

# **International Affairs and Public Service and Administration Graduate Student Handbook**

**2024-2025 Academic Year**

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**The Bush School**

*of Government & Public Service*

## **Introduction**

At the master's degree level, The Bush School of Government and Public Service offers degrees in Public Service and Administration, International Affairs, and International Policy, as well as Certificates in Advanced International Affairs, Homeland Security, Nonprofit Management, Public Management, Geospatial Intelligence, National Security Affairs and Cybersecurity Policy. This handbook provides an overview of these programs, describes the services provided to students by the school and the University, and outlines the Bush School's policies and procedures and expectations. For further information, consult the Bush School website at [Texas A&M University. Bush School of Government and Public Service](http://Texas A&M University. Bush School of Government and Public Service).

The sections in this handbook are intended as a supplement to other sources of information about the Bush School and Texas A&M University. For answers to questions not addressed here individuals should consult a number of Texas A&M resources:

- Texas A&M University Graduate Catalog, which is the official document governing graduate programs <https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/>
- Graduate and Professional School website <https://grad.tamu.edu/>
- Texas A&M University Student Rules <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/>
- Bush School website <http://bush.tamu.edu>

Information on the University's tuition and fees, tax information, and other University financial matters can be found on the Texas A&M Division of Finance website at <https://sbs.tamu.edu/>.

### **Who to Contact**

<b>Appointments with...</b>	<b>Faculty/Staff Member to Contact:</b>
Dean	Ms. Mary Hein
Executive Associate Dean	Ms. Yvonne Costello
International Affairs Department Head	Ms. Peg Hosea
Public Service and Administration Department Head	Ms. Elaine Lippard
<b>Academic Advising and General Questions:</b>	
International Affairs	Faculty Advisor, Ms. Peg Hosea, Ms. Brandi Blankenship, Dr. David Bearce
Public Service and Administration	Faculty Advisor, Ms. Stephanie Bustos, Ms. Porscha Cooks, Ms. Elaine Lippard, Dr. Lori Taylor
Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs	Enrollment Advising Center, Mr. Ronald Sievert
Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management	Enrollment Advising Center, Dr. Robbie Robichau
Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security	Enrollment Advising Center, Dr. Danny Davis
Graduate Certificate in Public Management	Enrollment Advising Center, Dr. Robert Greer
Extended Education	Dr. Lisa Brown, Ms. Jennifer Lampo
Registration	<b>INTA:</b> Ms. Peg Hosea <b>PSAA:</b> (MPSA) Ms. Porscha Cooks (1st yrs), Ms. Stephanie Bustos (2nd yrs), Ms. Elaine Lippard; <b>(EMPSA and Graduate Certificates):</b> Enrollment Advising Center, Jennifer Lampo
Bush School Financial Aid	<b>INTA:</b> Ms. Peg Hosea <b>PSAA:</b> (MPSA) Ms. Porscha Cooks (1st yrs), Ms. Stephanie Bustos (2nd yrs); <b>(EMPSA and Graduate Certificates):</b> Advising Center
<b>Fiscal, Parking, Travel, Building Maintenance</b>	
Payroll for Bush School Monthly Employees	Ms. Jeanne Andreski
Payroll for Biweekly Employees	Ms. Rachel Smith
Reimbursements and Fiscal Inquiries	Mr. Damon Wallace
Supplies, Building Keys, Parking	Ms. Kari DeStefano

Travel	Ms. Maddie Guye
Building Maintenance	Mr. Brandon Morgan
<b>Classroom Reservations and Student Travel</b>	
International Affairs	Ms. Brandi Blankenship
Public Service and Administration	Ms. Stephanie Bustos
<b>Computer/AV</b>	
Equipment Check Out	Bush School Help Desk
Service Questions and Support	Bush School Help Desk
<b>Graduate Recruitment and Admissions</b>	Ms. Kathryn Meyer, Ms. Ashlee Treadway, Ms. Annetta Douglas, Jennifer Lampo (EMPSA & Graduate Certificates)
<b>Career Services</b>	Dr. Matt Upton, Mr. Michael Cochran, Ms. Ashley Winterrowd
<b>Student Services</b>	Dr. Matt Upon
<b>Writing Program and Medal of Excellence</b>	Ms. Cindy Raisor, Ms. Brenda Kent
<b>Leadership Program</b>	Ms. Holly Kasperbauer
<b>Communications and Marketing</b>	Mr. Kevin Weir
<b>Research Support/IRB</b>	Mr. Chance Spencer

## **Fundamental Academic Issues**

This section provides an overview of the policies and procedures of Bush School academic programs. Some of these items are covered in more detail in the program sections and in the Graduate Catalog produced by Graduate and Professional School.

### **Advising**

The faculty and staff of the Bush School are available to advise students on academic and career-related matters. For general advice about the program, students should see their faculty academic advisor, the department's senior administrative coordinator, or the department head. The department's senior administrative coordinator should be the first point of contact for all questions about offices, financial aid, registration, and other administrative matters.

The University requires each student to complete and file a degree plan (see pg. 15). Before filing, each student must form a faculty committee including the student's faculty advisor, who will serve as the committee chair, and the department head.

Any changes to a filed degree plan (e.g., changing an elective course) require a petition to Graduate & Professional School Document Processing Submission System (DPSS) <https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu/>. Additionally, a petition is required to change a member of a committee once a degree plan has been approved by Graduate and Professional School. The department's senior administrative coordinator can assist with any questions regarding the petition process.

A student's faculty advisor will serve as chair of the master's committee and will assist in selecting elective courses and in advising in academic areas. Students will be assigned a temporary advisor when they enter the Bush School. Students may keep this advisor or select a new advisor at a later date. For those who change advisors, the department's senior administrative coordinator can provide students with the necessary Change of Advisor form. The Change of Advisor form can also be found on the Bush School website in the Student Resources section of each department.

Faculty advisors will also confer with students on leadership and professional development. The Public Service Leadership Program provides all students enrolled in the MPSA and MIA and MIP in residence programs, as well as the EMPA students, with leadership development workshops and assistance.

Students should see career services staff for advice about internships and jobs. They will help students find a summer internship that meets their career interests. As students near graduation, career staff will also help them formulate a job-search strategy. Among other things, this will include the preparation of an effective résumé and the refinement of interview skills. Students are also encouraged to seek career advice from their academic advisor, the department head, and other faculty members, as appropriate. It is important that students maintain regular contact with their advisor and the career services staff.

### **Academic Deficiency and Probation**

Students whose cumulative grade point ratio (GPR) falls below a 3.0 after any semester during their time in the Bush School will be considered academically deficient and will be placed on probation. At the discretion of the department head, a student may be required to fulfill certain academic requirements as part of their probation and may lose continued funding. After a probationary period of at least one semester, a student's failure to raise his/her GPR to at least a 3.0 may result in termination from the program.

### **Grade Disputes**

Policies and procedures regarding grade disputes are specified by Texas A&M University Student Rule No. 48 (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule48>). According to this rule, the instructor of the class is the primary authority with respect to a student's proficiency and final grade in that course. A student who believes that his/her final grade reflects a capricious, arbitrary, or prejudiced academic evaluation should first discuss the matter with the instructor of the class. If the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily with the instructor, Rule No. 48 specifies subsequent procedures. The grade appeal process is guided by the principle that it is up to the student to show that a capricious, arbitrary, or prejudiced academic evaluation has occurred.

## **Academic Basics**

### **Registration**

Students will be required to register themselves. Any questions or problems with registration should be directed to the department's senior administrative coordinator. Students are also responsible for registering for optional services for which fees are required (e.g., parking, football tickets, or Aggie Bucks). Registration instructions can be found on the Aggie One Stop's website: <https://aggie.tamu.edu/>.

There may be circumstances in which it is necessary or advantageous for a student to register *in absentia*. In order to qualify, a student must not have access to facilities or properties belonging to or under the jurisdiction of The Texas A&M University System at any time during the semester or summer term for which they are enrolled. Students who qualify for *in absentia* registration must inform the department's senior administrative coordinator of their intent to register *in absentia* and fill out the appropriate paperwork.

The last day to register is the last work day before classes begin. Registration can be done at the Office of Records or at <https://howdy.tamu.edu/> until 5:00 p.m. of that day.

### **Dropping/Withdrawing (Q-Drop)**

A student may drop courses during the first five days of a fall or spring semester (the first four days of a summer term). Students also may drop classes with special permission of the dean through the 12th class day of a fall or spring term. A student may add courses during the first five days of a fall or spring semester. Other types of drop requests and all requests to add a course must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar for processing.

Students should be aware that penalty fees will be assessed for registering after the first day of class. Additional penalties will be assessed for registering or adding courses after the official census date for the term (12th class day of a fall or spring semester, 4th class day of a summer term). Until the sixtieth class day of the fall or spring semester, the fifteenth class day of a summer term or the thirty-fifth class day of a 10-week summer semester, a student can receive a "Q-drop." A grade of Q will be assigned to the course on the student's transcript. The Q indicates that the course was dropped and is neither positive nor negative; it simply shows that the student was in the class and dropped it after the No-Record drop period. In most cases, students who need to drop a class after the drop/add period will need to submit a Q-Drop Request online in Howdy from the My Dashboard tab under the My Requests Dropdown. Graduate students are not limited in the number of Qs on their transcript. If a student does not formally withdraw from a class on or before the Q-drop date, the student will receive an evaluative grade (e.g., A, B, C, etc.) for the course.

If a student pays fees and then decides to leave the University on or after the first day of classes, then he/she must go through the official withdrawal process. The refund received depends on the student's official withdrawal date. Students must consult with their academic

advisor and the department head prior to withdrawing. For additional information, see the [Texas A&M University Student Rules](#).

### **Degree Plan**

*A student must complete and file a degree plan with the Graduate and Professional School no later than the third semester of graduate studies.* The completed degree plan must be submitted to Graduate and Professional School according to the deadlines published in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar

(<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines>).

Registration will be blocked until the degree plan has been filed and approved by Graduate and Professional School. No waivers will be granted to register students who do not file a degree plan.

The degree plan formally declares a student's degree objective, the membership of the advisory committee, and the specific courses that will be required for program completion. Some of the courses on the degree plan are already specified as degree program core requirements, and some are selected as electives in consultation with the advisor. See the applicable program section for key deadlines regarding degree plan preparation.

Before filing such a plan, each student must form a faculty committee that includes the student's faculty advisor, who will serve as the committee chair, and the department head. All degree plans must be submitted electronically to Graduate and Professional School at <https://ogsdps.tamu.edu/>. This is the ONLY form that will be accepted by them. When the degree plan is submitted, it will be forwarded for approval first to the department's senior administrative coordinator, second to the committee chair, and finally to the department head. Once the degree plan has been approved at all stages, it will be routed electronically to Graduate and Professional School for final approval.

After a degree plan has been approved by Graduate and Professional School, all subsequent changes in course work or committee membership must be requested by submitting a Long Form petition electronically at <http://ogsdps.tamu.edu>. Changes of major or department must be requested by electronically submitting a Long Form petition and a new degree plan. **It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the petition form has been initiated significantly ahead of the intended graduation date.**

### **Graduation**

Students apply for graduation online at

<http://graduation.tamu.edu/Graduating-Students/Application-for-Degree> by the deadline stated in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar for that semester ([Knowledge Center - Dates and Deadlines](#)).

If the graduation fee has not been selected during pre-registration, submitting the completed graduation application will automatically add the \$47.50 diploma fee to the student's account. Applying after the deadline will add a \$50 late fee to the account for a total of \$97.50 per degree. Late applicants may not receive their diplomas on graduation day because of the length of time needed for printing the diploma. Arrangements will be made for these diplomas to be picked up or mailed. Paying the graduation fee is not an application to graduate; students must complete and submit the online application to graduate. Furthermore, students who have not been cleared financially by the Office of Student Business Services (845-8127) will NOT receive a diploma at graduation.

Further information concerning the advisory committee, degree plans, and graduation can be found in the *Graduate Catalog* at <https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/>.

## **Public Service and Administration**

The Master of Public Service and Administration degree (MPSA) is housed within the Public Service and Administration (PSAA) Department. Candidates for the MPSA degree are admitted to either the MPSA program or the Executive (EMPSA) program. The MPSA program is delivered primarily in person and designed to serve full-time students interested in developing the skills required to serve and advance in the public and nonprofit sectors. The EMPSA program is delivered online and designed to serve full-time working executives and professionals. With the exception of students from Texas A&M University who have been admitted to a 3+2 degree program, all students must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university in order to apply to the program. EMPSA students must also have at least five years of full-time, cumulative experience in public service, including three years at the middle-to-upper level, in order to apply. Two years of supervisory experience is preferred.

### **Curriculum**

The Master of Public Service and Administration curriculum has a common core of eight required courses that provide students with general knowledge and analytical skills in public management, policy analysis, nonprofit management and research methods.

The program requires students to choose a track in either Public Policy Analysis (PPA), Public Management (PM), or Nonprofit Management (NPM) that consists of two required courses and two approved elective courses, for a total of four track courses. Students enrolled in the 3+2 program with Economics or Agricultural Economics must follow the PPA track.

For students in the MPSA program, the curriculum also allows (but does not require) students to select a concentration in one of the following areas: Analytical Methods (AM); Cybersecurity (CS); Education Policy and Management (EDPM); Energy, Environment, and Technology Policy and Management (EETPM); Health Policy and Management (HPM); Homeland Security and National Defense (HSND); International Nongovernmental Organizations (INGO); and State and Local Government Policy and Management (SLGPM). Students may also design a concentration with the consultation and approval of their faculty advisor and department head.

MPSA students who select a concentration must take at least three courses from the list of approved courses. Two elective courses may double-count toward both a track and concentration or toward two concentrations. A student may elect to add a second concentration to his/her degree plan or may elect to take more than the minimum of three courses in a chosen field. The Master of International Affairs (MIA) also has concentrations, and MPSA students may choose one of those as well, assuming classes are available and that they take the necessary three courses to fulfill the concentration requirements.

University requirements prohibit a student in a face-to-face degree program from taking more than 49% of classes online. This means an MPSA student may only take up to 21 total hours of courses online.

Schematic Overview of MPSA Curriculum				
Term	Core Courses	Public Policy Analysis (PPA) Track	Public Management (PM) Track	Nonprofit Management (NPM) Track
Year 1 Fall	PSAA 601: Foundations of Public Service	N/A	N/A	N/A
	PSAA 621: Economic Analysis			
	PSAA 643: Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector			
	BUSH 631: Quant. Methods in Public Management I			
Year 1 Spring	PSAA 611: Public Policy Formation	PSAA 622: Public Finance	PSAA 634: Public Management	PSAA 632: Fiscal Management for Nonprofits
		BUSH 632: Quantitative Methods in Public Management II <i>OR</i> BUSH 635: Quantitative Methods in Public Management II: Policy Analysis Emphasis	BUSH 632: Quantitative Methods in Public Management II <i>OR</i> BUSH 633: Qualitative Methods for Public Service <i>OR</i> PSAA 630: Program Evaluation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations	BUSH 632: Quantitative Methods in Public Management II <i>OR</i> BUSH 633: Qualitative Methods for Public Service <i>OR</i> PSAA 630: Program Evaluation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations
		1 Elective	1 Elective	1 Elective
		<b>Summer Internship - Between First and Second Years of Study</b>		
Term	Core Courses	Public Policy Analysis (PPA) Track	Public Management (PM) Track	Nonprofit Management (NPM) Track
Year 2 Fall	PSAA 675: Public Service and Administration Capstone I	PSAA 615: Policy Analysis	PSAA 623: Budgeting in Public Service	PSAA 644: Management and Leadership of Nonprofit
		2 Electives	2 Electives	2 Electives
Year 2 Spring	PSAA 676: Public Service and Administration Capstone II	3 Electives	3 Electives	3 Electives

## First Year - MPSA Students

### ***Fall Semester***

#### **All Tracks**

- BUSH 631: Quantitative Methods in Public Management I
- PSAA 601: Foundations of Public Service
- PSAA 621: Economic Analysis
- PSAA 643: Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector

### ***Spring Semester***

#### **All Tracks**

- PSAA 611: Public Policy Formation
- One Elective course selected in consultation with faculty advisor

#### **PPA Track**

- PSAA 622: Public Finance
- Quantitative Methods II Course
  - BUSH 632: Quantitative Methods in Public Management II or
  - BUSH 635: Quantitative Methods in Public Management II Policy Analysis Emphasis

#### **PM Track**

- PSAA 634: Public Management
- Quantitative Methods II course
  - BUSH 632: Quantitative Methods in Public Management II or
  - BUSH 633: Qualitative Methods for Public Service or
  - PSAA 630: Program Evaluation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations

#### **NPM Track**

- PSAA 632: Fiscal Management of Nonprofits
- Quantitative Methods II course
  - BUSH 632: Quantitative Methods in Public Management II or
  - BUSH 633: Qualitative Methods for Public Service or
  - PSAA 630: Program Evaluation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations

### ***Summer***

Most MPSA students will be required to complete a *Professional Internship* whereby students gain practical experience by working in a public service organization. (See page 63 for a complete description of the internship requirement.)

## Second Year - MPSA Students

### ***Fall Semester***

#### **All Tracks**

- PSAA 675: Capstone Seminar I
- Two elective courses selected in consultation with faculty advisor

#### **PPA Track**

- PSAA 615: Policy Analysis

### **PM Track**

- PSAA 623: Budgeting in Public Service

### **NPM Track**

- PSAA 644: Management of Nonprofits

### **Spring Semester**

#### **All Tracks**

- PSAA 676: Capstone Seminar II (this is the second semester in a two semester course sequence and is a continuation of PSAA 675)
- Three elective courses selected in consultation with faculty advisor

## **Tracks (MANDATORY)**

### **Public Policy Analysis (PPA)**

***Associated Faculty: Lahey (coordinator), Casellas Connors, Cheong, Cortes, Dague, Han, Lewis, L. Taylor, Vedlitz***

The Public Policy Analysis (PPA) track offers students an in-depth understanding of how decision makers can assess policy choices. It includes a consideration of why government should or should not take action in response to particular problems and familiarizes students with specific evaluative techniques, such as cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and risk assessment. Students have numerous opportunities to apply what they learn to current policy issues.

