on to your first bill. There is no deposit for utilities at the time of connection, but if three late payments occur within one year, a deposit of $105 to $135 will be billed. Applications can be submitted on-line, over the phone, or in person.

**College Station Utilities**

(979) 764-3535  
Office hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday - Friday)

**College Station Sanitation**

(979) 764-3690  
Trash pick-up is $6 to $14.40 per month depending on location is usually prepaid for apartments.  
Office hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday - Friday)

**Bryan**

If you will be living within the Bryan city limits or the surrounding area (including some College Station, Caldwell, Snook/Tunis, and Kurten addresses), Bryan Texas Utilities provides your electrical and water services. A $145 deposit for electricity is required in apartments and rental residences. Houses may require a deposit of $180 for electricity and water. Your deposit may be waived if you set up a bank draft. Applicants should bring a copy of their lease and government-issued identification with them when applying. You may apply on-line, in person, or by phone.

**Bryan Texas Utilities**

(979) 821-5700  
http://www.btutilities.com  
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

**City of Bryan Residential Garbage Collection**

Trash pick-up averages under $15 per month, which is usually prepaid for apartments, can also be arranged at this location.

(979) 209-5900  
http://www.bryantx.gov/departments/?name=residential_collection  
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

**Natural Gas – Bryan and College Station**
Applications for natural gas service must be made by phone or online. A deposit may be required and will be charged to your first bill. A connection fee of no more than $80 is payable upon receipt of your first bill. As with other utilities, apply in advance because it will take several days from the application date for installation of service. You must be home when the gas is connected.

ATMOS Energy
www.atmosenergy.com/cs/residential
(888) 286-6700

Telephone

Residential telephone service is usually bundled together with internet and TV services, but can also be ordered separately from internet and TV services. All national wireless carriers provide cellular coverage in the area.

Television

Some properties have prearranged agreements with cable companies. Please check your rental contract for services included with your lease.

SuddenLink Cable
4114 E. 29th Street
Bryan, TX
1-877-694-9474
www.suddenlink.com

Direct TV (satellite TV provider)
1-888-777-2454
www.directv.com

Dish Network (satellite TV provider)
1-855-318-0572
www.dishnetwork.com

Internet

Internet service is provided locally 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.

Newspapers
The Eagle is the Bryan-College Station daily newspaper. Delivery can be arranged directly from their website. An Apartment Guide and a Dining Guide is available on the website. The Battalion is the Texas A&M University student newspaper. It is available free of charge at locations throughout campus.

The Eagle
http://www.theeagle.com/
(979) 776-4444

The Battalion
http://www.thebatt.com
(979) 845-3315
Memorial Student Center, Suite L400

Post Offices

College Station

Northgate Substation Post Office
(979) 846-5716
104 N Houston St.
Monday – Friday, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

College Station Main Office
(979) 693-4152
2130 Harvey Mitchell Parkway South
Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Bryan

Bryan Main Office
(979) 774-7068
2121 E William Joel Bryan Parkway
Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Downtown Bryan
(979) 779-1988
210 W WM J Bryan Pkwy
Monday–Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

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 some are listed below.

Public Schools

Bryan Independent School District
http://www.bryanisd.org
(979) 209-1000

College Station Independent School District
http://www.csisd.org/
(979) 764-5400

Private Schools
Aggieland Country School (pre-K – 6)
http://www.aggielandcountryschool.org/
(979) 696-1674

KOR School (K – 12)
http://www.koreducation.org/
(979) 777-1213

Allen Academy (pre-K – 12)
http://www.allenacademy.org
(979) 776-0731

Oakwell Academy (K – 4)
http://www.oakwellacademy.org/
(979) 324-5061

Brazos Christian School (pre-K – 12)
http://www.bcseagles.org
(979) 823-1000

St. Joseph Catholic School (pre-K – 12)
http://stjosephschoolbcs.org
(979) 822-6641

Cornerstone Christian Academy (K – 11)
http://www.cornerstone-christian-academy.com/
(979) 694-8200

St. Michael’s Academy (pre-K – 6)
http://www.stmes.net
(979) 822-2715

Harmony Science Academy (K – 12)
https://hsabcs.org/
(Charter school)

St. Thomas Early Learning Center
(pre-K – K)
http://www.stthomaselc.org/
(979) 696-1728

Childcare

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

Banking

There are many banking options available in Bryan-College Station, and the list below is just a sample. Most banking institutions waive the monthly service fee if you have enrolled in direct deposit.

