Welcome to Texas A&M University-Commerce
Jacques Fuqua
Executive Director for Global Programs
Orientation Schedule
What is a breakout session?
Multiple sessions at the same time. You chose the one you want to attend.
Presentations for all sessions will be posted on the website.
Don’t leave early!
Giveaways during Orientation
Check at Registration table throughout the day!
Will not replace lost tickets!
Attend one session from each Breakout Session, receive a star, and you may enter drawing for Samsung Galaxy 4.0 Tablet.
Must attend a session during each Breakout Session to be entered in the drawing
International Student & Scholar Services at Texas A&M University-Commerce

International Student Orientation Passport

Name___________________________________________________________
First Name
Family Name
CWID__________________________ Phone
Number__________________

To be eligible for the drawing at the end of the day students must receive stamps for a session during each Breakout Session. Passports are due at the registration table by 4:15. Must be present at drawing to win!
COMPLETED PASSPORTS MUST BE TURNED IN BY 4:00pm in Conference Rooms.

NO LATE PASSPORTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!
Write name and CWID legibly!

Each student receives only one passport. DO NOT LOSE YOURS!

We will not replace lost passport!
FREE breakfast and lunch!
Lunch in RSC Cafeteria buffet style with vegetarian options.

University leadership will join students.
Meal bracelets are only for new international students.
DO NOT REMOVE BRACELET!
WE WILL NOT REPLACE LOST BRACELETS!
Lunch will be in shifts to avoid congestion during lunch.
Department and Local Services Fair from 12:30pm - 2:00pm
Orientation Information Packet
Orientation Surveys
PLEASE complete surveys during Breakout Sessions and online after the orientation!
• Where to Live? Thursday, January 14 at 4pm BA 221

• SHHIP Information Session on Wednesday, January 20 at 2pm in BA 109
- Popcorn and Hot Chocolate Social- meet other students and faculty staff. January 19 2pm-4pm

- DegreeWorks and eCollege- for students taking online, web enhanced, or hybrid courses. January 20 at 10:30am and 3:30pm
• Recharge to Maximize Your Performance at Counseling Center January 27 3pm-5pm

• Introduction to Gee Library Services - library tour and information session. February 10 at 3:30pm
FREE Shuttle

FREE shuttle to Walmart and local banks in Commerce!

January 14th & 15th
1pm-4pm
Shuttle to DL and SSN

$5 shuttle to SSN and DL Office in Greenville

February 11th & 19th  8:30am
Check-in

Thursday, January 14
Friday, January 15
Tuesday, January 19
10am-12pm
1pm-4pm
All graduate Computer Science and Computational Science students will have an orientation at 4pm in Journalism 129.
University Closed

In recognition of Martin Luther King’s birthday the university will be closed Monday, January 18
ISSSS Staff

John Mark Jones, Director

Ginger Gonzalez, Intl Student Coordinator
ISSSS Staff

Dawn McPherson
Adm. Secretary and Advisor

Mark Powell
International Student Advisor
• Advisement for cultural adjustment
• Immigration/visa advising for F and J visa
• Employment authorization
• Cultural and educational programs

• Serve as liaison for students with university faculty/staff and members of the community
903-886-5868
Emergencies after hours or during breaks
ISSO Email Contact

Intl.Stu@tamuc.edu
Other Ways to Contact Us

International Student & Scholar Services at Texas A&M University-Commerce
Other Ways to Contact Us

TAMUC Rides
Other Ways to Contact Us

S

TAMUCISSO
www.tamuc.edu/isso
Online Request Form

Verification of enrollment

Not needed to apply for driver’s license.
Attend Driver’s License and SSN Information Session

January 28 and February 3
3pm BA 109
Address Update

Required by SEVP to update within 10 days of moving
The ISSS provides walk-in advising hours for students who may have *general* questions or concerns.
Walk-in Advising Hours

Walk-in advising sessions are limited to 15 minutes per student and are intended to answer *general* questions or concerns.
Walk-in Advising Hours