#### **PPA Track Core Courses (Both required):**

PSAA 615: Public Policy Analysis  
PSAA 622: Public Finance

#### **PPA Track Electives (Choose two):**

BUSH 632: Quantitative Methods in Public Management *(if not used as a Quant. Methods II requirement)*  
BUSH 633: Qualitative Methods for Public Service  
BUSH 635: Quantitative Methods II: Policy Analysis Emphasis *(if not used as a Methods II requirement)*  
PSAA 605: Homeland Security Policies, Strategies, and Operations  
PSAA 606: Environmental Policy and Management  
PSAA 608: Cybersecurity Policy, Issues, and Operations - A Manager's Guide  
PSAA 613: Immigration and Education Policy  
PSAA 616: Managing Workplace Diversity in Public and Nonprofit Organizations  
PSAA 617: U.S. State and Local Government: Institutions and Policy  
PSAA 618: Education Policy  
PSAA 619: Urban Policy and Management  
PSAA 624: Water Policy and Management  
PSAA 625: Urban Sustainability Policies and Management  
PSAA 635: Social Welfare and Health Policy  
PSAA 637: Decision Making in Govt and Public Service  
PSAA 638: Health Economics and Policy  
PSAA 640: Energy Policy and Security  
PSAA 642: Ethics and Public Policy  
PSAA 654: U.S. Border Security: Policies, Strategies and Issues  
PSAA 656: Fundamentals of Homeland Security

PSAA 671:	Science and Technology Policy
PSAA 689:	Special Topics in... (w/ program coordinator and faculty advisor approval)
INTA 625:	International Trade Policy Analysis
INTA 630:	International Economic Development
INTA 632:	Advanced Economic Development
INTA 645:	Women and Nations
INTA 651:	National Security Policy
ECON 633:	Energy Markets and Policy
GEOG 660:	Applications in GIS
PHPM 640:	Health Policy and Politics
PLAN 631:	Health Systems Planning and Policy
PLAN 634:	Environmental Health Policy and Planning

### **Public Management (PM)**

***Associated Faculty: Greer (coordinator), Bowman, Bright, Casellas Connors, Compton, Davis, DeBree, Graham, Haase, Hofmann, Nakamura, Reilly, K. Taylor***

The Public Management (PM) track focuses on the capabilities required for effective and ethical leadership in the public and nonprofit sectors. These include knowledge and skills pertaining to the internal operation of public-service organizations and to the relationship between those organizations and their operating environments.

#### **PM Track Core Courses (Both required):**

PSAA 623:	Budgeting in Public Service
PSAA 634:	Public Management

#### **PM Track Electives (Choose two):**

BUSH 632:	Quantitative Methods in Public Management (if not used as a Quant. Methods II requirement)
BUSH 633:	Qualitative Methods for Public Service (if not used as a Quant. Methods II requirement)
PSAA 602:	Tools of Leadership in Public Service Organizations
PSAA 604:	Emergency Management and Homeland Security
PSAA 606:	Environmental Policy and Management
PSAA 608:	Cybersecurity Policy, Issues and Operations - A Manager's Guide
PSAA 616:	Managing Workplace Diversity in Public and Nonprofit Organizations
PSAA 617:	U.S. State and Local Government: Institutions and Policy
PSAA 619:	Urban Policy and Management
PSAA 625:	Urban Sustainability Policies and Management
PSAA 626:	Contract Management
PSAA 627:	Local Economic Development
PSAA 630:	Program Eval in Public & Nonprofit Orgs (if not used as a Quant. Methods II requirement)
PSAA 635:	Social Welfare and Health Policy
PSAA 636:	Grant and Project Management in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors
PSAA 637:	Decision Making in Government and Public Service
PSAA 641:	Organization Behavior for the Public Sector
PSAA 642:	Ethics and Public Policy
PSAA 644:	Management and Leadership of Nonprofit Organizations
PSAA 648:	Performance Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors
PSAA 654:	U.S. Border Security: Policies, Strategies and Issues
PSAA 656:	Fundamentals of Homeland Security
PSAA 661:	Human Resource Management in Government and Public Service

- PSAA 689: Special Topics in... (w/ program coordinator and faculty advisor approval)  
EDAD 612: Policy Issues in the Administration of Higher Education  
EDAD 655: Administration of Higher Education

### **Nonprofit Management (NPM)**

***Associated faculty: Robichau (coordinator), Brown, Nakamura, Qu, Seaworth, K. Taylor***

The Nonprofit Management (NPM) track provides an understanding of the role of the nonprofit sector as it has evolved and the distinctive character of nonprofit management and the challenges it must address. Discussions include the variation of structures and activities of assorted nonprofits. It also examines development, political activities, and other dimensions of the relationship between nonprofit organizations and their environments.

#### **NPM Track Core Courses (Both required):**

- PSAA 632: Fiscal Management of Nonprofits  
PSAA 644: Management and Leadership of Nonprofits

#### **NPM Track Electives: (Choose two):**

- PSAA 603: Nongovernmental Management in International Settings  
PSAA 616: Managing Workplace Diversity in Public and Nonprofit Organizations  
PSAA 626: Contract Management  
PSAA 631: Marketing for Nonprofit Organizations  
PSAA 633: Philanthropy: Fundraising in Nonprofit Organizations  
PSAA 635: Social Welfare and Health Policy  
PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors  
PSAA 639: Social Justice Leadership at Nonprofit Organizations  
PSAA 648: Performance Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors  
PSAA 649: Volunteer and Human Resources in Nonprofit Organizations  
PSAA 650: Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Nonprofit Management  
PSAA 669: Legal Environment of Nonprofit Management  
PSAA 689: Special Topics in... (w/ program coordinator and faculty advisor approval)

### **Concentrations (OPTIONAL)**

The following lists the concentrations and their descriptions. Students who choose a concentration must take a minimum of three courses from their concentration's listing of courses. For a current list of required courses and suggested electives for each concentration, visit <https://bush.tamu.edu/psaa/degrees/mpsa/concentrations>.

Additionally, a student may design a concentration not listed below in consultation with his/her advisor and the PSAA department head. Course offerings are subject to availability in particular semesters.

### **Analytical Methods (AM)**

***Associated Faculty: Lahey (coordinator), Bright, Casellas Connors, Cortes, L. Taylor***

This concentration provides an analytic toolbox for effective program and policy analysis. It uses quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis and implementation of such analysis in both policy and administrative settings. Students must take two core Methods courses (including the core Quant. Methods II requirement) and at least two Methods electives. If the four core courses

are not chosen to satisfy the requirement, then one of the electives may be technical and at least one of the electives must be practical.

**Cybersecurity Policy and Management (CPM)**

*Associated Faculty: Davis (coordinator), G. Brown, DeBree, Reilly, Haase*

This concentration is designed to allow Bush School students to conduct focused study on a topic that has application across both public and private enterprises. This combination of three courses is designed to help students develop both theoretical and practical cybersecurity knowledge, skills, and abilities.

**Education Policy and Management (EDPM)**

*Associated faculty: Cortes (coordinator), Casellas Connors, Han, L. Taylor*

This concentration examines the key institutions that make and administer education policy, the political and economic forces that shape education policy at all levels, and the implications of policy for educational equity, adequacy, accountability and administration.

**Energy, Environment, and Technology Policy and Management (EETPM)**

*Associated faculty: Vedlitz (coordinator), Bowman, Cheong, Lewis*

This concentration studies the key institutions for making and administering policy, as well as the political, economic, and technological forces that shape agenda setting and policy formation. Also discussed are obstacles to effective policy implementation and management, analytical tools that can be used to evaluate policy, and critical issues and how they are interrelated.

**Health Policy and Management (HPM)**

*Associated faculty: Dague (coordinator), Compton, Lahey*

This concentration covers the key institutions for making and administering health policy and the political/economic forces that shape agenda setting and policy formation. Students study obstacles to effective policy implementation, the analytical tools used to evaluate policy, and are provided an understanding of critical issues and how they are interrelated.

**Homeland Security and National Defense (HSND)**

*Associated faculty: Davis (coordinator), DeBree, Reilly, Haase*

This concentration provides a thorough examination of security policy and management concepts and principles, governance structures, strategies, policies, and contemporary events and their implications. Homeland security, national defense, and emergency management areas are emphasized.

**International Nongovernmental Organizations (INGO)**

*Associated faculty: Brown (coordinator), Hamie, Mu, Qu, Robertson, Robichau, K. Taylor*

This concentration provides relevant coursework and preparation for work in international nongovernmental organizations or non-profits working in non-US settings, or for work focused on improving the effectiveness of such organizations.

### **State and Local Government Policy and Management (SLGPM)**

*Associated faculty: Bowman (coordinator), Bright, Casellas Connors, Cortes, Graham, Greer, Han, Hofmann, Lahey, Nakamura, L. Taylor*

This concentration explores the institutional structure of state and local government and how it varies among jurisdictions. Topics discussed include politics and management at the state and local level, the prerogatives and limitations of state and local governments in different policy areas, the role of state and local governments in implementing federal programs, and critical issues facing said government

## **Policies and Procedures for MPSA Requirements and Exceptions**

### **Petition for Waivers or Exceptions to MPSA Requirements**

At times, a student may wish to take a course that needs special approval because enrolling in the class would be outside of the MPSA requirements. A petition form may be found on the student resource webpage: <https://bush.tamu.edu/psaa/resources/> to request permission.

Reasons might include the following:

- Request to take more than six credit hours outside the Bush School
- Request to count a course as a track or concentration elective
- Request to substitute a MPSA core course requirement with an alternate course

### **Waiver of Core Courses**

Students might have a reason to waive a core course. A course waiver request may be considered if the student has had similar graduate or advanced undergraduate course work at another university or in a different department at Texas A&M and earned at least a B in the course. Waivers must be approved by the PSAA department head in consultation with the professor teaching the course in question. The student may be given an exam to ensure sufficient mastery of course content. A waived course must be replaced by another three-hour course on the student's degree plan. The petition form may be found on the student resource webpage: <https://bush.tamu.edu/psaa/resources/> to request permission.

### **Waiver of Internship Requirement**

The internship requirement may be waived if a student has at least two years of professional public service experience related to his/her career goals. Internship waivers must be requested through the PSAA Department Head (See page 58 for details regarding the policy for waiving the internship requirement.) The form is available on the student resource webpage: <https://bush.tamu.edu/psaa/resources/>.

### **Directed (Independent) Study (PSAA 685)**

Students may also enroll in directed studies courses to help fulfill their degree requirements. These are arranged with individual faculty members and usually focus on a specific topic. The department head, the student's academic advisor and the faculty member officering the course must approve the directed studies course before it is added to the student's degree plan. A directed studies form may be found on the student resource webpage: <https://bush.tamu.edu/psaa/resources/>. The department's senior administrative coordinator can help students enroll in a PSAA 685 course. With certain exceptions, students may have no more than eight credit hours of directed studies courses on their degree plans.

### **MPSA Course Descriptions**

In addition to rigorous core courses, The PSAA department offers specialized elective courses. The schedule of electives is determined by student and faculty interest. Offerings

may vary over time and not every course will be offered every year. For a list of PSAA courses see the Bush School website at <http://bush.tamu.edu/psaa/degrees/mpsa/courses>.

In consultation with their advisors, MPSA students may also use INTA courses as electives on their degree plans, subject to course and enrollment availability. Visit the INTA course descriptions on the website under Academics

### **Graduation Requirements**

In order to receive their Master of Public Service and Administration degree, students must have a GPR of at least 3.0 overall on the 48 hours listed on their approved degree plan. In addition, there must be no unresolved grades of D, F, or I for any course listed on the degree plan. To resolve a deficient grade, the student must repeat the course and achieve a grade of C or better. Additionally, no courses graded as S/U or Pass/Fail may be listed on the PSAA degree plan. Consult the Graduate Catalog for additional information on graduation requirements.

### **Degree Plan**

*A student must complete and file a degree plan with Graduate and Professional Studies no later than the third semester of graduate studies.* The completed degree plan must be submitted to Graduate and Professional Studies according to the deadlines published in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar

(<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines>).

Registration will be blocked until this degree plan has been filed and approved by Graduate and Professional Studies. No waivers will be granted to register students who do not file a degree plan.

The degree plan formally declares a student's degree objective, the membership of the advisory committee, and the specific courses that will be required for program completion. Some of the courses on the degree plan are already specified as MPSA core requirements, and some are selected as electives in consultation with the academic advisor.

Before filing such a plan, each student must form a faculty committee that includes the student's faculty advisor, who will serve as the committee chair, and the department head.

All degree plans must be submitted electronically at <https://ogsdps.tamu.edu/>. This is the ONLY form that will be accepted by Graduate and Professional Studies. When the degree plan is submitted, it will be forwarded for approval first to the department's administrative coordinator, second to the committee chair, third to the committee member, and finally to the department head. Once the degree plan has been approved at all stages of the process, it will be routed electronically to Graduate and Professional Studies for final approval.

After a degree plan has been approved by Graduate and Professional Studies, all subsequent changes in course work or committee membership must be requested by submitting a petition form to Graduate and Professional Studies. Petitions are submitted using the online degree plan electronic submission system at <https://ogsdps.tamu.edu/>. Changes of major or department must be requested by submitting a petition and a new degree plan. **It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that a degree plan or a petition to modify a degree plan has been submitted by the deadline.**

### **Key Deadlines**

Students are responsible for being aware of and meeting the deadlines that apply to them. Failure to do so jeopardizes approval for the student to graduate. Also note that deadlines are subject to change in accordance with University procedures and policies.

#### Beginning of first semester:

- Meet with your assigned academic faculty advisor to discuss general interests.
- Attend required career seminars and meet with career services staff to discuss internship and career interests.

#### By the middle of the first semester:

- Choose a track and concentrations and complete degree plan worksheet. (The deadline will be announced and form will be distributed by the department's administrative coordinators.)
- Students enrolled in a 3+2 program should also meet with their undergraduate program advisor to ensure that all undergraduate degree requirements are being met.

#### By the end of first semester:

- Begin search for internship opportunities in conjunction with the career services staff.

#### By the end of second semester:

- Choose a permanent faculty advisor and establish a graduate committee.

#### Beginning of third semester:

- Students enrolled in a 3+2 program must meet with their undergraduate program advisor to ensure that all undergraduate degree requirements are being met.
- Work to finalize your graduate degree plan with your academic faculty advisor and the administrative coordinator and submit the degree plan at <https://ogsdps.tamu.edu/> between September 5-30.
- Work as needed with career services staff for employment assistance.

#### Beginning of fourth (last) semester:

- Apply for graduation and pay fee at <https://graduation.tamu.edu>. Students enrolled in a 3+2 program must apply for and pay fees for both their PSAA and undergraduate degrees.
- Submit all degree plan petitions to Graduate and Professional Studies; final date to file will be determined by that office.
- Continue to work with career services staff for employment assistance through graduation and beyond.

## **Executive Master of Public Service and Administration**

This section provides an overview of the policies and procedures governing the Executive Master of Public Service and Administration (EMPSA). Some of these items are covered in more detail in the [Graduate Catalog](#) produced by the Graduate and Professional School.

### **Curriculum**

The Executive Master of Public Service and Administration program prepares principled leaders who have the critical skills, knowledge, and expertise to excel and lead in the public service field, specifically in homeland security, nonprofit management, or public management enterprises. The program is delivered online in order to serve full-time working executives and professionals. *EMPSA students must have at least five years of full-time cumulative experience in public service*, including at least three years at the middle-to-upper level, and a bachelor's degree from an accredited university *in order to apply to the program*.

A minimum of 39 semester credit hours of approved courses are required for the Executive Master of Public Service and Administration Program: seven core courses, (including a two-semester capstone sequence), three track core courses, and three track elective courses. Students will select one specialty area of either Homeland Security, Nonprofit Management, or Public Management. See the next page for details.

The University prohibits students in online degree programs from taking more than 49% of classes in a face-to-face modality. This means EMPSA students may only take up to 18 hours of courses face-to-face.

### **EMPSA Overview and Mandatory Tracks**

#### **Core Courses 21 Credit Hours (Required)**

- PSAA 601: Foundations of Public Service (*Mostly online and includes one week on campus residency.*)  
PSAA 611: Public Policy Formation  
PSAA 621: Economic Analysis  
PSAA 630: Program Evaluation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations  
BUSH 631: Quantitative Methods in Public Management I  
PSAA 675: Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar I (*Mostly online and includes one week on campus residency.*)  
PSAA 676: Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar II

**Note: Capstone II is 100% online. PSAA 675 and 676 must be taken back-to-back.**

#### **Track Core Courses 9 Credit Hours (Required) Select Approved Track**

<b>Homeland Security</b>	<b>Nonprofit Management</b>	<b>Public Management</b>
PSAA 623	PSAA 632	PSAA 623
PSAA 634	PSAA 643	PSAA 634
PSAA 656	PSAA 644	PSAA 643

**Elective Course 9 Credit Hours (Select 3 Courses in Approved Track Choice)**

Homeland Security	Nonprofit Management	Public Management
PSAA 604	PSAA 602	PSAA 602
PSAA 605	PSAA 603	PSAA 604
PSAA 608	PSAA 616	PSAA 608
PSAA 620	PSAA 631	PSAA 616
PSAA 643	PSAA 633	PSAA 617
PSAA 651	PSAA 636	PSAA 636
PSAA 652	PSAA 648	PSAA 644
PSAA 653	PSAA 649	PSAA 648
PSAA 654	PSAA 669	INTA 659
PSAA 655		INTA 625
PSAA 657		
PSAA 668		
INTA 659		
PSAA 658		

**Residence Requirement**

Students are required to complete a total of two weeks in residence (one week twice during the program) in College Station, TX or in Washington, D.C. at the Texas A&M University teaching location. Residency week is completed during two separate semesters to fulfill the requirements for two core courses—PSAA 601 Foundations of Public Service and PSAA 675 Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar I. The majority of PSAA 601 is taken online, but it includes one scheduled week in-residence. Similarly, the majority of PSAA 675 is taken online, but it includes one scheduled week in-residence.