Aggieland Credit Union
(979) 696-1440
www.aggielandcu.org

Chase Bank
(979) 680-1564
www.chase.com

Bank of America
(979) 268-8700
www.bankofamerica.com

Citibank
(800) 627-3999
www.citibank.com

Brenham National Bank
https://www.bnnbank.com/
(979) 836-4571

Commerce National Bank
(979) 696-1425
https://www.commercencb.com/
BBVA Compass Bank  
(979)764-1330  
www.compassbank.com

The Bank & Trust  
http://www.banktbt.com/  
(979) 260-2100

Prosperity Bank  
(979) 7649443  
https://www.prosperitybanktx.com/

Wells Fargo  
(979) 695-3266  
http://www.wellsfargo.com

**Places of Worship**

There is a wide spectrum of worship opportunities available in the College Station and Bryan communities. A partial list is available on-line at https://iss.tamu.edu/Webfile/living/Religious_Organizations.pdf

**Employment**

If you are a graduate student, Texas A&M University is your employer. If your spouse or partner needs employment, here are some places to start searching:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas Workforce Commission</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bvjobs.org">www.bvjobs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AggielandHelpWanted.com</td>
<td><a href="http://regionalhelpwanted.com/home/344.htm">http://regionalhelpwanted.com/home/344.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bryan College Station Eagle</td>
<td><a href="http://jobs.thejobnetwork.com/Home">http://jobs.thejobnetwork.com/Home</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Services</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kellyservices.com/Global/Home/">http://www.kellyservices.com/Global/Home/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manpower Staffing Services</td>
<td><a href="http://www.manpower.com">www.manpower.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express Employment Professionals</td>
<td><a href="http://www.expresspros.com/us/">www.expresspros.com/us/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elwood Staffing</td>
<td><a href="http://www.elwoodstaffing.com/jobsearch/">http://www.elwoodstaffing.com/jobsearch/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blinn College</td>
<td>employment.blinn.edu/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
<td><a href="https://jobpath.tamu.edu/">https://jobpath.tamu.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Station Independent School District</td>
<td><a href="http://www.csisd.org/">www.csisd.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Independent School District</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bryanisd.org/">www.bryanisd.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of College Station</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cstx.gov/index.aspx?page=1">http://www.cstx.gov/index.aspx?page=1</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Bryan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bryantx.gov/">www.bryantx.gov/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health Care

College Station/Bryan is a regional healthcare hub with three hospitals and many medical specialists.

On campus, ambulatory health care is provided by Student Health Services at A.P. Beutel Health Center. [http://shs.tamu.edu/mobile](http://shs.tamu.edu/mobile) (See page 19.)
For emergency assistance on campus, dial 9-911.

**College Station Medical Center** – “The Med”
(979) 764-5100
1604 Rock Prairie Road, College Station

**The Physicians Centre Hospital**
(979) 731-3100
3151 University Drive East, Bryan

**St. Joseph Regional Health Center**
(979) 776-3777
[http://www.stjoseph.org](http://www.stjoseph.org)
2801 Franciscan Drive, Bryan

**Scott & White College Station Hospital**
(979) 207-0100
[http://www.sw.org/location/college-station-hospital](http://www.sw.org/location/college-station-hospital)
700 Scott & White Drive, College Station
On-Campus Health Care

The mission of Student Health Services is to provide primary health care services to the Texas A&M University student body and to promote health through prevention care and education. http://shs.tamu.edu

All current students who have paid the Student Health Center fee are entitled to receive services at the A.P. Beutel Health Center. Included are unlimited visits to the Health Center for diagnosis and treatment, basic laboratory tests, consultation with certain medical specialists or a dietitian, physical therapy, and educational programming and resources. The pharmacy dispenses student prescriptions from Student Health Service providers and personal physicians.