Begin Monday, January 25
Appointments with ISSS Staff

• Must be one day in advance

• Reason for appointment must be stated
Online Appointments

Students may also contact the ISSS to schedule a Skype appointment with an ISSS staff member for general questions or advising.
Programs and Events

• Lion Cousins

• Dinner in an American Home

• International Education Week
Programs and Events

Multicultural Festival
Local Trips/Spring Break Trip
• Shopping mall
• Cultural market
• Six Flags
• San Antonio
• Galveston

Practical Training Workshops
• Curricular Practical Training
• Optional Practical Training (attendance required before applying)
Spring 2016 Trips and Shuttles
Let’s Play Bingo
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>new comic day</th>
<th>B I N G O</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Image series published</td>
<td>The death of an X-character or X-supporting character</td>
<td>alternate covers</td>
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<td>incongruous guest star</td>
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<td>true</td>
<td>Comic</td>
<td>a character returning from the dead</td>
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<td>head</td>
<td>injury</td>
<td>thought balloon</td>
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<td>foreign language</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Only one signature per person

• Cannot sign your own Bingo card

• Move around and meet people
## BINGO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image series</th>
<th>The death of an X-character or X-supporting character</th>
<th>alternate covers</th>
<th>incongruous guest star</th>
<th>anatomically impossible notion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blog post</td>
<td>a character returning from the dead</td>
<td>first-person narration</td>
<td>Heroes surprise by turning villainous</td>
<td>first issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>#Book</td>
<td>most ruthless or wise</td>
<td>one-shot comic</td>
<td>theatrical</td>
<td>Green Lantern’s butt</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; movie</td>
<td>head injury</td>
<td>thought balloon</td>
<td>gratuitous cleavage</td>
<td>talking animal</td>
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<tr>
<td>foreign language</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**new comic day**
Bacterial Meningitis

Proof of the vaccination must be submitted through your myLeo before the first day of the semester.
Bacterial Meningitis

• Student Health Center
• Brookshires
• CVS Pharmacy
• Walmart
Bacterial Meningitis

Failure to meet this requirement will result in being dropped from classes.

It is your responsibility!
All F-1 and J-1 international students are required to enroll in the System Student Health Insurance Plan.
Health Insurance

Very few waivers allowed by the A&M System.

$846 charge will appear on account once registered.
Health Insurance

- Sponsored by U.S. government or foreign government that meets requirements and includes approved health insurance

- Studying distance education only
Health Insurance

- Student is enrolled in employer-provided health insurance that meets requirements
Waiver application deadline is January 26!
Just having alternate health insurance does not allow a student a waiver.
Health Insurance

Attend information session at 10:30am or January 20 at 2pm to learn more.
Immigration Basics for the F and J Visa
It is your responsibility to know and follow the rules for your visa status
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

SEVIS- web-accessible database for monitoring information about exchange visitors and international students.

Visa status- visa that you entered the U.S. with or the visa status you have been approved for a change of status to within the U.S.
Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)- Oversees all policies and regulations related to the F and J visa.
Full course of study
SEVP requires all international students to enroll in a full course of study.
Face to face- class meets regularly in a classroom, laboratory, etc.

Web enhanced- class meets face to face regularly but also has an online component. Indicated by “E” on course listings.
Hybrid Course- class meets face to face and also has an online component. Indicated by “B” on course listings.

Online- class is strictly online. Does not meet. Indicated by “W” on course listings.
How many hours must I enroll in?
Undergraduate Students

• Minimum 12 hours per semester fall and spring

• Only one (1) online “W” course will count toward requirement
For example...

Undergraduate student enrolled for 9 hours face to face and 3 hours online

Undergraduate student enrolled for 9 hours face to face and 6 hours online
For example…

Undergraduate student enrolled for 8 hours face to face and 6 hours online
Graduate Students

• Must enroll in a minimum of 9 credit hours each fall and spring semester

• Only one (1) online “W” course counts toward this requirement
For example...