Residency weeks are offered during fall, spring, and summer semesters with the spring and summer residency weeks occurring in College Station, Texas. Washington D.C. residency weeks occur during the fall semester.

**Course Descriptions**

In addition to rigorous core courses, the PSAA department offers specialized elective courses. Offerings may vary over time and not every course will be offered every year or every semester. For a list of PSAA courses descriptions, see the Bush School website at <http://bush.tamu.edu/empsa/curriculum/courses/>.

### **Petition for Waivers or Exceptions to EMPSA Requirements**

At times, a student may wish to take a course that needs special approval because enrolling in the class would be outside of the PSAA requirements. A petition form may be obtained from the department's EMPSA Assistant to request permission. Reasons might include the following:

- Request to count a course as a track elective
- Request to substitute a PSAA core course requirement with an alternate course

### **Waiver of Core Courses**

Students might have a reason to waive a core course. A course waiver request may be considered if the student has had similar graduate course work at another university or in a different department at Texas A&M and earned at least a B in the course. Waivers must be approved by the PSAA department head in consultation with the professor teaching the course in question. The student may be given an exam to ensure sufficient mastery of course content. A waived course must be replaced by another three-hour course on the student's degree plan. The department's EMPSA Assistant has the waiver forms and instructions.

### **Graduation Requirements**

In order to receive their Master of Public Service and Administration degree, students must have a GPR of at least 3.0 both overall and on the courses listed on their approved degree plan. In addition, there must be no unresolved grades of D, F, or I for any course listed on the degree plan. To resolve a deficient grade, the student must repeat the course and achieve a grade of C or better. Additionally, no courses graded as S/U or Pass/Fail may be listed on the EMPSA degree plan. Consult the *Graduate Catalog* for additional information on graduation requirements.

### **Degree Plan**

*A student must complete and file a degree plan with Graduate and Professional Studies no later than the third semester of graduate studies.* The completed degree plan **must** be submitted to Graduate and Professional Studies according to the deadlines published in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar

(<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines>).

Registration will be blocked until this degree plan has been filed and approved by Graduate and Professional Studies. No waivers will be granted to register students who do not file a degree plan.

The degree plan formally declares a student's degree objective, the membership of the advisory committee, and the specific courses that will be required for program completion. Some of the courses on the degree plan are already specified as PSAA core requirements, and some are selected as electives in consultation with the academic advisor.

Before filing such a plan, each student must complete an online EMPSA Degree Plan Worksheet. The degree plan worksheet helps your advisors make sure you are taking the courses that you need to make satisfactory progress and graduate. Texas A&M University requires that you complete your degree within a timespan of seven consecutive years. Students will complete degree plan worksheets before the end of the first semester in attendance at Texas A&M University.

Each student will have a faculty committee that includes the track coordinator, the faculty member of the student's specified track area, and the head of the Bush School's PSAA

department. This committee has the responsibility of approving the proposed degree plan for the EMPSA student.

All degree plans must be submitted electronically at <https://ogsdps.tamu.edu/>. This is the ONLY form that will be accepted by Graduate and Professional Studies. When the degree plan is submitted, it will be forwarded for approval first to the department's staff administration, second to the committee chair, third to the committee member, and finally to the department head. Once the degree plan has been approved at all stages of the process, it will be routed electronically to Graduate and Professional Studies for final approval.

After a degree plan has been approved by Graduate and Professional Studies, all subsequent changes in course work or committee membership must be requested by submitting a petition form to Graduate and Professional Studies. Petitions are submitted using the online degree plan submission system <https://ogsdps.tamu.edu/>. Changes of major or department must be requested by submitting a petition and a new degree plan. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that a degree plan or a petition to modify a degree plan has been submitted by the deadline.

### **Key Deadlines**

Students are responsible for being aware of and meeting the deadlines that apply to them. Failure to do so jeopardizes approval for the student to graduate. Also note that deadlines are subject to change in accordance with university procedures and policies.

#### Beginning of first semester:

- Choose a track and complete the degree plan worksheet (date will be announced and form will be distributed by email).
- Work to finalize your degree plan worksheet with your academic advisor and submit for department approval. Allow time for the approval process.

#### Beginning of second semester:

- Submit approved degree plan worksheet into official degree plan in Document Processing Submission System (DPSS) <https://ogsdps.tamu.edu/> for department and Graduate and Professional Studies approval. Allow time for the approval process.
- Be sure to submit any course change petitions immediately if your degree plan changes! See your EMPSA Assistant for the process!

#### *Beginning of (last) semester:*

- File for graduation and pay fee. Graduation details can be found at <https://graduation.tamu.edu>.
- Submit all degree plan petitions to Graduate and Professional Studies; final date to file will be determined by them. To access the Graduate and Professional School Calendar (<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines>), to verify degree plan and graduation deadlines, click [here](#)

### **Residency for Tuition Purposes**

Texas law classifies each person who applies for admission to a Texas public college or university as a resident of Texas, nonresident, or foreign (international) student. This classification determines if a student will pay the in-state or out-of-state tuition rate.

### **Determining Residency**

When students apply for admission, the university uses information provided on their GradCAS application to make an initial determination of residency status. This determination will remain on a student's record and continue for each semester in which a student is enrolled if no changes are made. For more information about residency, please [visit this website](#). Please verify your residency status with the Office of the Registrar at Texas A&M University if you believe your status is incorrect. For additional information regarding residency for tuition purposes, please contact the Office of the Registrar at (979) 845-1085 or [residency@tamu.edu](mailto:residency@tamu.edu).

Be prepared to complete and submit (if necessary) [the residency form](#).

*Please note: It is the responsibility of each student to verify his/her residency status prior to the start of a semester and request any change or update any errors to their residency status prior to the census date of that semester.*

### **Distance Education Location**

In order to register for online courses, you are required to update your distance education location in Howdy. You cannot be registered in online courses until your location is updated. To update your location for the upcoming semester:

- Navigate to the 'My Record' tab in [Howdy](#)
- In the box titled *Registration*, select "Distance Education Location Update"
- Select the term for which you are registering (in College Station), and click *Submit*.
- Select the state and country in which you will reside during the semester for which you are registering.
- Click *Submit Location Change*.

### **Technology Requirements for Online Courses**

Please make sure that your computer meets Texas A&M University's [minimum computer specifications listed here](#).

You will need a basic understanding of how to operate a computer along with using an Internet browser, Word, and PowerPoint. For optimal use, we recommend using [Google Chrome](#) or Mozilla Firefox. To verify your browser is supported, go to the [Canvas Browser Support page and verify you have the most up-to-date browser](#).

Check to make sure that Pop-up blockers are turned off (including those that come with your firewall and with tool bars such as Yahoo and Google). Be sure your cookies are enabled and your system date and time are correct. Be aware that, if you are using a work computer, some software updates and changes to firewall settings require administrative privileges. Therefore, you may need to contact your IT personnel for direction and approval before you can participate in optional chat sessions or download documents. Set your browser to allow Texas A&M University's instance of Canvas as a trusted site.

For Bush School online courses, you will receive log in instructions about how to access your online courses in Canvas the week before classes begin. If you cannot locate these instructions, contact the Extended Education Recruitment & Advising Center at 1-866-988-2874 or [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu)

### **Student Accounts and ID Management**

**UIN - University Identification Number or Student ID**

Texas A&M University has taken precautions to ensure the security of your personal information by assigning each student a University Identification Number (UIN). Your nine-digit UIN is a unique number that will be used to identify your application credentials and other permanent university records. The Office of Admissions at Texas A&M University issues each student a UIN via email upon admission to Texas A&M University. If you have not received your assigned UIN, please contact the Bush School Office of Extended Education at (979)862-7810 or toll free at (866)988-BUSH (2874) or email [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu) for assistance.

### **NetID Activation**

Your NetID is the username you will use to log in to and access various resources and systems within Texas A&M. You must remember your NetID and password to allow log in access to all of your online services and classes at Texas A&M University.

If you are a new student to Texas A&M University, then you need to activate your Net ID. Go to <http://howdy.tamu.edu> and click on "Activate Your Account" link under the Log in button and the Statement of Responsibility. You will use your UIN to activate your NetID.

### **Texas A&M University's Official Email - Gmail**

Each Texas A&M University student is issued an official university email account utilizing Google/Gmail accessible through <http://email.tamu.edu> and also accessible via the email icon in [Howdy](#). We will use your official Texas A&M University email account for all email communications. Additionally, you are expected to communicate with your advisors via your Texas A&M University email account since it verifies your identity using NetID authentication.

Log in to [Gmail](#) using your NetID and Password. You may need to claim your Texas A&M Google Account via the button on the bottom of the page. It is your responsibility to check this email account regularly! Texas A&M University communications are delivered through this email account. Although you may have the ability to set the forward function on your University email, please be advised that this function is not always reliable.

You can also set up Texas A&M Gmail on your smartphone so you won't miss any important emails! To learn how, visit <http://email.tamu.edu> and select the "Student Gmail Checklist" link. If you have questions about your Texas A&M Gmail account or NetID, call the Texas A&M Information Technology Help Desk Central at (979) 845-8300 or visit [IT.tamu.edu](http://IT.tamu.edu).

### **The Howdy System**

Howdy provides convenient access to Texas A&M web services for applicants, students, faculty and staff. Visit Howdy, log in with your NetID to get started. In Howdy, you can access Canvas, your official university email, check your grades, pay your tuition and fees, access your student email account, read Texas A&M University announcements, connect to the library, and more! Maintain up-to-date local, permanent addresses/phone information and emergency contacts.

### **Textbooks**

The textbook list will be sent to registered EMPISA students approximately one month prior to the beginning of the semester. You are responsible for purchasing and acquiring all of your course books prior to the start of class. Order your books as soon as you receive your textbook information. You may purchase your books from any bookstore. Make certain you order the correct edition indicated in the list you receive from the Office of Extended Education. If you have difficulties securing textbooks prior to the beginning of classes contact the Extended Education Advising Center immediately at (979) 862-7810 or email: [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu). To save money, some students order used books through

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or <https://www.hpb.com/home>. When you order your books, inquire about arrival dates. You may need to consider the digital or kindle version of the book so you may receive it in time. Verify return guidelines and be sure to retain your receipt(s) in case you need to return your books (cancelled course, dropped course, wrong edition, etc.). NOTE: In some courses a text may not be assigned. Listed documents and/or articles by week, may constitute the required readings in such a course.

### **Attendance in the Online Requirement**

In the online environment, your online participation is considered your class attendance. You must “visibly participate” in the online classroom 4 out of 7 days each week of the term, actively and positively contributing to the learning process. To meet participation requirements, students are expected to contribute substantially to the class discussion post in addition to posting any written assignments for grading. In addition to the student’s initial response to a discussion question, students are expected to respond to a minimum of two of their classmates’ posts each week of the course. Students who do not participate risk receiving a failing grade and may not be allowed to register for future courses.

Specific participation criteria will be included in the online faculty member’s syllabus as part of the grading criteria.

We understand that occasionally a student may be without access to the Internet or online course. If at any time a student must be away from the classroom or email for more than two consecutive days, the student is required to notify the instructor prior to their absence. In the event of an emergency, the student should contact the instructor through the course as soon as possible. If for some reason the instructor cannot be reached, the student should contact the Extended Education Advising Center at [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu) or by phone at (979) 862-7810.

In order for the absence to be excused, you must provide satisfactory evidence to substantiate the reason for your absence. Your instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity to make up work because of an unexcused absence. For more information on attendance go to <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

### **Communication**

Official communication regarding registration deadlines, course information, and important announcements will be sent to your official Texas A&M University email account (<http://email.tamu.edu>). Log in to your TAMU email account at least twice a week. It is pertinent that you notify us of any changes in email addresses to ensure prompt notification of any important announcements and information. When emailing university faculty, staff and administration, always use your TAMU email account.

One business day before the first day of classes, you will receive an email detailing log in procedures for your online course(s). If for some reason you have not received this email, then it is your responsibility to contact the Office of Extended Education’s Enrollment Advising Center for assistance with logging into your course!

Due to FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974) laws, the Office of Extended Education cannot release confidential student information to anyone other than the student. Please contact the Bush School advising center at (979) 862-7810 or email: [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu) for assistance with procedures related to FERPA.

### **Online Course Access**

Online classes are available for access beginning the official first day of class noted on your class schedule. Be sure to log in to your course on the first official day of classes to access the course syllabus and to learn about your course assignment deadlines.

You will have access to the online course in which you registered **only** for the duration of the semester in which you are registered. If you drop, q-drop, or withdraw, you will no longer have access to your online course. In addition, you will no longer have access to your online course after the semester closes. It is your responsibility to ensure you keep your own content, papers, and course submissions.

## **Master of International Affairs**

This section provides an overview of the policies and procedures governing the Master of International Affairs (MIA/INTA). Some of these items are covered in more detail in the *Graduate Catalog* produced by Graduate and Professional School.

### **Introduction**

Students declare their track preference in National Security and Diplomacy (NSD) or in International Development and Economic Policy (IDEP) at orientation. Regardless of track, all MIA degree candidates must design a program of study in consultation with their advisor. In the components listed below, the first five are required for graduation:

### **First Year Core Courses**

Five courses are required. Most students will take one to three of these required courses in the fall semester of their first year; the remaining first-year requirements are completed in the spring semester. (These core courses represent 15 credit hours of the total 48 credit hours needed for the degree.) All Core Courses (Required) must be taken in residence unless a student comes into the program having taken a required course as a certificate student or an undergraduate.

### **Professional Internship or Foreign Language/Culture Study**

Students devote a minimum of ten weeks in the summer following their first year in either an internship with some career-related organization or an immersive program for intensive language and cultural study.

### **Two Concentrations**

Concentrations are clusters of related courses dealing with a particular topic. A student must take a minimum of two concentrations each consisting of at least three courses. At least one concentration must be linked to the student's track. For a complete list of INTA concentrations and their related courses and descriptions, see the Bush School website at <https://bush.tamu.edu/inta/degrees/mia/curriculum/>

### **Capstone Seminar**

All students will complete a three-credit-hour capstone seminar during their second year, typically in their last semester. Capstone seminars involve approximately five to eight students working as a team under the supervision of a faculty member to address a policy problem or issue of a client. Normally clients are government agencies or NGOs. Capstone teams make an oral and written presentation to the client at the conclusion of the seminar.

Capstone seminars are intended to provide students with an integrative experience that pulls together learning acquired throughout their program of study. Capstone students are expected to (a) engage in systematic research and analysis that addresses the client's problem, (b) pool their acquired knowledge and insights to form an integrated response, and (c) make a written and oral presentation to the client that reports their findings and recommendations. It is imperative that every student in a capstone do his/her fair share of the total project on an agreed upon schedule and work effectively as a member of the team to contribute to a quality finished product. Failure to do so will lead to a significant reduction in grade (not all capstone team members necessarily receive the same grade).

Capstone topics and their faculty supervisors typically are announced early in the semester prior to the seminar itself. Students are given an opportunity to express their preferences but are not assured of their first choice. Capstone teams are strongly encouraged to meet before their final semester begins to organize and draft preliminary design activity.

### **Foreign Language Requirement**

All students for whom English is their first language are required to pass a spoken foreign language exam prior to graduation.

International students whose native language is not English and who have received a satisfactory TOEFL or IELTS score in English are exempt from a further language requirement. Likewise, students who are totally bilingual can be exempted from the foreign language requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Students must pass an exam administered by an American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) representative. The exam takes the form of a telephone conversation between the student and a trained evaluator who grades the student's speaking and comprehension using the ACTFL system. The Bush School requires that a student receive a minimum proficiency score of "intermediate low." This is a relatively low threshold and students are urged to seek a higher standard.

The test may be taken in virtually all the major languages spoken in the world today. A student who is ready to take the language exam should contact Ms. Hosea, Mr. Haynes, or Ms. Blankenship who will schedule the test phone interview. The Bush School will cover the cost (approximately \$145) for the initial language test, if the test is scheduled by January 31 of the semester that they are scheduled to graduate. (For students graduating in December, the exam must be scheduled by September 30 of that semester). Should an individual need to repeat the test, the student must pay the costs. **Should a student not achieve the required proficiency on the first try, he/she must wait at least ninety days before applying to retake the test.** Therefore, it is essential not to delay to allow ample time so that if a repeat is needed, graduation would not have to be deferred.

During the spring and fall semesters, the Bush School offers students the opportunity to participate in foreign language discussion groups led by native speakers. These discussion groups are arranged for every language for which there is student interest. If necessary, the students who participate will be organized into different proficiency levels—beginner, intermediate, or advanced.

The Bush School provides online access to Rosetta Stone language software for all languages and all levels to MIA students at no cost to the students. Students can access Rosetta Stone programs from home, during internships, or overseas-- wherever they have an internet connection. There are usually sufficient licenses available to offer MIA students Rosetta Stone access to more than one language.

Students who desire a more structured language program may wish to consider an intensive language program during the summer following their first year of study at the Bush School. Such immersion programs can be pursued instead of a summer internship.

Further questions concerning the language requirement and test should be addressed to the INTA's foreign language coordinator, currently Professor Michael Howell, with assistance from Ms. Hosea.

### **Writing ePortfolio**

While it is not required for completing the degree, it is strongly urged because it can showcase a student's professional written and communication skills and can help in the employment process. Writing skills are highly valued in most types of employment pursued by Bush graduates, and employers often request samples of an applicant's writing.

### **International Field Seminars and Study Abroad**

Study abroad seminars are short-term international experiences in which a Bush School faculty member leads a group of students to an international site to study a specific issue. These 3 credit courses involve a series of preparatory classes and reading followed by a term paper completed upon return. Typically, field seminars have been conducted between semesters or the last half of May. Locations have included China, India, Germany, Canada, Italy, Egypt, and Israel and more will be considered.

The Bush School has exchange agreements with several foreign universities designed specifically for graduate students in the INTA department (with others to be added in the future). In addition, Texas A&M University has a much larger set of exchange agreements with other institutions, many of which can be tailored to the interests of Bush School students seeking courses that can be accepted for graduate credit. A list of schools that the Bush School has agreements with can be obtained from the senior administrative coordinator. In addition, all majors exchanges can be accessed from the Education Abroad portal, found at <https://abroad.tamu.edu/>. The fall semester of a Bush School student's second year is the optimal term for study abroad.