The A.P. Beutel Health Center is located on Houston Street between the YMCA and the Fish Pond. Limited outpatient parking is available in the adjacent parking lot north of the facility. Limited outpatient parking is available in the adjacent parking lot north of the facility.

Health Center hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday
To make appointments: (979) 458-8250
Dial-A-Nurse – 7 days a week/24 hours: (979) 848-8379
Ambulance Service/EMS Monday-Sunday 24 hours 911
In emergency call 9-911 from a campus phone, or 911 from your cell phone

Student Counseling Service (SCS)

Student Counseling Services provides stress management and biofeedback training, personal counseling, workshops and groups counseling, couple 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 large selection of self-help materials https://scs.tamu.edu/

Cain Hall, Suite B103
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday
Phone: (979) 845-4427

In case of crisis emergency outside of the office hours, call the Student Counseling Help Line: (979) 845-2700
Health Insurance

Up to date information on all health insurance available to you as an employee of Texas A&M are available on-line http://www.tamuinsurance.com/

Texas A&M University Police Department

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 https://upd.tamu.edu/default.aspx . Department personnel are sensitive to the unique nature of the university community.

The state-certified police agency provides protection 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Their authority extends to the 5,500 acres and the more than 500 buildings owned by Texas A&M as well as Easterwood Airport and the Bush Presidential Library and Museum. The well-trained officers investigate all criminal incidents on campus, and they carry firearms and make arrests. They also are trained to perform emergency first aid.

The University Police Department cooperates with other law enforcement agencies at the local, county, state and federal level. This includes police communications, a computer system accessing nationwide records, coordination of special events and a mutual assistance program.

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’s non-emergency number is (979) 361-3888.
The College Station Police Department’s non-emergency number is (979) 764-3600.

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

Dining on Campus

TAMU Food Services offers a variety of eating locations on campus. Schedules, locations, meal plans and menus are available at http://www.dineoncampus.com/tamu/

- Azimuth Espresso Bar (Langford Architecture Building)
- Einstein Bros. Bagles (Sbisa Complex)
- Sbisa Dining Center (Sbisa Complex)
- Underground Food Court (Sbisa Complex)
- Starbucks (MSC)
Pi R Square (CE/TTI Office Tower)
ETED Sidewalk Café (Emerging Technologies Building)
University Club (Rudder Tower)
Memorial Student Center Food Court (MSC)
Panda Express (MSC)
Rev’s American Grill (MSC)
Poor Yorick’s Coffee House (Evans Library)
The Grill (Pavilion)
Common’s Food Court (The Commons)
Duncan Dining Center (Quad)
(*Dining on Campus continued*)
41st Club (Allen Building)
Ag Café (Biochemistry Building)
West Side Exchange (West Campus Library)
Critical Care Café (Vet Teaching Hospital)
Agrilife Sidewalk Café (Agriculture and Life Science Building)
Daily Grind (Blocker Building)
Time Out Sports Deli (Recreation Center)

**Dining Near Campus**

There are a variety of restaurants within walking distance of campus across University Drive in the area known as Northgate, as well as further along the street near The Rise apartments. Many are reasonably priced and are popular with students.

https://www.facebook.com/NorthgateDistrict/app_299758630131866

**Libraries**

The five libraries on the Texas A&M University campus hold approximately four million volumes, access to 400,000 e-books, and hundreds of on-line databases. Information for all campus libraries is available at http://library.tamu.edu/

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.
Computer and Information Services (CIS)

The CIS web page contains useful information on the resources and services provided. [http://cis.tamu.edu/](http://cis.tamu.edu/) For example, CIS maintains five full-service open-access computer labs for student use. They also do computer repairs and offer short courses.

NetID

NetID is your username needed to access many university resources such as Texas A&M University email, the Howdy portal, and web registration. You should have activated your NetID after uploading your application.