Graduate student enrolled for 6 hours face to face and 3 hours online

Graduate student enrolled for 6 hours face to face and 6 hours online
For example...

Graduate student enrolled for 3 hours face to face and 6 hours online
Students DO NOT have to study during the summer unless it is their first semester at A&M-Commerce!

May take no classes, all online, or online and face to face during the summer.
Must have permission from ISSS before enrolling in less than a full course of study.
Allowed Exceptions

• Full-time GA
• Student in final semester
• Student working on thesis/dissertation
• Medical condition or illness
Not Allowed Exceptions

• Classes are not available
• Do not have transportation
• I was going to fail the class
• My academic advisor, friend, professor said I could drop
Must have permission from ISSS before enrolling in less than a full course of study.
Everyone Stand Up!
• Permission to enter the U.S.

• *Can expire while in the U.S. and will not impact your visa status*

• Recommended you renew in your home country only
• Keep all information up to date (academic major, financial support)

• Do not let your I-20 expire

• Keep all originals
• Do not ever attempt to enter on a copy of the I-20

• Must have valid travel signature
Transfer students will receive their I-20 by the end of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} week of classes
**Electronic I-94 record**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Name:</th>
<th>LI</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First (Given) Name:</td>
<td>LYDIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY):</td>
<td>01/01/1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport Number:</td>
<td>P123123213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passport Country of Issuance:</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Entry (MM/DD/YYYY):</td>
<td>04/11/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of Admission:</td>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Admission (I-94) Record Number: 69000888062

Admit Until Date (MM/DD/YYYY): 10/10/2012

Details provided on Admission(I-94) form:

Individuals can visit [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94) to retrieve a copy of their electronic Form I-94.
• Accessible as long as you are in the U.S.

• Print and save a copy for your records

• Do not need to do anything when you depart the U.S.

• All updates are automatic
www.cbp.gov/I94
If you cannot find your I-94 then you will need to contact Dallas Deferred Inspection to schedule an appointment. Dallas will not resolve issues over the phone.
Paper copy I-94

Departure Number: 107423416-01
9,263,342,1906
F-1

Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. IMMIGRATION
200 DAL 240

Departure Record
AUG 29 1999
D/S

14 Family Name: KITTY
15 First (Given) Name: HELLO
16 Birth Date (Day/Mo/Yr): 01/11/90
17 Country of Citizenship: JAPAN

See Other Side
STAPLE HERE
• Only issued for students entering land port of entry (example…Mexico/U.S. border)

• If you have a paper copy I-94 you must turn it in at port of departure before leaving the U.S.
Passport
• DO NOT LET YOUR PASSPORT EXPIRE!

• May be renewed within U.S. or in your home country

• If lost contact your local police department and the ISSS
Travel Validation Signature

I-20 is required to have a travel validation signature from an International Student Advisor at the ISSS that is valid for re-entry.

Travel signatures are valid for one year.
ISSS has designated Travel Signature Dates each semester!
Address Update

All F-1 and J-1 students are required to update their address with the ISSS *ANYTIME* they move to a new address. Must be reported within 10 days.
Employment
On-campus Employment

All F-1 and J-1 students may work on-campus employment automatically. Permission from the ISSO or USCIS is not required.
On-campus Employment

May work up to 20 hours during the semester and up to 40 hours during the semester breaks and summer.
• Student worker - employed up to 19 hours a week during the semester. Benefit may include salary.

• Assistantship - employed up to 20 hours during the semester. Higher salary plus out-of-state tuition waiver for full-time GA’s. Very limited few may include tuition remission.
• Work-study- *Only for U.S. citizens.* If posting says must have work permit you are not eligible for the position.
• Work-study- *Only for U.S. citizens.* If states must have work permit you are not eligible for the position.
Attend Job Search 101 to learn more about on-campus employment.
Off-campus Employment

F-1 and J-1 students MAY NOT work off-campus without permission from the ISSS. In some cases you must also have permission from USCIS.
If you do not have permission from the ISSS or if you have not been issued an EAD card...you CANNOT work off-campus.