## Curriculum

### First Year – INTA Students

Unless an entering student successfully petitions to waive one or more of these first-year courses (based on previous academic work), students will take four of their required courses in the first year. The course order will vary depending on a student's track in NSD or IDEP and upon course availability. Procedures to petition to waive courses are described below.

***Fall and Spring Semesters*** (course options/timing vary by track and course availability)

- BUSH 631: Quantitative Methods in Public Management I (required for both)
- BUSH 635: Quantitative Methods in Public Management II (IDEP required course)
- INTA 605: American Foreign Policy since World War II (NSD required course)
- INTA 606: International Politics in Theory and Practice (required for both)
- INTA 608: Fundamentals of the Global Economy (required for both)

**One elective course** selected from the student's chosen concentrations.

**One elective course** selected from the student's chosen concentrations.

**\*\*\*Please NOTE:** the above required courses must be taken as in residence courses (unless a student has taken them before admission to the degree program).

### ***Summer***

Most students will be required to complete a *Professional Internship or Foreign Language/Cultural Study*. (See below for a lengthier description, and page 63 for a complete description of the internship requirement.)

### Second Year – INTA Students

#### ***Fall Semester***

Four elective courses selected from the student's chosen concentrations or Study Abroad option

#### ***Spring Semester***

INTA 670: *Capstone Seminar*

Three elective courses selected in consultation with faculty advisor

#### **Professional Internship or Foreign Language/Culture Study**

Internships are described in more detail in the Internship/Employment section in the handbook.

Students who need or desire to do intensive foreign language and cultural study may substitute a ten-week language study program for the internship. With rare exceptions, this study should be undertaken in a country in which the language prevails in everyday use by most people. Students can opt for a study abroad configuration that continues through the

fall semester of their second year. (Although the summer internship/language study is required for the degree, no course credit is involved. If, however, the student elects to extend the language/culture study in a foreign university through the fall semester, courses taken must be recognized by Texas A&M University as contributing twelve credit hours toward the master's degree.)

The International Affairs language advisor, as well as the student's own faculty advisor, should be consulted on possible locations for language study. **However, the student must take full responsibility for selecting and making all arrangements for summer language study.**

The INTA department has structured its curriculum to enable interested students to study abroad in the fall semester of the second year. This can be combined with instruction beginning in the previous summer to create a nine-month study-abroad experience. The Bush School can help with the transfer of course credit from other universities, but students must take primary responsibility to consult with the student's academic advisor and the International Affairs department to assure that the program of study pursued in a foreign university will be accepted by Texas A&M and the Bush School for master's degree credit. Further assistance can be found at Texas A&M Education Abroad Office at <https://abroad.tamu.edu/>. NOTE: Study abroad during any semester other than Summer and/or fall of the second year will likely prevent a student from graduating on schedule.

### **Tracks and Concentrations**

During the application phase, students chose either National Security and Diplomacy (NSD) track or International Development and Economic Policy (IDEP) track, and they were admitted to a particular track. Each track has specific required courses. Concentrations are chosen once students enroll and provide them an opportunity to fashion a specific program of study tailored to their interests.

### ***Definition***

Concentrations are clusters of courses dealing with a common theme or topic. Most INTA concentrations are composed of Bush School courses, but some include seminars offered by other departments (we continually evaluate the fit of "new" non-Bush School courses). Usually the concentrations consist of five or more elective courses offered by several faculty members. Most courses are offered once every year. To receive credit for completing a concentration, students must take at least three of the courses listed. Most concentrations will list several courses from which to choose and some may have a required course.

### ***Basic Concentration Requirements***

Every INTA student must take two concentrations. A student must take three of the listed courses in that concentration. One of the concentrations must be associated with his/her track (NSD or IDEP), but the second concentration need not be. The Conflict and Development, the Women, Peace and Security, and the Pandemic Preparedness & Disaster Response concentrations are linked to both tracks and thus may count for either NSD or IDEP. The regional concentrations are not connected to either track.

### ***Double-Counting the Same Course***

Many courses are listed in more than one concentration. In addition, required courses also are included in selected concentrations. Only one cross-listed course can be used to count as fulfilling the requirement in both of the student's two concentrations.

Furthermore, if a student elects to use a required course (e.g., foreign policy or quantitative methods) as one of the three courses in a concentration, then no cross-listed course may be double-counted.

The principle is that in the three courses used to construct a concentration only one may be used for two purposes (i.e., count as both a required course and a concentration course or count in two concentrations in the case of a cross-listed course).

### ***Student-Created Concentrations***

Students may petition with the INTA department head for permission to create their own set of three courses for their second concentration. A student petition must include (1) the syllabi of outside courses to be included in the proposed concentration, (2) confirmation that the course will be offered within the next academic year, (3) confirmation that the course is open to Bush School students, and (4) a statement on how the proposed set of courses will contribute to the student's intended career.

### ***Credit for Undergraduate Courses***

Some courses from other departments listed in the concentrations are at the undergraduate level (#300-500). A Bush School student may include one undergraduate level course in a concentration. It is also possible to meet with the instructor of the proposed undergraduate course and work an agreement to gain graduate credit for a course by agreeing to complete additional graded assignments beyond those required of undergraduates. Such an arrangement needs to be established before the first meeting of the course.

### ***Directed Studies (685)***

No Directed Study (685) offered by an INTA faculty member may be used as one of the three courses in any concentration. No 685 may be taken in the first year of study. A student seeking a 685 from any instructor must first make a request to the department head.

### ***Use of Unrestricted Credit Hours***

Given the total number of credit hours (48) in the INTA department, it is possible for a student to create a third concentration or to take more than three courses in the two selected concentrations. However, that is not necessary.

### ***Selecting Concentrations***

All INTA students must select at least two concentrations and may select a third. Selection of concentrations should be done in consultation with the student's faculty advisor and should reflect the student's career plans and professional interests. Students should determine their two concentrations before registering for their second-semester classes, taking note of those labeled as NSD and IDEP. One concentration must be tied to a student's entering track. The second concentration, and a third if chosen, can be selected from any. Occasionally, the same course may be listed as part of several different concentrations. Students may count only one course on their degree plan toward

completing two separate concentrations. For an updated listing of concentrations, see <https://bush.tamu.edu/inta/degrees/mia/concentrations/>

### **Choosing Two or Three Concentrations**

Students may elect to add a third concentration to their degree plan or they may choose to take more than the three minimum courses in their required concentrations. Students may also choose to take single courses as general electives from either the Bush School (INTA or PSAA) or elsewhere in the University after completing their two required concentrations. In other words, the program is designed to permit substantial choice and flexibility. International Affairs students may choose one of the PSAA concentrations as well, assuming they take the required three courses to make an integrated program. New courses and additional concentrations will be introduced as they become available.

### **Questions**

Each concentration has a faculty coordinator. Questions should be discussed with the INTA department head, the concentration coordinator, or the student's own faculty advisor.

### **Waiver of Core Requirements**

There may be occasions when a student can petition to be excused from one or more of the INTA core requirements. A core course may be waived if the student has received an A or better in a substantially similar graduate-level or equivalent course from Texas A&M or another university before entering the INTA program. Such a waiver must be approved by the INTA department head, and by the professor teaching the core course in question. **A waived course must be replaced by another three-hour elective course on the student's degree plan.**

At his discretion, the INTA department head may also waive the internship requirement for a student who has substantial professional experience in an appropriate career-related organization.

### **Directed Study/Independent Study (INTA 685 or BUSH 685)**

Directed Studies should be pursued only when a student is interested in doing research on a subject that is of ongoing interest to the faculty member; thus the course is an opportunity for both the faculty member and the student. A student should not ask a faculty member to provide a Directed Study to address material that the faculty member presents in a course offered while the student is in residence.

The INTA department head and the faculty member offering the course must approve an independent study course before it is added to the student's degree plan. Before approving an independent study, the student must prepare a 685 Application for Directed Study Course and a complete syllabus including course description, learning objectives, readings, course assignments and means for determining the course grade. The application must be approved and signed by the student, the instructor offering the 685, and the department head. The department head's assistant can provide the 685 application and help students enroll in an INTA 685 or BUSH 685 course. With certain exceptions, students may have no more than two independent study courses on their degree plans.

### **Graduation Requirements**

*In order to receive an INTA degree, a student must have a GPR of at least 3.0, both overall and for the courses listed on the student's degree plan, and pass the foreign language exam. In addition, there must be no unresolved grades of D, F, or U for any course listed on the degree plan. To resolve a deficient grade, a student must repeat the course and achieve a grade of C or better. Consult the *Graduate Catalog* for additional information on graduation requirements.*

### **Degree Plan**

*A student must complete and file a degree plan with Graduate and Professional School in the third semester of graduate studies. The completed degree plan must be submitted to Graduate and Professional School according to the deadlines published in the Calendar (<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines>). Registration will be blocked until this degree plan has been filed and approved by Graduate and Professional School. No waivers will be granted to register students who do not file a degree plan. Graduate and Professional School will not approve a degree plan unless an official copy of the student's transcript demonstrating completion of the bachelor's degree is on file. Normally, transcripts are provided on admission to graduate study at Texas A&M. On some occasions, however, only an "unofficial" copy was provided. It is the student's responsibility to make certain an official transcript is secured.*

The degree plan formally declares a student's degree objective, the membership of the advisory committee, and the specific courses that will be required for program completion. Some of the courses on the degree plan are already specified as Bush School core requirements, and some are selected as electives in consultation with the academic advisor.

Before filing such a plan, each student must form a faculty committee that includes the student's faculty advisor, who serves as the committee chair, and the department head. All degree plans are submitted electronically at <https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu/>. This is the ONLY form that will be accepted by the Graduate and Professional School. When the degree plan is submitted, it will be forwarded for approval first to the department administrator, second to the committee chair, and finally to the department head, both as committee member and as final approval as department head. Once the degree plan has been approved at all stages of the process, it will be routed electronically to the Graduate and Professional School for final approval.

After a degree plan has been approved by the Graduate and Professional School, all subsequent changes in course work or committee membership must be requested by submitting a Long Form petition electronically. Changes of major or department must be requested by electronically submitting a Long Form petition and a new degree plan. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the petition form has been initiated significantly ahead of the intended graduation date.

### **Key Deadlines**

Students are advised of the importance of meeting all the deadlines that apply to them. Failure to do so jeopardizes University approval for the student to graduate at the end of the desired semester. Also note that deadlines are subject to change in accordance with University procedures and policies.

Beginning of first semester:

- Meet with your temporary academic advisor to discuss general interests
- Attend required career seminars and meet with career services staff to discuss internship and career interests

By the end of first semester:

- Begin search for internship opportunities in conjunction with the career services staff
- Choose concentrations
- Choose a permanent faculty advisor and establish a graduate committee

Middle of second semester:

- Meet with the department heads assistant to begin the degree plan process
- Work to finalize your degree plan with your academic advisor
- Work as needed with career services staff for internship and employment assistance  
File final degree plan with the Graduate and Professional School; final date to file will be determined by them

Before the end of third semester:

- Take the foreign language test (if not already done)

Beginning of fourth (last) semester:

- File for graduation and pay fee
- Submit all degree plan petitions to the Graduate and Professional School; they determines final dates to file
- Continue to work with career services staff for employment assistance through graduation and beyond

## **Master of International Policy**

### **Introduction**

The Master of International Policy is a 30 graduate credit hour, non-thesis degree program offered fully in residence (with an option of taking up to 6 credits online) on the Texas A&M University College Station campus, and the Washington, D.C teaching site. Students may select either the National Security and Diplomacy track or the International Development and Economic Policy track. Students admitted to the program will have a minimum of four years of professional experience in the field of international affairs, broadly understood.

### **Program of Study**

The curriculum consists of two required courses (6 credit hours) in 1) the theory and practice of international politics (INTA 606) and 2) fundamentals of the global economy (INTA 608). Students take five courses (15 credit hours) in one of the two program tracks—National Security and Diplomacy or International Development and Economic Policy. The remaining three courses (9 credit hours) are electives.

The full degree can be completed in an eleven-month period. The student will take a regular four-course load in the fall semester, beginning in late August; a regular four-course load in the spring semester, ending in mid-May; and two courses in an intensive format in June, ending obligations in early July with an August graduation. Alternatively, students unable to be on campus in June will be able to complete their degree requirements by taking two courses online.

## **Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs**

### **Introduction**

The Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs (CAIA) at the Bush School packages critical graduate educational experiences in a novel way. The graduate certificate involves a multidisciplinary series of graduate courses for people whose careers or personal interests cause them to seek a more complete understanding of world affairs, but who may not have the time or disposition for a longer graduate degree. A student admitted to the graduate certificate program completes twelve credit hours of study typically involving four graduate-level courses available in residence and/or online. Students can select from courses that focus on intelligence, national security, diplomacy, counterterrorism, and international law. Individuals who successfully complete the program will be awarded a graduate certificate, and electronic credential, and a notation will appear on their University transcript.

Students who are currently registered in the Bush School's Master of International Affairs program or the Master of International Policy are not eligible to apply for the graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs (CAIA) program. Other Bush School and Texas A&M University majors may apply for this graduate certificate with an internal application.

For more information, contact the Bush School Enrollment Advising Center at 979-862-7810 or e-mail [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu), or visit room 3002 on the third floor in the Allen Building on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station.

### **Online Education Option**

Online courses are offered in fifteen-week academic semesters during the fall and spring, and ten-week summer terms. Courses are built around three main components: readings, writing, and interaction with classmates and instructors through online discussion. Assignments include research papers, essays, exams, case studies, and briefings. New material is released each week. Broadband and high speed Internet recommended. Students are not required to purchase any software or hardware. A standard, reasonably up-to-date computer and a consistent Internet connection are the basic technological requirements to complete a course. Review Texas A&M University's [minimum computer specifications listed here to ensure you meet the requirements](#).

### **Online Course Access**

Online classes are available for access beginning the official first day of class noted on your class schedule. Be sure to log in to your course on the first official day of classes to access the course syllabus and to learn about your course assignment deadlines.

You will have access to the online course in which you registered only for the duration of the semester in which you are registered. If you drop, q-drop, or withdraw, you will no longer have access to your online course. In addition, you will no longer have access to your online course after the semester closes. It is your responsibility to ensure you keep your own content, papers, and course submissions.

### **Program of Study**

Admitted students complete four, three-hour graduate-credit courses. Students select their courses from a variety of options. All graduate certificate courses must be taken from the Bush School. Texas A&M encourages all graduate students to enroll in at least one course per calendar year in order to maintain their active-student status with the Office of Graduate Admissions. Students who elect to sit out more than one year are required to re-apply to Texas A&M via the GradCas Application.

Students may focus their studies with an emphasis in Diplomacy, Defense Policy and Military Affairs, Intelligence, or Counterterrorism. While it is not required to select an emphasis area, doing so may prove beneficial, as the emphasis area may add value to résumés and job applications. All students are required to complete twelve credit hours whether choosing to pursue an emphasis area or not. To earn an emphasis, students must complete two core, required courses: INTA 605 American Foreign Policy and INTA 651 National Security Policy, and also complete an additional two elective courses (total of six credit hours) within their chosen emphasis area. INTA 685 courses and Capstone Courses **are not allowed** to count toward the Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs (CAIA) program. INTA 689 (special topics) courses may be used toward the CAIA program.

The list of courses for the Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs program is below. The course listing is subject to change.

- INTA 603: American Diplomacy \*
- INTA 604: Politics of the Contemporary Middle East \*
- INTA 605: American Foreign Policy Since World War II \*
- INTA 606: International Politics in Theory and Practice
- INTA 608: Fundamentals of the Global Economy
- INTA 609: International Law and its Application to Human Rights, Use of Force and U.S. Law
- INTA 611: Authoritarianism and Political Elites in the Arab World
- INTA 617: Deterrence and Coercion
- INTA 625: International Trade Policy Analysis
- INTA 626: Balance of Payments in Theory and Policy
- INTA 627: Foundations of Strategy and Statecraft
- INTA 629: Multinational Enterprises
- INTA 640: The Politics and Practice of Democracy Promotion
- INTA 644: Post Conflict Recovery and Development \*
- INTA 650: National Security Law
- INTA 651: National Security Policy\*
- INTA 652: The Role of Intelligence in Security Affairs\*
- INTA 653: Technical Collection Systems for International Security\*
- INTA 654: Military Strategy in the Conduct of Nations\*
- INTA 655: Nationalism, Immigration and Terrorism in the European Union
- INTA 658: Congress and International Security
- INTA 659: Transnational Security Issues\*
- INTA 667: International Crisis Management: The Policy Process
- INTA 668: The Politics and History of the Arab Spring
- INTA 671: The Political Economy of the Middle East

INTA 674: U.S. Foreign Policy in the Persian Gulf  
INTA 678: Interstate War: Theory and History Implications for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
INTA 680: Political Violence and Terrorism within the International System\*

*\* May be taken in a convenient, online format*

### **Program Application**

All prospective students who intend to earn a graduate certificate must apply to the program. Degree-seeking students already enrolled at Texas A&M must apply to the graduate certificate program and be admitted *before* enrolling in any course they intend to apply toward the certificate. Current application instructions may be found at <http://bush.tamu.edu/certificate/admissions>.

### **Program Completion**

A Certificate Completion online form must be completed and filed with the Bush School's Office of Extended Education Enrollment Advising Center during the student's final semester. A certificate of completion will not be awarded without the form. In addition, students must complete and submit an "Application for Graduation" in their certificate program through <http://howdy.tamu.edu>. Students must have met all program criteria to successfully complete the program:

- Maintaining a 3.0 GPR in the certificate course of study;
- Meeting all admissions requirements, including any conditional provisions;
- Clearing any holds on record (Hold status can be viewed at MyRecord in the Howdy portal at <http://howdy.tamu.edu>)

For assistance in locating the "Application for Graduation" and the online Certificate Completion form, email [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu).