Department of Chemistry

Chemistry Graduate Career Overview

The Doctor of Philosophy degree prepares 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 between four or five years to obtain their doctoral degree. Detailed information on policies and guidelines are available at [http://www.chem.tamu.edu/academics/graduate/degree-programs/](http://www.chem.tamu.edu/academics/graduate/degree-programs/)
Graduate Program Office

The Chemistry Graduate Office is here to offer assistance and advise you throughout your stay at Texas A&M University. The Graduate Office is located in Chemistry 114.

Faculty

Dr. Simon North - Graduate Advisor 979-845-4947

Dr. Oleg Ozerov - Graduate Recruiting Coordinator 979-845-5870

Dr. Joanna Goodey Pellois - Associate Graduate Advisor 979-845-7112

- General advising about course and degree requirements
- Works with graduate students to address concerns and problems
- Oversees recruiting activities

Staff

Sandy Manning – Program Coordinator 979-845-0521
- Provides information on academic program requirements and University policies and procedures
- Organizes cumulative exams and Chem 681 seminars
- Maintains documents for all current graduate students

Valerie McLaughlin – Program Coordinator 979-845-8087
- Coordinates graduate student application process
- Coordinates Graduate Visitation Weekend and Orientation
- Coordinates industrial recruiting within department

Julie Zercher – Graduate Student Accounting 979-845-0113
- Oversees financial matters, such as graduate student tuition and scholarships
- Office is Chemistry 120X

Student Workers: Susie Barr and Patricia Cheng – 979-845-5345
- Support of Graduate Office Activities

Business Office

The business office has links to forms for requesting keys, direct deposit authorization, purchasing, etc. The business office is located in Chemistry 119.

http://www.chem.tamu.edu/department/forms/
www.chem.tamu.edu/directory/business_office.php?bc=dept
Department of Chemistry Faculty Contact List

http://www.chem.tamu.edu/directory/

Student Tuition, Fees, and Stipend

All tuition and mandatory fees will be paid by the Department of Chemistry for up to 5 years for all Ph.D. students in good standing. You will be responsible for any extra fees such as parking, sports pass, and ELPE fees. There is also a required $100 property deposit fee (billed to your account) that is refunded after graduation. All tuition and fees must be paid by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 22. Please check your student fees Thursday, August 21 and the morning of Friday August 22 to make sure fees are paid. If fees are not paid or there are problems, go to the Chemistry Graduate Office, Chemistry 114, immediately! Most incoming students are paid by the Department of Chemistry as Graduate Assistants Teaching (GAT). The stipend is $1,900 per month increasing to $2,000 per month on September 1. Federal income taxes will be subtracted from this total.

You will be paid once a month, on the first working day of the next month for work performed in the previous month. Therefore, you will be paid October 1, 2014 for the month of September. 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 a month falls on a Saturday, you will be paid on the following Monday, the third day of the month.

Student Financial Aid

The student financial aid office on campus offers short-term loans. Some students choose this option during the first months of school. The financial aid office website is https://financialaid.tamu.edu/graduate.aspx. If you have specific questions, contact the Financial Aid office directly.

Orientation Program, August 18-29, 2014

All incoming students are required to attend the orientation Program given by the Chemistry Department. We strongly advise students to arrive in College Station several days prior to the Orientation Program. There is little time available during the Orientation Program to look for apartments, schedule utility connections, and do shopping.
The following events will take place during the Orientation Program:

1. Introduction to the Department and the Chemistry Program  
2. Payroll and Insurance Orientation  
3. Placement Exams  
4. Class Registration  
5. Training for Teaching Assistants  
6. Safety Training

All international students must also attend the International Student Orientation Program at the days and times indicated on the Department of Chemistry Orientation Schedule. International Student Services will send information on that program. Among the events that will take place during this orientation are:

1. International Student Orientation  
2. Campus Tours  
3. Visits to the Social Security Office  
4. English Language Placement Exam  
5. Introduction to Computing Facilities