## **Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security**

### **Introduction**

The Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security (CHLS) consists of 15 credit hours surveying the dimensions of homeland security and defense, from the traditional concepts of public safety to the emerging concepts of public security. The program is designed for individuals seeking careers with management or policy responsibilities at various levels of government, business or the military. A student admitted to the certificate program completes one required course PSAA 656: Fundamentals of Homeland Security and completes four elective courses dealing with such topics as protection of critical infrastructure, recovering from weapons of mass destruction (WMD), terrorism, intergovernmental coordination, and business strategies for protection and recovery.

Individuals who successfully complete the program will be awarded a graduate certificate, an electronic credential, and a notation will appear on their university transcript.

For more information, contact the Bush School Enrollment Advising Center at 979-862-7810, e-mail [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu), or visit room 3002 on the third floor in the Allen Building on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station.

### **Online Education Option**

Online courses are offered in fifteen-week academic semesters during the fall and spring, and ten-week summer terms. Students may begin their studies in the fall, spring, or summer semester. Courses are built around three main components: readings, writing, and interaction with classmates and instructors through online discussion. Research papers, essays, exams, case studies, and briefings are common assignments. New material is released each week. High speed Internet recommended. Students are not required to purchase any software or hardware. A standard, reasonably up-to-date computer and a consistent Internet connection are the basic technological requirements. Review Texas A&M University's [minimum computer specifications listed here to ensure you meet the requirements](#).

### **Online Course Access**

Online classes are available for access beginning the official first day of class noted on your class schedule. Be sure to log in to your course on the first official day of classes to access the course syllabus and to learn about your course assignment deadlines.

You will have access to the online course in which you registered only for the duration of the semester in which you are registered. If you drop, q-drop, or withdraw, you will no longer have access to your online course. In addition, you will no longer have access to your online course after the semester closes. It is your responsibility to ensure you keep your own content, papers, and course submissions.

### **Program of Study**

The certificate consists of fifteen graduate credit hours (five courses). Admitted students must complete the required course PSAA 656 Fundamentals of Homeland Security and four elective courses. The courses combine a broad understanding of homeland security issues and strategies at the national level with an in-depth analysis of key security issues affecting federal, state, and local government, as well as private business. Texas A&M requires students to enroll in at least one course per calendar year in order to maintain their active-student status with the Office of Graduate Admissions. Students who elect to sit out more than one year will be required to reapply to Texas A&M via the GradCas application.

Students may choose to focus their Homeland Security studies with an emphasis in Border Security, National Security Policy and Management, Emergency Management and Crisis Preparedness, or Critical Infrastructure Protection. While selecting an emphasis area is not required, doing so may prove beneficial as the emphasis area may add value to resumes and job applications. All students are required to complete fifteen credit hours whether choosing to complete an emphasis area or not. All students are required to take PSAA 656: Fundamentals of Homeland Security as well as four electives, with the option of tailoring studies to include an emphasis area. To earn an emphasis area, students must complete the core course, PSAA 656 Fundamentals of Homeland Security, and four electives (total of twelve credit hours) within the chosen emphasis area.

The list of courses for the Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security is below. The course listing is subject to change.

#### Required Courses

PSAA 656: Fundamentals of Homeland Security +

#### Electives

PSAA 604: Emergency Management and Homeland Security\*  
PSAA 605: Homeland Security Policies, Strategies, and Operations\*  
PSAA 608: Cybersecurity Policy, Issues and Operations – A Manager’s Guide\*  
PSAA 620: Safeguarding the Nation’s Maritime Gateway\*  
PSAA 651: Homeland Security and Homeland Defense\*  
PSAA 652: Protection of the Nation’s Critical Infrastructure\*  
PSAA 653: Weapons of Mass Destruction\*  
PSAA 654: U.S. Border Security: Policies, Strategies and Issues\*  
PSAA 655: Domestic Intelligence Operations: Legalities, Policies, and Procedures\*  
PSAA 657: Terrorism in Today’s World\*  
PSAA 658: Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity\*  
PSAA 660: Domestic Terrorism: The Internal Threat to America  
PSAA 668: U.S. Law and Homeland Security\*  
INTA 659: Transnational Security Issues (Approved Advanced International Affairs course)\*

+ *Required of all CHLS students*

\* *May be taken in a convenient, online format*

#### **Program Application**

All prospective students who intend to earn a graduate certificate must apply to the program. Degree-seeking students already enrolled at Texas A&M must apply to the graduate certificate program and be admitted *prior* to enrolling in any course they intend to apply toward the certificate. Current application instructions may be found at <http://bush.tamu.edu/certificate/admissions>.

#### **Program Completion**

A Certificate Completion online form must be completed and filed with the Bush School’s Office of Extended Education Enrollment Advising Center during the student’s final semester. A certificate of completion will not be awarded without the form. In addition, students must complete and submit an “Application for Graduation” in their certificate program through

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<http://howdy.tamu.edu>. Students must have met all program criteria to successfully complete the program:

- Maintaining a 3.0 GPR in the certificate course of study;
- Meeting all admissions requirements, including any conditional provisions;
- Clearing any holds on record (Hold status can be viewed in the MyRecord tab in the Howdy portal at <http://howdy.tamu.edu>).

For assistance in locating the “Application for Graduation” and the online Certificate Completion form, email [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu).

## **Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management**

### **Introduction**

Students who complete the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management (CNPM) will gain an understanding of the nonprofit sector, nonprofit organizational structures (i.e., legal frameworks and governance issues), and management practices appropriate to the sector (i.e., strategy, volunteer behavior, and fundraising). With this preparation students will be able to offer effective leadership in the management of nonprofit organizations. The certificate requires students to complete twelve credit hours of graduate-level coursework either in-residence and/or online. This includes two required courses: PSAA 643: Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector and PSAA 644: Management and Leadership of Nonprofit Organizations. Students can select from a variety of electives such as fundraising and program evaluation. An applicant must have an accredited bachelor's degree to apply. Individuals who successfully complete the program are awarded a graduate certificate, and electronic credential, and a notation will appear on their university transcript.

In-residence and online courses are offered during the fifteen-week fall and spring academic semesters. Online courses are also offered in ten-week summer session semesters.

For more information, contact the Bush School Enrollment Advising Center at 979-862-7810, e-mail [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu), or visit room 3002 on the third floor in the Allen Building on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station.

### **Online Education Option**

Online courses are offered in a fifteen-week academic semester during the fall and spring, and ten-week summer terms. Online courses are built around three main components: readings, writing, and interaction with classmates and instructors through online discussion. Research papers, essays, exams, case studies, and briefings are common assignments. New material is released each week, but within weekly time frames. High speed Internet recommended. Students are not required to purchase any software or hardware. A standard, reasonably up-to-date computer and a consistent Internet connection are the basic technological requirements to complete a course. Review Texas A&M University's [minimum computer specifications listed here to ensure you meet the requirements](#).

### **Online Course Access**

Online classes are available for access beginning the official first day of class noted on your class schedule. Be sure to log in to your course on the first official day of classes to access the course syllabus and to learn about your course assignment deadlines.

You will have access to the online course in which you registered only for the duration of the semester in which you are registered. If you drop, q-drop, or withdraw, you will no longer have access to your online course. In addition, you will no longer have access to your online course after the semester closes. It is your responsibility to ensure you keep your own content, papers, and course submissions.

### **Program of Study**

Admitted students complete four, three-credit-hour graduate courses in the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management. Admitted students must complete the required courses PSAA 643: Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector and PSAA 644: Management and Leadership of Nonprofit Organizations as well as two elective courses. There are two required courses and two

electives. Texas A&M requires all graduate students to enroll in at least one course per calendar year in order to maintain their active-student status with the Office of Graduate Admissions. Students who elect to sit out more than one year are required to re-apply to Texas A&M via the GradCas Application.

Students may focus their Nonprofit Management studies with an emphasis in Fundraising and Philanthropy, Fiscal and Performance Management, Leadership and Management, Health and Human Service Policy, or International Nongovernmental Organizations. While selecting an emphasis area is not required, doing so may prove beneficial since it can add value to résumés and job applications. All students are required to complete twelve credit hours whether choosing to pursue an emphasis area or not. To earn an emphasis area, students must complete the core courses, PSAA 643 and PSAA 644, and also complete an additional two electives (total of 6 credit hours) within the chosen emphasis area.

The list of courses for the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management is below. The course listing is subject to change:

#### Required Courses

- PSAA 643: Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector + \*  
PSAA 644: Management and Leadership of Nonprofit Organizations + \*

#### Electives

- PSAA 602: Tools of Leadership in Public Service Organizations\*  
PSAA 603: Nongovernmental Organization Management in International Settings\*  
PSAA 616: Managing Workplace Diversity in Public and Nonprofit Organizations\*  
PSAA 626: Contract Management  
PSAA 630: Program Evaluation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations\*  
PSAA 631: Marketing for Nonprofit Organizations\*  
PSAA 632: Fiscal Management for Nonprofits\*  
PSAA 633: Philanthropy: Fundraising in Nonprofit Organizations\*  
PSAA 635: Social Welfare and Health Policy  
  
PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors\*  
PSAA 642: Ethics and Public Policy  
PSAA 648: Performance Management in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors\*  
PSAA 649: Volunteer and Human Resources in Nonprofit Organizations\*  
PSAA 650: Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation  
PSAA 669: Legal Environment of Nonprofit Management\*  
PSAA 689: Nonprofit Advocacy in the Policy Process

*\*May be taken in a convenient, online format  
+Required of all CNPM students*

#### **Program Application**

All prospective students who intend to earn a graduate certificate must apply to the program. Degree-seeking students already enrolled at Texas A&M must apply to the graduate certificate program and be admitted *before* enrolling in any course they intend to apply toward the certificate. Current application instructions may be found at <http://bush.tamu.edu/certificate/admissions>.

### **Program Completion**

*A Certificate Completion online form must be completed and filed with the Bush School's Office of Extended Education Enrollment Advising Center during the student's final semester. A certificate of completion will not be awarded without the form. In addition, students must complete and submit an "Application for Graduation" in their certificate program through <http://howdy.tamu.edu>. Students must have met all program criteria to successfully complete the program:*

- Maintaining a 3.0 GPR in the certificate course of study;
- Meeting all admissions requirements, including any conditional provisions;
- Clearing any holds on record (Hold status can be viewed in the MyRecord tab in the Howdy portal at <http://howdy.tamu.edu>).

For assistance in locating the "Application for Graduation" and the online Certificate Completion form, email [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu).

## **Graduate Certificate in Public Management**

### **Introduction**

The Graduate Certificate in Public Management (PBMG) program focuses on the capabilities required for effective and ethical leadership in the public and nonprofit sectors. This includes the knowledge and skills pertaining to the internal operation of public-service organizations and to the relationship between those organizations and their environments.

The certificate is designed to provide graduate education in public management for the full-time public service professional who wants to earn a standalone credential in public management; for the individual who desires the education to transition to the public management field; and, for the graduate student who wants to earn a credential in a specialized area to enhance employability.

The culmination of the program will result in prepared state and federal leaders with the requisite skills and expertise in public service to excel in professional and executive management roles. Individuals who successfully complete the program will be awarded a certificate and a notation will appear on their university transcript.

Individuals who successfully complete the program will be awarded a graduate certificate, an electronic credential, and a notation will appear on their university transcript. In-residence and online courses are offered during the regular fifteen-week academic semesters. Online courses are also offered in ten-week summer session semester.

For more information, contact the Bush School Enrollment Advising Center at 979-862-7810, e-mail [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu), or visit room 3002 on the third floor in the Allen Building on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station.

### **Online Education Option**

Online courses are offered in a regular fifteen-week academic semester during the fall and spring, and ten-week summer terms. Online courses are built around three main components: readings, writing, and interaction with classmates and instructors through online discussion. Research papers, essays, exams, case studies, and briefings are common assignments. New material is released each week, but within weekly time frames. High speed Internet recommended. Students are not required to purchase any software or hardware. A standard, reasonably up-to-date computer and a consistent Internet connection are the basic technological requirements to complete a course. Review Texas A&M University's [minimum computer specifications listed here to ensure you meet the requirements](#).

### **Online Course Access**

Online classes are available for access beginning the official first day of class noted on your class schedule. Be sure to log in to your course on the first official day of classes to access the course syllabus and to learn about your course assignment deadlines. You will have access to the online course in which you registered only for the duration of the semester in which you are registered. If you drop, q-drop, or withdraw, you will no longer have access to your online course. In addition, you will no longer have access to your online course after the semester closes. It is your responsibility to ensure you keep your own content, papers, and course submissions.

### **Program of Study**

The certificate consists of twelve graduate credit hours (four, three-credit hour graduate courses). Admitted students must complete two required courses of PSAA 623 Budgeting in Public Service and PSAA 634 Public Management, and two elective courses in public management. Texas A&M requires all graduate students to enroll in at least one course per calendar year in order to maintain their active-student status with the Office of Graduate Admissions. Students who elect to sit out more than one year will be required to reapply to Texas A&M via the GradCas Application.

The list of courses for the Graduate Certificate in Public Management is below. The course listing is subject to change.

#### Required Courses

PSAA 623:Budgeting in Public Service+ \*

PSAA 634:Public Management + \*

#### Electives

PSAA 602: Tools of Leadership in Public Service Organizations \*

PSAA 604: Emergency Management and Homeland Security \*

PSAA 606: Environmental Policy and Management

PSAA 608: Cybersecurity Policy, Issues and Operations - A Manager's Guide\*

PSAA 610: Comparative Public Administration and Management

PSAA 614: Governance and Institutional Reform: A Comparative Perspective

PSAA 616: Managing Workplace Diversity in Public and Nonprofit Organizations \*

PSAA 617: U.S. State and Local Government: Institutions and Policy \*

PSAA 619: Urban Policy and Management

PSAA 625: Urban Sustainability Policies and Management

PSAA 626: Contract Management

PSAA 630: Program Evaluation in Public and Nonprofit Organizations \*

PSAA 636: Grant and Project Management in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors\*

PSAA 637: Decision Making in Government and Public Service

PSAA 641: Organization Theory for the Public Sector

PSAA 642: Ethics and Public Policy

PSAA 644: Management and Leadership of Nonprofit Organizations \*

PSAA 646: Accountability in Public Service

PSAA 648: Performance Management in Public and Nonprofit Sectors \*

PSAA 661: Human Resources Management in Government and Public Service

*\*May be taken in a convenient, online format*

*+Required of all PBMG students*

### **Program Application**

All prospective students who intend to earn a graduate certificate must apply to the program. Degree-seeking students already enrolled at Texas A&M must apply to the certificate program and be admitted *before* enrolling in any course they intend to apply toward the certificate. Current application instructions may be found at <http://bush.tamu.edu/certificate/admissions>.

### **Program Completion**

*A Certificate Completion online form must be completed and filed with the Bush School's Office of Extended Education Enrollment Advising Center during the student's final semester. A certificate of completion will not be awarded without the form. In addition, students must complete and submit an "Application for Graduation" in their certificate program through <http://howdy.tamu.edu>. Students must have met all program criteria to successfully complete the program:*

- Maintaining a 3.0 GPR in the certificate course of study;
- Meeting all admissions requirements, including any conditional provisions;
- Clearing any holds on record (Hold status can be viewed in the MyRecord tab in the Howdy portal at <http://howdy.tamu.edu>).

For assistance in locating the "Application for Graduation" and the online Certificate Completion form, email [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu).

## **Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Intelligence**

### **Introduction**

Geospatial intelligence (GeoINT) is a rapidly emerging field that leverages human intelligence and geospatial technologies in the support of national security and other intelligence activities. This 15-credit-hour graduate level certificate is offered jointly by the College of Geosciences and the Bush School of Government and Public Service. The program develops the technical skill set, knowledge of intelligence processes, and critical thinking ability required of GeoINT practitioners. This graduate certificate program has been designed to meet the growing demand for qualified individuals in the field.

The completed graduate certificate appears on the student's official Texas A&M University transcript. Courses in the program are taught by faculty in the Department of Geography and in the Department of International Affairs. Students complete three courses in the Department of Geography and two courses in the Department of International Affairs. Its administrative home lies in the Department of Geography.

The program is approved for delivery via asynchronous distance education technology as well in residence.

For more information, contact the College of Geosciences at (979) 862-4944 or e-mail [online-degree@geos.tamu.edu](mailto:online-degree@geos.tamu.edu).

### **Online Education Option**

Online courses are offered in a fifteen-week academic semester during the fall and spring, and ten-week summer terms. High speed Internet recommended. A standard, reasonably up-to-date computer and a consistent Internet connection are the basic technological requirements to complete a course. Review Texas A&M University's [minimum computer specifications listed here to ensure you meet the requirements](#).

### **Online Course Access**

Online classes are available for access beginning the official first day of class noted on your class schedule. Be sure to log in to your course on the first official day of classes to access the courses syllabus and to learn about your course assignment deadlines.

You will have access to the online course in which you registered only for the duration of the semester in which you are registered. If you drop, q-drop, or withdraw, you will no longer have access to your online course. In addition, you will no longer have access to your online course after the semester closes. It is your responsibility to ensure you keep your own content, papers, and course submissions.

### **Program of Study**

Admitted students complete five, three-credit-hour graduate courses in the Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Intelligence. Admitted students must complete three required courses GEOG 651: Remote Sensing for Geographical Analysis, GEOG 660: Applications in GIS, and GEOS 676:

Capstone Experience, as well as two elective courses from a listing of applicable courses in the Bush School's Department of International Affairs. Texas A&M requires all graduate students to enroll in at least one course per calendar year in order to maintain their active-student status with the Office of Graduate Admissions. Students who elect to sit out more than one year are required to re-apply to Texas A&M via the GradCas Application.

The list of courses for the Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Intelligence is below. The course listing is subject to change:

Required Courses (Complete all listed.)

GEOG 651: Remote Sensing for Geographical Analysis + \*  
GEOG 660: Applications in GIS +\*  
GEOS 676: Capstone Experience +\*

Electives (Choose two courses.)

INTA 652: Role of Intelligence in Security Affairs\*  
INTA 653: Technical Collection Systems for International Security\*  
INTA 657: Terrorism in Today's World\*  
INTA 696: Analytical Tradecraft

*\*May be taken in a convenient, online format  
+Required of all GeoINT students*

**Program Application**

All prospective students who intend to earn a graduate certificate must apply to the program. Degree-seeking students already enrolled at Texas A&M University must apply to the certificate program and be admitted *before* enrolling in any course they intend to apply toward the certificate. For more information on program applications, contact the College of Geosciences at (979) 862-4944 or e-mail [online-degree@geos.tamu.edu](mailto:online-degree@geos.tamu.edu).

**Program Completion**

The semester in which the student plans to complete their certificate, the student must complete and submit an "Application for Graduation" in their certificate program through <http://howdy.tamu.edu>. Students must have met all program criteria to successfully complete the program:

- Maintaining a 3.0 GPR in the certificate course of study;
- Meeting all admissions requirements, including any conditional provisions;
- Clearing any holds on record (Hold status can be viewed in the MyRecord tab in the Howdy portal at <http://howdy.tamu.edu>).

## **Graduate Certificate in National Security Affairs**

### **Program Description and Application Instructions**

The National Security Affairs Program (NSAP), which offers the [Certificate in National Security Affairs](#), is an executive-level graduate education program that is tailored to the needs of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Security Laboratories. A professional development and leadership program, the NSAP provides Fellows with tools—the concepts, approaches, and frameworks—that will enhance their ability to think critically, analytically, and systematically about national security policy and strategy and the role of science and technology in U.S. national security. The NSAP focuses on national security policy and strategy issues that are critical to the missions of the DOE National Security Laboratories. This broadening experience enables Fellows to engage more effectively with sponsors, and even come to anticipate sponsor needs, as they assume positions of increasing responsibilities at the laboratories. Notably, the program has prepared Fellows for IPA assignments with Laboratory sponsors in Washington, DC.

Laboratory staff members selected for the program are designated NSAP Fellows at the George H.W. Bush School of Government and Public Service. Fellows complete a series of two or four graduate courses (two in-residence at Texas A&M University in College Station and two via VTC for the full four-course certificate program) and participate in seminars and other professional development activities over a 12-month period. NSAP Fellows who complete the full four-course program are awarded a Certificate in National Security Affairs. Ninety-two laboratory Fellows have participated in the program since its inception in 2008.

### **Program of Study**

The current program of study consists of four courses:

- INTA 617 Deterrence & Coercion
- INTA 706 Cyberspace and National Security
- INTA 631 US Military Power
- INTA 670 National Security & Defense Planning Research Capstone

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Individuals may apply who hold an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited university. The program has been open primarily to candidates designated as an applicant by an agency or organization that has entered into a contract with the program. It is potentially open as well to individuals with a graduate degree and a minimum of three years employment experience in a firm, laboratory, agency, or nongovernmental organization engaged in the development or provision of systems, services, or products related to national or international security. Five years employment experience is required for those who hold a bachelor's degree.

Applicants must meet the requirements for admission to graduate study at Texas A&M University as non-degree seeking students (G-6). Proficiency in reading, writing, and spoken English at a level necessary for graduate instruction is required.

To apply, applicants must submit the following items:

- Application
- Official Degree Transcripts
  - Must be sent directly to Texas A&M University - Office of Graduate Admissions
  - Transcripts from an international university must include an English Translation.
- Letter of Recommendation from your immediate supervisor.

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POC: Jasen J. Castillo, Associate Professor/Co-Director, Albritton Center for Grand Strategy, Director National Security Affairs Program, Evelyn and Ed F. Kruse '49 Faculty Fellow. Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University. Email address: [jasencastillo@tamu.edu](mailto:jasencastillo@tamu.edu); phone: 979.458.8021.

## **Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity**

### **Introduction**

The Certificate in Cybersecurity Policy provides students with the core concepts, tools, and skills for sound cybersecurity policy development. It is a four-course graduate certificate, consisting of courses selected from a list of courses offered at the Bush School, the Dwight Look College of Engineering, and the Mays Business School. The Certificate in Cybersecurity Policy will prepare students for public and private sector careers to develop sound cybersecurity policy in organizations. The Certificate at this time is limited to students enrolled in a TAMU graduate degree program and is offered only in residence.

Students will earn a "Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity Policy" notation on their Texas A&M University transcript upon successful completion of all certificate requirements with a certificate grade point of 3.0 and higher.

### **Program of Study**

Admitted certificate students will complete a total of four courses to earn the Certificate in Cybersecurity Policy. Two of the courses must be taken from the Bush School of Government and Public Service (INTA or PSAA courses). Another course must come from either the College of Engineering (CSC 402) or the Mays Business School (ISTM 635, 645, 655). The fourth course can be any other course on the list of approved courses.

### **Approved Courses**

CSC 702:	Law and Policy in Cybersecurity
INTA 712:	A Nontechnical Introduction to Cyber Policy
INTA 706:	Cyberspace Implications for National Security
INTA 708:	Data Science for Policy Analysis
INTA 689:	Internet Infrastructure: Platforms and Politics
INTA 713:	Advanced Cyber Policy
INTA 670:	Cyber Policy Capstone
ISTM 635:	Business Information Security
ISTM 645:	IT Security Controls
ISTM 655:	Security Management and Compliance
PSAA 608:	Cybersecurity Policy, Issues, and Operations

### **Program Application**

Current degree-seeking students at Texas A&M University will submit an internal application form, a resume, and a personal statement. Applications will be reviewed by the Graduate Certificate in Cybersecurity Policy director. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. For questions on admissions and curriculum, please contact Peg Hosea, Senior Administrative Coordinator International Affairs, Bush School [plhosea@tamu.edu](mailto:plhosea@tamu.edu).

## **Internship/Career Services**

### **Overview of Career Services**

The Bush School's Career Services office works with students to explore career options, help identify internship and employment opportunities, and develop the skills needed to complete a successful career search. Career Services disseminates information on internship and employment opportunities, organizes informational sessions and interviews with potential employers, and provides general career services.

Students are encouraged to utilize the Career Services office to increase their level of professionalism and prepare for careers in public service and international affairs. Career Services utilizes an online career management system, 12Twenty, to share job/internship postings, provide career resources, and collect resumes and other application materials. The Texas A&M Career Center on main campus also provides a number of free career resources on their website, [careercenter.tamu.edu](http://careercenter.tamu.edu), and Bush School students are encouraged to take advantage of these resources, too. In most circumstances, individual career advising appointments should be made with Bush School Career Services staff members rather than Career Center staff members.

Some ways in which Career Services staff will support a student's internship and employment search efforts include the following:

- Providing guidance and advice while students explore career opportunities in public service and international affairs;
- Assisting with the development of a professional résumé tailored to specific position descriptions;
- Offering workshops (including mandatory attendance at five specific career workshops) and other learning forums on career planning, interviewing skills, and networking;
- Bringing internship and employment opportunities to the student's attention via the Bush School online system (12Twenty) and via email;
- Organizing networking opportunities through the Bush School Former Student Network, the Association of Former Students, the George & Barbara Bush Foundation, and other professional contacts;
- Providing mock interviews for students interested in improving their interviewing skills;
- Serving as the point of contact for employers to develop potential internship/employment opportunities directly related to the student's interests; and
- Coordinating career conferences, employer information sessions, and other events designed to enhance the student's professional skills and assist with career exploration, while exposing the student to potential employers.

Students will benefit from Career Services in direct proportion to how well they utilize these services. Actively participating in career-related workshops and staying in close contact with staff to find out about upcoming employer information sessions as well as internship and job opportunities will increase students' opportunities to develop clearly defined professional goals for both internship and post-graduate employment.

*Ultimately, it is each student's responsibility to secure an internship and post-graduate employment, but Career Services staff provide valuable assistance with the process. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to include Career Services as an *integral part* of their educational program at the Bush School.*

### **The Internship**

An internship is a monitored work experience lasting a minimum of ten weeks during which an individual regularly reflects on what they are learning and how this relates to the knowledge and experience gained in the classroom. Interning is an effective way for students to gain firsthand knowledge of the professional field in which they are interested. In addition, an internship offers a practical and efficient means of developing skills in a field and applying classroom methods and insights to ongoing public service challenges. To make the most of this high-impact experience, students will be encouraged to create a learning agreement in which they specify what they expect to learn; how, where, and from whom they expect to learn it; what evidence best supports their learning; and how they expect to be evaluated.

Bush School students in both degree programs who pursue the internship are required to participate during their first year of school or the summer between their first and second years of coursework. Students must meet all internship requirements as outlined below, and the internship must be approved by the Assistant Dean for Graduate Career & Student Services or designee.

NOTE: Students in the MIA program also have the option to complete an intensive foreign language/cultural studies program to meet the language proficiency requirement of the degree program, instead of the internship.

### **Internship/Immersion Funding Requirements**

All first-year students must attend all five required career workshops and submit the required deliverables by the deadlines. Career workshop topics can include creating your personal career roadmap, communicating effectively with employers and for networking purposes (to include résumé and cover letter writing, electronic communication/correspondence, LinkedIn, etc.), utilizing the Bush School career management system (12Twenty), career resources available to students through the Bush School and the Texas A&M Career Center, how to effectively interview, and other related topics.

Attendance at these five workshops is required for a student to meet the internship/immersion requirement and be eligible to apply for internship/immersion funding (see below for more details).

All first-year students who plan to complete an internship or language immersion are strongly encouraged to meet with Career Services staff in their first fall semester enrolled at the Bush School to discuss internship/career goals and associated plans.

Students must secure a full-time (40 hours/week) internship for a minimum of ten weeks, or the equivalent hours (a minimum of 400 hours) spread over a longer period of time unless they qualify for an internship waiver (see below for requirements).

### **The Internship Approval Process**

#### *Criteria for Approval of Internship Proposal*

After a student has received an internship offer, they must submit the internship details in 12Twenty in the spring semester. The following criteria will be considered to approve the internship opportunity:

- The proposed internship opportunity will provide a substantive, professional public service experience and will be consistent with the education provided in the student's degree program;
- The proposed internship will provide a meaningful professional experience in the student's chosen specialization or area of expertise;
- The agency or organization will provide supervision and feedback on the performance of the student.

#### ***Required Forms and Paperwork***

The following must be completed and submitted to the Career Services office before a student leaves for an internship:

- Internship outcomes form to be completed by the student in 12Twenty.

The following form must be completed and submitted by the internship supervisor to the Career Services office at the end of the internship:

- Employer Evaluation (form sent to the student during the internship) – to be completed by the student's internship supervisor at the end of the internship.

#### ***Internship Supervision by the Bush School***

The Career Services office may contact both the student and the sponsoring organization during the course of the internship period to determine whether the intern and the on-site supervisor are in agreement with the terms set forth for the internship. Such contact may be in person or via telephone, e-mail, or postal mail. The internship supervisor will also be asked to evaluate the student's performance via the organization's evaluation process, or an evaluation provided by the Career Services office.

#### **Summary of Roles and Responsibilities of All Parties**

##### ***Role of the Student***

Although Career Services staff are available to provide internship guidance, *it is ultimately the responsibility of the student* to locate, apply to, interview for, secure, attend and complete an approved internship. The student is also responsible for submitting all forms and paperwork needed to evaluate the student's performance on time. Students are expected to uphold the reputation of the Bush School by performing to the best of their abilities during the internship.

##### ***Role of the Sponsoring Organization***

The sponsoring organization will be asked to provide an on-site supervisor for the internship period. The on-site supervisor should confer on a regular basis with the intern to offer direction and aid, and to review the status of assignment(s). The on-site supervisor will also provide the intern with an overview of the general operations of the organization. The on-site supervisor will be asked to complete an evaluation of the intern's performance.

##### ***Role of the Bush School Faculty Advisor***

The Bush School faculty advisor may help the student identify potential contacts for an internship that will enhance the student's knowledge and experience in his or her chosen concentration.

### ***Role of the Bush School Career & Student Services Office***

Once the student has secured the internship and the faculty advisor has given approval, the Career & Student Services office will work with the student to ensure that the necessary forms are submitted. Career & Student Services will maintain contact with the student and sponsoring organization during the summer internship. Career & Student Services staff will also facilitate the student evaluation process for the sponsoring organization to certify the internship requirement has been met.

### ***The Bush School Internship Funding***

Although the Bush School strongly encourages students to secure paid internships, the school acknowledges that some internships that provide a substantive professional experience offer little or no financial compensation to students. The school also recognizes that language immersions are not paid experiences. The school, therefore, offers *limited* funding to help students meet their financial obligations during their internship or immersion. The funds available for this purpose are extremely limited and vary from year to year (i.e., do not compare the funds available this year to those available for students last year). No one should expect that a majority of their internship/immersion costs for travel and living expenses will be covered by the Bush School and all students should budget throughout the year for their summer experience.

### ***Principles Guiding the Allocation Process***

Funding will be allocated by the Assistant Dean of Career & Student Services. The following principles guide the funding allocation process and will be made explicit to students early in their internship search process:

- Funding is not intended to offset all, or even a majority of, costs related to a student's experience. Students must anticipate putting forth their own resources to complete the internship/immersion experience.
- Funding is not intended to support dual residences (i.e., a student's rent in College Station and in the internship location). The internship/immersion requirement is advertised as part of the academic program well in advance; students are expected to plan personal details such as lease agreements accordingly.
- In awarding internship/immersion funding, Career Services will not take into account any expenses that are not directly related to the internship experience.
- Because individual funding is contingent on a number of variables, it is not possible to determine exactly how much funding each student will receive until the funding allocation process takes place. This does not mean the allocation process is arbitrary. See below for a description of the formula used to allocate funding to students.
- The maximum amount awarded to any student is determined by the category of the internship/immersion. Categories are determined by the location of the internship/immersion, as described below.
- INTA students: funding is only available for the summer internship/ immersion and will only be awarded for one option or the other (i.e., if an individual takes a paid internship but also completes an immersion, they do not qualify for funding).

### ***Student Eligibility***

A student will be eligible to apply for internship funding if they meet all of the following conditions:

1. The individual must be enrolled as a full-time student in either the PSAA or INTA degree program at the time of application.
2. The student must have attended all five required career workshops and submitted the required deliverables by the deadlines.
3. The student must submit the internship form in 12Twenty before, or at the same time as, submission of the internship/immersion funding application.
4. The student must be in good academic standing (i.e., not on academic probation) at the time of application.

#### **Application Procedure**

Students must attend an informational meeting and submit their internship/immersion details in 12Twenty to determine funding eligibility.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline set by the Career Services office staff (typically in April). Applications from students who have not submitted the Internship/Immersion outcomes form in 12Twenty cannot be awarded funding until that information is finalized and submitted.

#### **Allocation of Funding**

Internship funding is allocated on the basis of expenses associated with a given category of internship. Therefore, academic performance (beyond ensuring that a student is in good academic standing) and extra-curricular service to the Bush School or community will not be factored into the decision-making process.

Based on the location of the internship, a student will be considered for funding *up to* the maximum amount for the appropriate funding category:

<b>Funding Category:</b>	<b>Funding Level:</b>
Award Category I - Unpaid public service internship or immersion completed abroad	Up to \$3,000
Award Category II - Unpaid public service internship or immersion completed in Washington DC or other US metropolitan area outside Texas	Up to \$2,500
Award Category III - Unpaid public service internship completed in a metropolitan area of Texas	Up to \$2,000
Award Category IV - Unpaid public service internship completed in a non-metropolitan area nationwide	Up to \$1,500

Based on the amount of funding available, students may receive only a *percentage* of their adjusted expenses. All students will receive the same percentage, but the percentage itself will vary depending on the amount of funding available and the number of students applying for funding (e.g., in a given year, the Bush School may be able to provide only 75% of the total adjusted expense requirements for any student. Thus, a student who

“qualifies” for \$3,000 would receive only \$2,250 and another who qualifies that year for \$1,500 would receive \$1,125).

**Waiver of Internship Requirement**

The internship requirement may be waived if the student has at least two years of recent professional-level public service experience related to their degree and career goals. For information on the waiver process, see the assistant to the department head.

**Job Search Assistance**

The Bush School is also committed to supporting student efforts to find a job upon graduation. Participating in the Career Services workshops, networking opportunities, and information sessions will help students increase their marketability to employers. The Career Services office will also help students learn effective job search techniques, create a better impression in interviews, and develop a network of professional contacts. Of course, the ultimate responsibility for getting a job belongs to the student.

## **Financial Aid**

The Bush School currently offers several types of financial assistance to students. All funding is subject to change depending on fiscal constraints, levels of enrollment, and other conditions.

### **Scholarships**

#### ***INTA and PSAA Departments***

Presently, many first-year students in the Bush School receive scholarships consisting of a monetary award and a reduction in tuition. Scholarship funds are established in a University account designated for each student. Half of the funds are entered into the account before the beginning of the fall semester and the other half before the spring semester. Each semester, the University draws against the account for the tuition and fees incurred by the student for course registration. If the amount in a student's scholarship account in a given semester is less than the total of tuition and fees, the student will be billed by the University for the difference. If, in a given semester, the scholarship amount deposited in a student's account is more than the tuition and fees, then the University issues a check to the student for any remaining balance in the account. Students should sign up for direct deposit of their scholarships to ensure timely and worry-free receipt of funds. (From the Howdy portal at <http://howdy.tamu.edu>, select "AggiE-Refund – College Station (ACH refund)").

Second-year students also are eligible for scholarship assistance from the Bush School provided they have met the academic performance criteria that were outlined in their offer letters. Failure to meet these criteria does not mean that funding will automatically be reduced in the second year; rather, it means that students will not be assured the same level of scholarship support.

### **EMPSA, Certificate, and Online Courses**

#### ***Bush School Online Student Scholarship for Texas Residents***

The Bush School Online Student Scholarship for Texas Residents is targeted toward new, continuing, and returning students registered in 700 level section online courses within the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. Additional criteria require that a student be a Texas resident in good academic standing with a 3.0 and above at Texas A&M, or be a newly enrolled student at Texas A&M University. In addition, a student must have unmet financial need as determined by the FAFSA. The student must remain enrolled in a Bush School (defined as INTA, PSAA, or BUSH) 700 level online course in order to retain the scholarship funds. The amount of the scholarship varies based on need and available funding.