You may receive emails from other offices on campus, such as the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) regarding their orientation event, however the Department of Chemistry orientation activities take precedence over other activities across campus. You are welcome to attend other orientations/activities only during times the Department of Chemistry does not have any activities scheduled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, August 16, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELPE test date tentative</strong></td>
<td><strong>ELPE EXAM International Students Only</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, August 18, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 9:30 am</td>
<td>Breakfast &amp; Departmental Check-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am – 10:00 am</td>
<td>Department Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Payroll Orientation and Insurance Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm – 1:45 pm</td>
<td>Graduate Program Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>PLACEMENT EXAM - BIOLOGICAL</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, August 19, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>International Student Regular Check-in at ISS</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, August 20, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>International Student Regular Check-in at ISS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>PLACEMENT EXAM - INORGANIC</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Thursday, August 21, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am – 11:00 am</td>
<td>PLACEMENT EXAM - PHYSICAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>PLACEMENT EXAM - ANALYTICAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>How to Select A Research Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 pm – 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Poster Session &amp; Reception</td>
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</table>

### Friday, August 22, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am – 11:00 am</td>
<td>PLACEMENT EXAM - ORGANIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Student Counseling Services Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>GSAC Social</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monday, August 25, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am – 11:00 am</td>
<td>ACADEMIC ADVISING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm – 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Benefits Orientation for Graduate Students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tuesday, August 26, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Safety Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am – 1:20 pm</td>
<td>Fire Extinguisher Training</td>
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</table>

### Wednesday, August 27, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Teacher Assistant (TA) Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Teacher Assistant (TA) Training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thursday, August 28, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Required for International students; requires registration</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monday, September 1, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FIRST DAY OF FALL SEMESTER CLASSES!</td>
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*Schedule of events may change*

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**Student ID**

Your student identification is essential not only for picture identification but allows you to utilize campus facilities, such as the library and student recreational center, access to your building after hours and on holidays, etc. The Department of Chemistry requests you obtain your student ID when you arrive to town or during a convenient time during the orientation week when there are no activities scheduled.
To obtain your student ID, go to:

General Services Complex (GSC), Suite 2801
(979) 862-8018
750 Agronomy Road, College Station

Please be sure to take the following type documents with you to obtain a student ID:

**International Students**
1) Chemistry offer letter
2) I-20, DS-2019, etc.
3) Passport (for ID purposes)
4) UIN

**Domestic Students**
1) Chemistry offer letter
2) Government issued ID (driver’s license, military ID, passport, etc.)
3) UIN

---

**Satisfying Admission Requirements**

ALL new incoming students are required to satisfy ALL admissions requirements before the end of their first semester (August for new students attending summer school and December for new students starting in the Fall). Requirements are:

1. Official final transcripts from all institutions where a degree was obtained
2. Official GRE, TOEFL OR IELTS scores
3. TAMU application fee is paid
4. Proof of health insurance
5. Tuberculosis Screen – international students only. This can be done at Beutal Health Center.
   http://shs.tamu.edu/ImmunizationInfoforProspectiveInternationalStudents

The Office of Admissions, (979) 845-1060, can verify your admission status. Failure to satisfy ALL admissions requirements by the END of your first semester will result in the Office of Admissions placing a “HOLD” or “BLOCK” on your student records, which prevents you from future registration.

Please request your FINAL OFFICIAL transcript(s) be mailed to the Department of Chemistry. We will forward the originals to the Office of Admissions. Transcripts should be mailed to:

Texas A&M University
Department of Chemistry Graduate Office
P. O. Box 30012
College Station, TX 77842-3012
If you have already forwarded your final official transcripts to the Office of Admissions, the Department can obtain a copy of the transcripts from your admissions records. We can obtain official GRE and TOEFL scores from the Office of Admissions as well.

**Department of Chemistry Email Address**

Your Department of Chemistry email address will be activated once you are on payroll. This will be explained during the payroll session of orientation.