### ***Applying***

To apply for either, contact the Office of Extended Education Enrollment Advising Center at 979-862-7810, e-mail [bushschoolonline@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolonline@tamu.edu), or visit Rm. 3002 in the Allen Building on the Texas A&M campus in College Station.

### **Graduate Assistants**

A substantial amount of second-year financial support from the Bush School is paid to students employed as graduate assistants for research (GAR) or graduate assistants non-teaching (GANT). Applications for second-year GAR and GANT positions are made available toward the end of each spring semester. A student will not be awarded both a Bush School GAR/GANT position and a Bush School scholarship.

GARs and GANTs are required to work twenty hours per week during each school semester. Most GARs and GANTs are accountable to and supervised by a faculty or staff member of the Bush School. In some cases, GAR and GANT work assignments may be divided between two supervisors. GARs and GANTs are selected primarily on the basis of first year academic performance, but service to the Bush School and faculty preferences may be taken into account as well.

GARs and GANTs are part-time employees of Texas A&M University and therefore of the State of Texas. As such, they are eligible for health benefits. Eligibility for health benefits begins upon employment. Students may choose to immediately enroll in a Texas A&M University System sponsored insurance plan effective from their date of hire, provided they pay the full cost of premiums. Students may also defer enrollment in a health plan until the first day of the month following their sixtieth day of employment. At this time the State of Texas will pay for a portion of the total health insurance premium amount. Federal income tax is withheld from GAR and GANT checks. GARs are paid monthly and GANTs are paid bi-weekly. GARs and GANTs beginning employment at the beginning of September will receive their first check in early October.

Second-year GAR and GANT funding is highly competitive. All students are strongly encouraged to seek and apply for national and international scholarships to cover their second-year costs (see below).

### **Travel Support**

The Bush School may have a small pool of funds to support student travel that is related to professional development. These funds are primarily for conference participation. Subject to the availability of resources, the Bush School will fund up to \$500 for travel, room and board to attend a meeting if the student is a participant in the program or has a formal role representing the Bush School. The school will fund up to a maximum of \$300 if the student is not a formal participant. Travel support will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Typically, no more than one travel support award per year will be issued to a student. Travel support is also contingent on academic good standing, and students may be denied funding if they have incomplete grades in any of their courses.

All students seeking travel reimbursements must submit the student travel grant support form to their department head on which they clearly describe the meeting/program they plan to attend and their involvement in it. The form is available from the department's senior administrative coordinator. The form must explain how participation in the conference will professionally benefit the student. The form should be submitted as far in advance of the travel as possible, preferably at least one month before travelling. If more than one person applies to attend the same meeting, the proposals should include cost-sharing arrangements. The department head will review the forms and render final funding decisions. Once the form has been approved, the student must contact business services to obtain state travel instructions before any funds are committed. Travel funds may not be used to interview for an internship or employment. Upon completion of an approved trip, students present receipts for expenditures of which half will be paid by the Bush School (up to \$500 if the student was a formal presenter, and up to \$300 otherwise).

### **Other Types of Support**

There are a number of other sources of support for graduate study. The University's Department of Student Financial Aid oversees all student aid programs, including the Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Stafford Loans, College Access Loans, the Texas Public Education Grants, State Student Incentive Grants and College Work-Study. Short-term loans also are available to assist students with unexpected expenses.

Graduate students needing financial assistance should begin the application process by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the Central Processor in Iowa City, Iowa, and then have the results sent to Texas A&M (*FAFSA School Code: 003632*). FAFSA is available from financial aid offices at most universities, including Texas A&M or may be completed online at *FAFSA on the Web* (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>).

The Texas A&M Scholarship Office within Student Financial Aid offers the Academic Excellence Award to continuing students who demonstrate substantial academic progress towards a degree. Various need based awards require the submission of the FAFSA. Graduate students may apply for this award after completing their first fall semester at the Bush School.

Inquiries and requests for FAFSA applications, the Texas A&M Student Financial Aid brochure, and other information should be directed to DSFA:

Department of Student Financial Aid  
Texas A&M University  
General Services Complex (1<sup>st</sup> floor)  
College Station, TX 77843-1252  
Phone: 979-847-1787  
<https://financialaid.tamu.edu/>

## **Student Resources and Policies Governing Their Use**

### **Study Space and Facility Policies**

#### ***Building Access***

After-hours building access will be available via the student Aggie-ID card through the following four doors: North (near Scowcroft Institute), Northeast (nearest circle drive), Northwest (past vending machines outside the 41st Club), or Southwest (door nearest the bust of President Bush). Access will be available 24/7. Please contact Bush School Information Technology (BSIT) Help Desk (bushschoolhelpdesk@tamu.edu) with any problems with the card access system. Please do not prop open any doors before 7:30 a.m. or after 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or at any time on the weekends, when the doors are locked.

#### **Housekeeping**

The student kitchen is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Allen Building and is for students in both departments. Please keep the student kitchen and student refrigerator clean and in order for other students and visitors to use. The ice machine in the student kitchen should NEVER be totally emptied; some ice must be in the bin to form additional ice. The student breakroom (across the hall from kitchen) should also be kept clean. Routinely check your mailbox and recycle any papers you do not need.

#### **Use of Classrooms**

Classrooms will be unlocked between normal hours of operation, defined as: 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, on scheduled academic days, but classrooms now have keycard access available for those reserving the rooms. Some classrooms may be used for student-directed after-hour use per the Classroom Security Policy (03.01-ClassroomSecurity.pdf). The times that classrooms are available for student use will vary. Each of the Allen Building classrooms are managed by Instructional Media Services (IMS) and feature one-touch power automation, an HD projector, a document camera, a computer and bring-your-own-device connections. Please contact IMS at (979) 458-5576 or (979) 862-8957 prior to your event for assistance with any of these items. Inappropriate use may result in loss of privilege. The complete Classroom Security Policy (03.01-ClassroomSecurity.pdf) can be found here. S:\Public\Documentation and Forms\Information Systems Services\IT Policies

#### **Copying**

A copy machine for student use (with associated fees) can be found by the entrance to the 41<sup>st</sup> Club. Copy machines in the Bush School administrative and research offices are for Texas A&M University business only. A Bush School staff or faculty member must approve student use of these machines.

#### **Use of Bush School Trademarks or Logos**

The Bush School logos, stationery patterns, and other trademarks are registered and may be used only with prior written permission. Please contact the Marketing & Communications department about using the Bush School logo or other trademarks associated with the Bush School. Bush School apparel is available for purchase through Bush School student organizations and the gift shop in the George Bush Presidential Library.

#### **Audio/Visual Equipment**

The Bush School has conference and capstone rooms available with a computer, large displays with wireless projection and video conferencing capabilities. Specified rooms may

be used for student-directed, academic related activities per the Room Security Policy (03.01-RoomSecurity.pdf). Available rooms must be reserved prior to use. Room reservations must be coordinated with the departmental administrative coordinator who will log the use and formerly reserve the room. Please do not move the furniture in the rooms. Inappropriate use of these resources may result in loss of privilege.

### **Information Technology Policies**

The Bush School recognizes the importance and the need to carefully manage information technology (IT) resources. The Bush School always attempts to provide the best possible IT resources that complement, augment, and support the interests of the Bush School.

Texas A&M University provides a variety of IT resources that are classified as either University wide, or college specific. Any problems or questions concerning Texas A&M University's computing resources (e.g., NetID, Texas A&M email) or their use may be forwarded to Technology Services Help Desk Central at (979) 845-8300, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. TAMU IT Help Desk Central may also be contacted by e-mail at [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu). The Bush School also maintains its own Help Desk to assist with problems pertaining to software or systems (e.g., conference & capstone rooms, laptop support of connections to Bush School resources) that the school maintains. The Bush School Help Desk may be reached by e-mail at [bushschoolhelpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:bushschoolhelpdesk@tamu.edu) or by calling (979) 458-3310, Mon-Fri, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Information concerning the use of information resources, specific policies, and sources of help for computer programs will be distributed separately. Students should treat the material as an addition to this handbook and treat it accordingly. In the meantime, it is important to be aware of the obligation of all users of IT resources provided by the Bush School to follow established school, University and state rules.

Because the University is an agency of the State of Texas, users must conform to all applicable state laws. Non-compliance may lead to disciplinary action by the University, including, in extreme cases, revocation of computer-use privileges and/or expulsion/dismissal from the University, or even lawful intervention. Under certain circumstances, unauthorized access to or modification, disclosure, or destruction of the Bush School or Texas A&M IT resources, or violation of licensing agreements and/or copyright laws, may give rise to civil and/or criminal liability.

University rules and policies can be found: <https://rules-saps.tamu.edu>

### **Library**

The Texas A&M University Libraries includes the Sterling C. Evans Library and Annex, the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, the Business Library and Collaboration Commons (BLCC), the Policy Sciences and Economics Library (PSEL), and the Medical Sciences Library (MSL).

Sterling C. Evans is the general academic library on the main campus. Most of the University Libraries' 5.8 million volumes and 46,000 print serial titles are in the stacks in Evans Library. The Libraries also subscribe to over 1,100 databases, 114,000 electronic journals and 1.8 million ebooks. Services in Evans and the Annex include AskUs, Interlibrary Loan, The Tech Bar, The Studio, Course Reserves, and a variety of study spaces. Services co-located in the library but not overseen by the library include branches of the University Writing Center, Math Tutoring

Center, Academic Success Center, and an [embedded counselor](#) from University Health Services.

The PSEL is located in the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center and contains books and journals on political science, economics, and other policy sciences. The current serial collection includes almost 5,000 titles, most of which are available electronically in full-text format. The library also houses an Open Access Computer Lab with four computers.

Students may also utilize interlibrary loans and document delivery resources to request materials not contained in the PSEL. *Get It For Me* (<http://getitforme.library.tamu.edu/illiadlocal/>) allows students to order books, articles, reports, or materials from other libraries on campus or not owned by Texas A&M at all. If the requested item is less than 50 pages, a scanned article or chapter will be scanned and delivered electronically in PDF. For physical materials, such as print books or DVDs, the item can be requested for pickup at any library on campus. The system will allow students to check the status of requests, renew materials, or cancel requests.

Most electronic databases, journals, and abstracts are available via personal computers. All materials from Texas A&M University Libraries may be returned or renewed during regular business hours at any University library location. Students may also renew items electronically on the Texas A&M University Libraries website: <http://library.tamu.edu/>. Circulation and reserve policies for the PSEL are the same as those that govern the Texas A&M General Library system. These are available at the PSELs website: <http://psel.library.tamu.edu/index.html>.

PSEL also supports Bush students by providing access to course readings through electronic reserves. Students are also able to request course reserve materials through Suggest a Purchase. Library professionals are also available to assist students with finding, evaluating, and using information effectively for their courses and projects. For one-on-one or small group help with a project, students can [book a librarian](#) for a Zoom consultation. The Libraries also offer [workshops](#) on citation managers and research data management. These are primarily held on Zoom and students are welcome to register for any workshop that interests them. Bush School students are encouraged to visit and use the library resources available through any library on campus.

## **Student Organizations**

The Bush School encourages students to participate in extracurricular activities as a way of building their leadership skills and of cultivating a commitment to public service. The school places special emphasis on involvement in the Bush School organizations described below. In addition, there are a number of University and national organizations that provide opportunities for professional development and self-expression.

### **Bush School Student Organizations**

#### ***Public Service Organization (PSO)***

The Public Service Organization (PSO) is a student organization that engages in projects that help the community. As such, it provides professional experience in activities such as management consulting and program evaluation and design. Some PSO projects are carried out exclusively by the students, and some are done in conjunction with local non-profit and government organizations. The PSO has regular meetings at which its members discuss and plan projects. For more information about its activities, contact the PSO chair.

#### ***Student Government Association (SGA)***

The Bush School Student Government Association (SGA) meets regularly and provides a forum for discussing issues that are relevant to the students and communicating the students' views to the Bush School administration. The SGA also plans and coordinates student activities and social events. For more information, contact the SGA president.

#### ***The Ambassadors Council***

The Bush School Ambassadors Council is a professional student organization consisting of first and second-year students who aim to promote and represent the values and traditions of the Bush School and Texas A&M University. As such, the ambassadors represent various Bush School groups at development functions, special events, and conferences; serve as official student hosts for visiting special guests; and serve as the primary organization for student recruitment. The Council holds regular meetings to plan and discuss future events. For more information, contact the chief ambassador.

#### ***The Alexander Hamilton Society (AHS)***

The Alexander Hamilton Society (AHS) is the local chapter of the national organization, whose purpose is to be an "independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting constructive debate on basic principles and contemporary issues in foreign, economic, and national security policy." The AHS hosts guest speakers; sponsors debates featuring prominent leaders in foreign, economic, and national security policy; and provides opportunities for members to network with other members from over thirty-five campuses across the United States. For more information, visit <https://www.alexanderhamiltonsociety.org/>.

#### ***Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)***

The mission of AFP is to empower individuals and organizations to practice ethical fundraising through professional education, networking, research, and advocacy. The purpose is to foster development and growth of fundraising professionals committed to preserving and enhancing philanthropy. For information contact the organization president.

### ***International City Managers Association (ICMA)***

The Bush School's International City Management Association (ICMA) serves as the primary organization dedicated to introducing students to local government professions, establishing connections between city management theory and practice, and cultivating an inclusive learning community. ICMA hosts speakers within the city management field, attends skill-building conferences and events, and facilitates networking opportunities with those in the profession both in Texas and around the world. Joining our organization includes free student membership and event registration, as well as useful internship and job-seeking resources.

### ***Bush School Pride Network***

The Bush School Pride Network strives to create an equitable and inclusive environment for LGBTQIA+ students and allies in the Bush School. We want to empower and equip students to be their authentic selves at school and be welcomed into a safe space for them to talk about any issues they are facing, and develop friendships.

### ***The Ready Room***

The Ready Room is an online platform that will decrease space between intelligence consumers and academia. Featuring analytic pieces written by current and former Bush School students, guest contributors and other subject matter experts, the Ready Room will provide consumers with a central database on intelligence-related issues. Podcast episodes, hosted by Intelligence Studies professors, will highlight interviews with intelligence professionals and address a variety of issues. The Ready Room seeks to highlight the diverse perspectives and experiences of graduate students within the Intelligence Studies Program (ISP) at the Bush School of Government and Public Service. The Ready Room accomplishes this task by providing a platform for students to showcase their work, provide the audience with insights from future public servants, and further advance the Bush School brand within public and private sectors.

## **National Societies for Public Administration and Policy**

### ***Pi Alpha Alpha***

Pi Alpha Alpha is a highly selective national honorary society formed to recognize and promote excellence in the study and practice of public affairs and public administration. The Public Service and Administration Department will pay for the membership fee for eligible students upon graduation, making them alumni members of Pi Alpha Alpha. Membership criteria and information about Pi Alpha Alpha activities can be found on its website: <https://pialphaalpha.org/>

### ***American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)***

ASPA is the leading professional association in the field of public administration. ASPA offers numerous opportunities to interact with other public servants, and it provides a forum for academics and practitioners to share their knowledge and views about important issues. With a diverse membership made up of more than 10,000 practitioners, faculty and students, ASPA has become the primary venue for linking theory and practice within the field of public administration. For information about activities and membership, see ASPA's website at <http://www.aspanet.org>.

***Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)***

APPAM is the leading professional association in the field of public policy. APPAM is dedicated to improving public policy and management by fostering excellence in research, analysis, and education. For information about activities and membership see APPAM's website at <https://www.appam.org>.

***Nu Lambda Mu***

This international honor society was established by the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council to recognize students dedicated to the study of nonprofit management, philanthropy, and social entrepreneurship/enterprise. Its mission is to advance the study of nonprofit organizations and their function in society and to promote scholarly achievement among those who engage in these academic pursuits. For information about activities and membership, see ASPA's website at <https://www.nonprofit-academic-centers-council.org/nu-lambda-mu/>

**Texas A&M University Student Organizations**

In addition to the various Bush School and national organizations, there are numerous University organizations where students may seek fellowship and pursue their intellectual, social, and civic interests. For a complete listing of the organizations on campus go to the student activities website at <http://studentactivities.tamu.edu>.

### **Developing Leaders for Public Service**

The Bush School defines *leadership* as—the art of influencing people, organizations, and institutions to accomplish missions that serve the public interest.

The Public Service Leadership Program (PSLP) is a two-year program that integrates and synchronizes student leadership knowledge, skills, attributes, and values development. At the Bush School, leadership education happens three ways: through the curriculum (courses, workshops, and lectures focusing on leadership and management practices), experiential learning (internships, public service organization, and student government association), and self-study (individual leadership plans, assessments, and portfolios).

#### **Leadership Assessments**

Bush School students are provided an opportunity to gain self-awareness through participation in leadership assessments that provide valuable and applicable information pertaining to personal leadership strengths, personality type, learning styles, communication and teamwork. Results of these assessments are applied to students'

Individual Leadership Plans. The PSLP staff provides counseling and coaching regarding scoring of the assessments and/or assistance in identifying resources for improving leadership potential.

#### **Leadership Skill and Professional Development**

Bush School students participate in professional development seminars, workshops, and assessments throughout the year, designed as hands-on, experiential learning opportunities. They complement the academic curriculum of the Bush School and prepare students for their internships, public service careers, group research projects, and leadership roles in student governance and student-led public service projects.

#### **Conversations in Leadership**

Each semester current and former state, national, and international leaders provide guest lectures and seminars for Bush School students. These prominent individuals discuss their experiences as leaders in public service in informal settings that provide opportunities for question and answer sessions.

The leadership program supports the efforts of faculty and students who sponsor these speakers for Bush School conversations and highly encourages attendance at these sessions. Leadership topics covered during these sessions will normally complement topics addressed during the professional development seminars and workshops.

#### **Individual Leadership Plan**

The Individual Leadership Plan is an important tool for students' leadership development while at the Bush School. The document serves as a template for planning life-long development for careers in public service. Students draft an initial leadership development plan during their first semester at the Bush School; then they are strongly encouraged to periodically discuss their individual leadership plan during a coaching session with Public Service Leadership Program staff and/or faculty advisors.