**Placement Exams**

Departmental placement exams are administered during the first week of Orientation. The exams are not qualifying exams because specific scores are not required for entrance into the Ph.D. program. These standardized ACS exams in the five basic areas of chemistry (analytical, biological, inorganic, organic, and physical) are used in conjunction with your other academic records and GRE scores to provide guidance in registration for the first semester course work. Proficiency can be demonstrated by scoring above the 50th percentile on the entrance exam in that area. There are important advantages to doing well on these exams. In general, higher scores will afford you more control over the courses you take and impact the selection of your research advisor. We suggest that you study your old notes and exams from your undergraduate classes. Any good undergraduate class and text will prepare you for the placement exams.

*Analytical Exam*
Key Areas: Quantitative Analysis and Instrumental Analysis
Suggested Texts: *Principles of Instrumental Analysis* by Skoog, Holler, and Crouch
*Quantitative Chemical Analysis* by Harris

*Inorganic Exam*
Key Areas: Fundamentals, Redox, Acid-Base and Solid-State Chemistry
Suggested Texts: *Inorganic Chemistry* by Housecroft and Sharpe
*Advanced Inorganic Chemistry* by Cotton & Wilkinson

*Organic Exam*
Key Areas: Reactions and Theory of Reactions.
Suggested Texts: Any among the most common organic texts, for example those by McMurry; Bruice; Solomons; Wade; Brown, Foote and Iverson; Jones; Fox and Whitesell
Graduate 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/](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. There are 35 chapters of PLU in the United States. 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/](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](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, established in the Fall of 2012, has contributed to Texas A&M University and the local community by stimulating interest and promoting 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/)

**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. Our aim is to foster the success in the attainment of advanced degrees, careers and leadership. [http://sacnas.tamu.edu/](http://sacnas.tamu.edu/)

**Resources for International Students**

**International Student Services (ISS)**

The Texas A&M University student population is a diverse group of over 50,000 individuals. Nowhere is this diversity more evident than among the international student population. Almost 5,000 students from 120 nations attend the University. Their presence and integration into academic, community, and student life is essential to the overall vision of International Programs: ensuring that all Texas A&M graduates have the experience and skills to excel in the global environment of the 21st century. As part of this vision, the mission of International Student Services is to facilitate the international student’s transition to life in the United States and at Texas A&M, promote interactions between the US and international populations, and provide services necessary to meet the special needs of international students. International students begin their studies at Texas A&M wanting guidance as they overcome cultural barriers and gain an understanding of the requirements under which they are pursuing their educational objectives. ISS serves as an information resource for all the partners in the international education process, those in the campus community and those outside it. [http://iss.tamu.edu/](http://iss.tamu.edu/) , [https://iss.tamu.edu/events/issevents.asp#new_student](https://iss.tamu.edu/events/issevents.asp#new_student)

**International Student Services**

Current students phone: (979) 845-1824
Prospective and incoming students phone: (979) 845-1151
1st Floor Bizzell Hall East
College Station, Texas
Office hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday
Email: iss@tamu.edu
Arrival and Check-in
All international students are required to complete online orientation
https://iss.tamu.edu/checkin_orientation/orientation.asp and attend a check-in
appointment https://iss.tamu.edu/checkin_orientation/checkin.asp with International
Student Services (ISS) prior to registration. Department of Chemistry Graduate Students
MUST attend ISS New Student Conference on August 19-21, 2014.

Early Check-in: ISS may open early check-in registration in June or July. If you plan to arrive
early, you may register for an early check-in instead of waiting until mid-August.

All international students are initially blocked from registration. In order to have the
blocks removed, students must complete online orientation and attend their scheduled
check-in appointment.

The ISS website provides information on living in the United States including temporary
housing, and international student clubs and organizations.
https://iss.tamu.edu/living/livingcommunity.asp
https://iss.tamu.edu/living/clubs.asp

Documents Required at International Student Check-in

Please see the ISS website for information concerning the documents required at check-in. Note that original documents must be presented.
https://iss.tamu.edu/checkin_orientation/checkin.asp

English Language Proficiency Exam (ELPE)

All graduate students in chemistry at Texas A&M are required to teach for two (2)
semesters as part of their degree requirements, however international students are not
permitted to teach until first demonstrating proficiency in English. International students
who have not received a four-year baccalaureate degree in the United States are required
to take and expected to pass the English Language Proficiency Exam (ELPE).
http://eli.tamu.edu/tamustudents/proficiency.php

Until a student passes all four sections of the ELPE (listening, speaking, reading, and
writing) with a score of 80 or higher on each section (each of which is graded separately),
he/she are not permitted to receive Graduate Assistant-Teaching (GAT) support that
involves student contact, which is necessary to satisfy the departmental teaching
requirement.

Students who receive a score of less than 80 on two or more sections of the ELPE are
required to take language classes through the English Language Institute (ELI) in the
areas they did not pass. These courses will begin during the first semester the student
enters the program. The required costs for these courses must be paid by the students at their
own expense. Should additional courses be required, they will be taken during the second
semester in the program. Students should consult the ELI website for the course
descriptions along with the tuition and fee schedule http://eli.tamu.edu. In order to be
deemed proficient in the topical area, students must pass the ELI course(s) (having
course numbers of 300 or higher) with a grade of B or better. Students that fail to
demonstrate the required English language proficiency by the end of one (1) year will
not be permitted to continue in the graduate program in Chemistry.
http://iss.tamu.edu/living/elp.asp

Testing Fees

Fees for the ELPE are added to a student’s fee statement after the completion of the exam. Each portion of the exam is billed separately for a total of $60.00.

ELPE Testing Procedures

The ELPE test tentative date is Saturday August 16, 2014, beginning promptly at 7:45 AM.

According to comparisons of international student scores on both the TOEFL and the English Language Proficiency Examination (ELPE) statistics show that the ELPE is a more difficult test than the TOEFL. The ELPE evaluates English skills in the areas of grammar, vocabulary, reading, listening, written composition, and oral communication.

There are several ways to prepare for the ELPE:

- Conversing as much as possible in English, preferably with native-English speakers
- Reading and writing in English
- Practicing conversations on topics such as household items, parts of automobiles, and giving directions

Online English Language Resources
  http://guides.library.tamu.edu/elpe
  http://eli.tamu.edu/program/resources.php

Assessment of Writing Skills
The composition assessment is a 30-minute written essay on an assigned topic. New test forms are used for each test administration and the writing prompts are academically oriented. Two recent prompts were as follows:

- Graduate Students: "THE MOST SERIOUS THREAT TO WORLD SOCIETY: ILLITERACY OR OVERPOPULATION" (Note: a brief definition of illiteracy was reduced.) Choose which of these problems you think is more serious and support your choice with specific discussion. Include the causes and effects of the problem."
- Undergraduate Students: "THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE: Should the countries of the world continue to explore space? Argue for or against continuing this exploration and support your choice with specific discussion."
Each essay is graded by two raters with expertise in composition and training in the scale and standards used in our program. If a discrepancy of 10 or more points exists between the two raters, then a third rater scores the paper. Training sessions are held before each testing session to insure common standards.

Assessment of Grammar, Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, & Listening Comprehension
These areas are measured through the Michigan English Language Proficiency series. The Michigan series are objective tests designed to specifically measure the English skills of students for whom English is a second language. Barron’s Educational Series, Inc. publishes a book How to Prepare for the Michigan Battery that may be useful in familiarizing students with the format of the test. This book is on reserve in the Sterling C. Evans Library and is sometimes available in local bookstores. Example test items follow: http://guides.library.tamu.edu/elpc

Grammar

"Was it easy to follow the directions?"

"No, there were too______.

a) many direction
b) many directions
c) much direction
d) much directions

Vocabulary

I would like to work on my automobile but I don’t have any cars.

a) contention about
b) familiarity with
c) realization of
d) prediction of

Listening

"The manager overrode the suggestions of the 2 other committee members." (Heard from cassette tape).

a) The manager invited suggestions.
b) The manager never listened to any suggestions.
c) The manager disregarded the wishes of the others.

Reading Comprehension
These questions address your understanding of a short passage. The following is an example of a similar reading comprehension item:

Studies of children’s acquisition of language suggest that the faculty of language includes an inborn knowledge of the formal principles of language structure, a knowledge that depends on genetically determined portions of (usually) the left cerebral hemisphere. Although it is well established that the left hemisphere is specialized for language, one cannot say that language is "located" in this or that part of the hemisphere. What is known is that language disorders are the result of lesions in the left hemisphere. Disorders of language resulting from damage to the brain are called aphasias.

The anterior portion of the "language area" is termed Broca's area. Lesions in this area interfere with the motor and articulator aspects of language. Speech is slow, labored, grammatically incorrect, and telegraphic; in extreme cases, it may be impossible to carry out. Writing is likewise severely impaired. Comprehension of the spoken or written word, however, may be unimpaired or nearly so. (It is interesting to note that under emotional stress, a patient with Broca's aphasia may be temporarily fluent.) Because Broca's area is close to the motor cortex, if the former is damaged, the latter is often damaged simultaneously. Hence, such patients often suffer from weakness or paralysis of the right side of the body. Similar lesions in the right hemisphere will cause a left-sided weakness or paralysis but will have no effect on language. Damage to the posterior portion of the "language area," especially to Wernicke's area, results in a loss of comprehension of the spoken word and often of the written word. The patient's native language is now like a foreign language. In addition, the patient's speech is rapid and well articulated, but without meaning. Writing is defective, and words that are heard cannot be repeated, although hearing itself is completely normal. Similar lesions in the right hemisphere usually have no effect on language.

Injuries to the "language area" in children result in severe aphasias, but the development of language mechanisms in the right hemisphere can often compensate for them to an extraordinary degree. This potential function of the right hemisphere is probably normally suppressed by the left hemisphere. In adults, aphasias from similar lesions are often permanent.

The author is primarily concerned with

a) describing the process of language acquisition.
b) explaining potential treatments of language defects.
c) showing the importance of the left hemisphere of the brain to language mechanisms.
d) depicting various means of diagnosing language defects
e) explaining why the left hemisphere of the brain dominates the right hemisphere

**Oral Skills Assessment - Graduate**
The Oral Skills Assessment interview for graduate students has the following features:

1) The interview is conducted by a panel of three trained people.
2) The interview takes about twenty minutes.
3) The interviewers have pre-session training to ensure common standards.

Students are required to read a short passage, give a short presentation, and answer two or three general questions. Students should consider all conversation in the interview room to be part of the oral skills assessment.

The three portions of the Oral Skills Assessment for graduate students consist of the following:

1. Oral reading. The student will be asked to read aloud a short passage drawn from samples provided by the student’s department. For example, a student in Geology would be asked to read a 250-word passage from an introductory textbook in Geology. Students will be evaluated on fluency.

2. Presentation. The student will be asked to deliver a short presentation based on materials supplied to the student just prior to the test. Each Department has provided materials from introductory text books that will serve as the source material for the presentation. Students will be given 20-30 minutes to prepare notes for the presentation. Students should imagine an audience of undergraduate students and gear the presentation to that audience. Presentations should be about 10 minutes long. These presentations will not be evaluated for content. Students will be evaluated on fluency, language usage and vocabulary.

3. Interview. The student will be asked to answer two or three general questions on a topic chosen by the student. Students will be given a sheet with general topics (such as favorite leisure time activity, places in their native country, sports, family, important events in their lives, etc.). The purpose of these questions is simply to get the students to talk enough for an evaluation of their speaking ability in a less structured situation. Students will be evaluated on fluency, language usage and vocabulary.

The current standard for graduate students is a level of proficiency that indicates that the student should be capable of both participating in seminar discussions and speaking clearly enough to be understood in instructional settings. If a graduate student passes the interview, it does not mean that the student has the subject matter expertise or the communication skills necessary to serve as a teaching assistant. Our determination should be interpreted as denoting that we found no evidence that the student's oral skills were likely to be a major hindrance to teaching based on our interview. As always, the decision to allow a student who is not required to take additional oral skills instruction to serve in a teaching capacity rightly belongs with the department.