#### **Dean's Certificate in Leadership**

The Dean of the Bush School and the Public Service Leadership Program provide an opportunity for students who seek an in-depth focus on leadership development to obtain a

dean's Certificate in Leadership. Students who choose to pursue the certificate will develop a strong relationship with PSLP staff through coaching sessions, development planning and intensive leadership training. Information about the Certificate in Leadership will be shared with students at orientation. The Dean's Leadership Certificate is available to both in residence students enrolled in the INTA and PSAA departments and to students in the EMPISA program.

### **Capstone Project Consultation**

In your second year, you will be working in small groups to complete a capstone project. The leadership program offers consultation workshops for capstone groups to participate in. The focus is on team dynamics, specifically identifying the potential strengths and weaknesses of the group. Two assessments can be utilized and they can be used together or individually. The Strengths assessment helps students to understand their individual talents and how that relates to their team. We analyze the team's potential strengths and weaknesses and compile a team profile. The second assessment that is valuable for capstones is the MBTI. This assessment helps individuals understand how they communicate, handle conflict and stress, and how they gather information and make decisions. Capstones interested in this service should contact the leadership program directly.

## **Bush School Writing Program**

The Bush School values excellence in writing and seeks to equip its students with the skills to develop their thoughts in clear, cogent documents. The school recognizes that having knowledge and experience provides little value without the ability to communicate effectively with others. Today's leaders must be able to move beyond knowledge of facts and must possess broad-reaching skills and abilities. They must be able to think analytically; they must be able to solve problems; they must be able to work with and motivate people; and they must be able to write and speak effectively. Communication skills affect your career.

### **Instructional opportunities to improve writing skills**

As a graduate student in the Bush School, you have several ways in which to receive instruction to improve your writing skills. The following forms of assistance are offered.

#### **Capstone Project Consultation**

When you are ready to begin your capstone project the second year at the Bush School, contact the writing program director who will help your group develop the writing skills needed to prepare the final deliverables. The process begins with defining the communication needs of the client, including the supporting documents, preparing a management plan for completing the work on time and within the expected guidelines, and delivering the final product(s) as proposed. We also offer workshops that "coach" students in the final stages of the writing process: editing for layout and organization, summary and coherence, and style and convention. If the document needs attention regarding content development, accuracy, sources, or other major issues, we encourage the capstone group to address these issues with their capstone advisor before completing a final review. See the Bush School Writing website on [Capstones](#).

#### **Writing Workshops**

Writing workshops are provided at the request of instructors whose students are completing writing assignments in their courses. Your instructor will schedule these and will let you know when these are offered. Students may also request workshops on topics they believe will help them improve their writing skills. Topics may include writing forms (e.g., memos, briefs, and reports), writing style (e.g., clarity and brevity), organization (e.g., message-driven communication), as well as topics relating to a particular assignment.

#### **[Bush School Writing website](#)**

This site contains resources for helping TAMU Bush School students prepare their writing assignments and prepare written materials for academic and workplace contexts.

#### **The ePortfolio Project and Medal of Excellence**

While pursuing the [Medal of Excellence](#) is voluntary, all Bush School students in either the International Affairs or the Public Service and Administration degree programs are encouraged earn it. Requirements for the Medal include several steps and are described in the [Award Description](#). Students who satisfactorily complete the requirements and whose ePortfolio passes committee review will be awarded an engraved Bush School Medal of Excellence that may be worn at graduation. They will receive the medal and a certificate at an awards ceremony held in the spring of the year they graduate.

By earning the Bush School Medal of Excellence, graduate students take advantage of educational and experiential opportunities that equip them to contribute positively to the professional world. Beginning with the workshops required for creating a well-developed

ePortfolio (or with completing the [BUSH 602](#) course), students also learn writing skills that apply to both academic and workplace writing. In addition, the ePortfolio can be used to communicate to prospective employers the skills and experiences relevant to the type of work the student is pursuing.

**BUSH 602: Writing for the Medal of Excellence**

This course, offered in the fall semester only, is designed to help both first- and second-year students work toward the Medal of Excellence while enhancing their writing skills. Students in the course meet in-person each Thursday from 4:40 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. in the Allen building. This is a zero-credit course, meaning that the course title and grade earned by the student appears on the student's transcript, but the course does not count toward the hours needed for the student's degree plan. The course is offered at no additional cost to the student. Students may enroll in the course through Howdy. For more information, contact the course instructor Cindy Raiser at [c-raisor@tamu.edu](mailto:c-raisor@tamu.edu) or go to the [Bush School website course description](#).

## **Academic, Professional, and Personal Integrity**

### **Honor Code**

The Texas A&M University *Graduate Catalog* states: “All Texas A&M University students, graduate and undergraduate, part-time or full-time, in residence or in distance education, are expected to follow the guiding rule of the Aggie Honor Code: ‘*An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.*’ (page 205).

Some graduate students may contend that they do not regard themselves as “Aggies” in the traditional, popular sense associated with that nickname, and therefore do not feel bound by the Honor Code. It should be understood that with regard to the Honor Code, “Aggie” is an abbreviation for “student at Texas A&M University.” Therefore, the code does apply to every enrolled student at Texas A&M and every student is bound by the Honor Code.

The Aggie Honor System Office (AHSO) administers the Texas A&M University Honor System. The AHSO it has the authority to create processes and operating procedures to implement the Honor System and to enforce the code including any violations of student rules governing academic misconduct. The AHSO is the central office responsible for maintaining records and for coordinating communication, prevention, training, remediation, and adjudication efforts for the Texas A&M University Honor System. Additionally, the AHSO provides assistance to members of the University community when questions or concerns arise pertaining to academic misconduct. Finally, it oversees the operations and functioning of the Honor Council, a body of students and faculty established to hear and adjudicate honor cases. Further information regarding the Aggie Honor Code may be found at the Aggie Honor System Office website: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>.

### **Principled Leadership and Professionalism**

The mission statement of the Bush School includes a commitment “to empower and equip future leaders to meet the challenges of a dynamic world.” The school also seeks to foster a strong sense of civic professionalism among its students preparing for careers in public service. As members of the Bush School community, all students—together with faculty and staff—are encouraged to practice a professional orientation, principled leadership, and to study ways to incorporate this perspective into their future professional lives. Students and faculty working together will seek to find ways to make this vital element of the Bush School mission applicable in their daily lives. As a point of departure, professionalism and principled leadership can be understood to involve:

- Doing what you think is right, regardless of what is expedient
- Treating everyone (subordinates, peers, and superiors; close associates and strangers) with respect
- Giving your best in everything you do (even when the assignment is uninteresting)
- Helping any group of which you are a part to define and realize shared goals

### **Academic Misconduct**

Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the student rules of Texas A&M University. They can be found at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/>. Particular attention should be given to understanding what constitutes Academic Misconduct. The Aggie Honor System Office identifies five categories of misconduct:

- Cheating (e.g., copying answers on an exam from another student or prohibited source)

- Fabrication (e.g., making up data)
- Falsification (e.g., deliberately misrepresenting facts, distorting information to give a knowing false account)
- Plagiarism (e.g., presenting the work of another without proper acknowledgement)
- Multiple Submission (e.g., submitting the same material for grades in separate courses)

Further explanation of each of these types of academic misconduct can be found at <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Rules-and-Procedures/Rules/Honor-System-Rules#Definitions>. Bush students should be aware of each of these categories of academic dishonesty and be committed to their avoidance. Two of these five types of misconduct (plagiarism and multiple submissions) are of particular concern to the Bush School because they are sometimes misunderstood. Failure to understand a rule is not an accepted defense in the case of violation. Therefore, it is important that every student be completely knowledgeable about them. See below:

### **Plagiarism**

The University Student Rules define plagiarism as: “The appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit.”

It does not matter whether the source is a book, article, website or another student’s paper. Moreover, plagiarism may occur even if the original author gives permission to use their material if a person uses another’s work without giving them credit, then a violation has occurred. “Giving appropriate credit” means using a proper citation to the source in the document. Plagiarism is an extremely serious form of academic dishonesty and will have severe consequences for any individual who engages in such practices including course failure and dismissal from the Bush School and the University. It is critically important that each student understand the correct manner in which to cite material quoted or paraphrased from another source including material drawn from public or electronic sources.

If a student is uncertain as to where and how to acknowledge material drawn from another source, it is imperative that he or she obtain guidance from the appropriate faculty member or the Bush School writing consultant before making a presentation or submitting a paper that uses material from others. (Also see the “Writing Style Guide” section below.) Students working together on team projects should be careful to make certain that other members of their group have conformed to correct citation practices. Failure to do so can make all members of the group responsible for a collectively submitted work. It is important that everyone understand that plagiarism is not only about academic integrity, it is also about intellectual property rights and respect for others.

### **Multiple Submissions**

A multiple submission violation involves using one’s own work more than once for separate grades. According to the Aggie Honor System Office: “Submitting substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without the authorization from the instructor of the class for which the student submits the work.” Suppose you have written a term paper on a particular topic for a course one semester. Then you want to write on the same topic in a later course. You should first inform the instructor of your past work and explain how you propose to expand and elaborate upon the initial work. If the instructor agrees, the key is to make certain that you briefly summarize your previous analysis and then provide an extensive new development of the topic. It is not appropriate to submit the previous work as a major portion of the new document.

## **Appendix A: Academic Calendars**

Current and future semester calendars may be found at the following sites:

### **Academic Calendar**

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.tamu.edu/academic-calendar>

### **Master's Non-Thesis Option Dates and Deadlines**

<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines>

### **Graduate and Professional Studies**

<https://grad.tamu.edu/>

## **Appendix B: Campus Information**

### **Housing**

Most graduate students live off-campus, although limited on-campus housing is available in University-owned apartments. Numerous apartments, duplexes, and rental houses are within a few minutes' drive, bike, ride, or walk from the campus. Texas A&M also maintains an extensive bus system that links many housing areas to the campus. Many graduate students find sharing an apartment is an economical choice, with most two-bedroom apartments having monthly rental rates of \$500-\$800. The Texas A&M University Off-Campus Student Services Office has resources available to help locate available housing. You can also visit <https://grad.tamu.edu/aggie-life/living-in-aggieland>.

### **Graduate and Professional School**

Texas A&M University  
204 Nagle Hall  
College Station, TX 77843  
979-845-3631  
[grad@tamu.edu](mailto:grad@tamu.edu)

### **Department of Residence Life**

Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX 77843  
888-451-3896  
[housing@tamu.edu](mailto:housing@tamu.edu)  
<https://reslife.tamu.edu/>

### **Health Services/Insurance**

Students without health insurance can obtain student coverage through University Sponsored plans. These insurance plans are available to all Texas A&M students enrolled for at least 6 credit hours or 1 credit hour where the University considers the student full time. Information may be found at <https://uhs.tamu.edu/medical/insurance.html>.

International students are required to have health insurance as well as evacuation and repatriation coverage. International Student Services (ISS) is responsible for verification. For more information, please visit: <https://iss.tamu.edu/Health-Insurance>

### **Bus Operations**

Transit Services provides a variety of on-and off-campus services for the Texas A&M community. On-campus service is free to all students, faculty, staff and visitors to Texas A&M. On-campus service consists of six routes that move passengers from point to point around campus. Off-campus service, covered by the transportation fee, is used to transport students, faculty and staff to and from campus. Off-campus service consists of fourteen routes that cover Bryan and College Station. Para transit service is provided for our permanently or temporarily disabled patrons. It requires that an application be filed with and approved by the Transportation Services ADA coordinator. Charter services are also available for University and student organizations. On-campus and off-campus shuttle route maps can be downloaded at <http://transport.tamu.edu/>.

### **Student Information System**

The MyRecord application is part of Compass, the new student information system, and is provided to students by the Office of the Registrar. This computer-based system can be used to update local and permanent addresses, check class schedules, view the availability of course sections, view the student billing statement, conduct an academic degree audit, or check for registration and transcript blocks. MyRecord can be accessed from the Howdy portal at <http://howdy.tamu.edu>. Students will need their NetID and password to log on to the system.

### **Student Counseling Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

Counseling and Psychological Services offers personal, academic, career, and emergency counseling. Services and programs of CAPS are primarily funded by student service fees and confidentiality is protected to the limits provided by law. Information regarding the Student Counseling Service may be obtained in the *Graduate Student Handbook*, at the CAPS website (<https://uhs.tamu.edu/index.html>), or at the counseling office at 979-845-4427. After hours, weekends, and holidays, call Student Counseling HelpLine at 979-845-2700 (V/TTY).

### **International Student Services**

International Student Services provides counseling, assistance, and information in the areas of immigration and employment regulations for international students; advising on personal, cross-cultural, settling-in, and financial issues; and promotion of voluntary cultural exchanges between domestic and international students through dinners, club activities, seminars, visiting lecturers, and cultural displays. International Student Services may be reached at 979-845-1824 and <http://iss.tamu.edu/>. The *Graduate Student Handbook* can be consulted for more information. All international students are expected to be familiar with U.S. laws and regulations pertaining to their visa status. It is the student's responsibility to comply with all INS rules and regulations. Failure to stay in compliance with U.S. laws may result in deportation or non-renewal of the F-1 Visa. If an international student fails to comply with INS rules and regulations the Bush School is powerless to intervene regardless of the student's academic standing or progress in completing the degree requirements. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

### **Campus Rules and Policies**

All students are expected to comply with Texas A&M University Student Rules <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/>.

## **Appendix C: Important Guidelines for Student Behavior**

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism and academic cheating are serious offenses that can result in severe punishment, up to and including dismissal from the Bush School. Although the writing consultant will discuss plagiarism and how to avoid it, students are ultimately responsible for using appropriate documentation in their written work. Students should consult with their professors or the writing consultant about when and how to cite sources used in research. When in doubt, students should err on the side of safety. For a description of academic dishonesty, the possible punishments associated with it, and the procedures in dealing with such cases, see Section 20, Part I of the *Texas A&M University Student Rules*.

### **About Student Rules**

Each student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with and comply with the *Texas A&M University Student Rules*. More specific rules, information, and procedures may be found in various publications pertaining to each particular service or department. When available, links have been provided to the appropriate websites.

The *Texas A&M University Student Rules* are broken down into three sections, with additional information provided in the appendices:

[Part I: Academic Rules](#) (Rules 1- 22 & 61)

[Part II: Student Life Rules](#) (Rules 23- 44)

[Part III: Student Grievance Procedures](#) (Rules 45- 60)

[Appendices](#)

### **Institutional Neutrality**

In order to maintain its integrity as a public institution, it is critical that Texas A&M maintain neutrality in regard to any partisan political activity. Texas A&M University will not discriminate against any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine, nor will it favor any political organization or doctrine over another. Texas A&M University cannot endorse, support or promote any political candidate (either incumbents or new office seekers, members of their staffs, or their campaign representatives) or any partisan political activity. Further, it is the intent and expectation of Texas A&M University that all faculty, staff, and students avoid any behavior that could reasonably be interpreted as official University endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities. Nothing in this rule should be construed to limit the right or ability of any member of the University community to express personal opinions or to exercise his or her right to engage in political activities outside his or her official capacity or affiliation with the University, within the limits of System Policy 07.01 Ethics and in compliance with System [Regulation 07.03.01](#)

### **Equal Opportunity and Harassment**

Texas A&M University and the Bush School are committed to providing an educational and work climate that is conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual. To fulfill its mission as an institution of higher learning, Texas A&M University encourages a climate

that values and nurtures collegiality, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation and world. The University also strives to protect the rights and privileges and enhance the self-esteem of all its members. Faculty, staff and students should be aware that any form of harassment and any form of illegal discrimination against any individual is inconsistent with the values and ideals of the University community and Title IX legislation. Information about Title IX can be found at <https://orec.tamu.edu/>.

Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or illegal discrimination are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units. Additionally, students are encouraged to report incidents of hate, bias, incivility, and any related issues at <https://stophate.tamu.edu/>. Students can also contact the Office of the Vice President-Division of Student Affairs at 979-845-4728 for additional support. Faculty members should contact the Office of the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost at 979-845-4274, and staff members should contact the Human Resources Department Employee Relations Office at 979-862-4027.

### **Stop Hate at the Bush School**

The students, faculty, and staff at the Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University strive to create a community and culture that is inclusive of all people, from all backgrounds. If you experience, witness, or learn of anything, whether in the classroom or in the hallways or activities of the Bush School, that inhibits this goal, we want to know! Simply click on the [button](#) here to report this information. The provided information will be shared with the Bush School's Assistant Dean for Career & Student Services who will follow-up accordingly. Please note, reports submitted through this site are not monitored 24 hours or when the Bush School is closed. If you are in an emergency situation that requires medical, psychological or police services, call 911. Do not use this reporting form if an immediate response is required.

### **Tell Somebody**

Often times after a tragedy, people come forward with information and observations that, in retrospect, may have signaled a larger issue. This information when viewed collectively may be helpful in preventing tragic events and initiating assistance to an individual. Texas A&M University is committed to a proactive approach and needs your help. As a member of this University community, if you observe any behavior that is concerning you may report the behavior using the [online report form](#) or by contacting one of the Special Situations Team members during business hours. The Special Situations Team is comprised of University faculty and staff charged with helping students, faculty and staff who are exhibiting concerning behavior. Even when there is no threat to harm, it is recommended to involve others to discuss concerning behavior.

- If you don't know whether to be concerned about a student's behavior, contact the [Dean of Student Life](#) at 979-845-3111.
- If you need to consult with someone about a student in emotional distress, contact the Counseling & Psychological Services at 979-845-4427.
- If you need to consult with someone about a student's disruptive behavior and the university conduct system, contact the [Student Conduct Office](#) at 979-847-7272.
- If you don't know whether to be concerned about a faculty member's behavior contact the [Dean of Faculties](#) at 979-845-4274.
- If you don't know whether to be concerned about a staff member's behavior contact [Human Resources](#) at (979) 862-4027

### **Students with Disabilities**

Texas A&M University provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to students with disabling conditions, as defined under the law, who are otherwise qualified to meet the

institution's academic requirements. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the Department of Student Life coordinates Texas A&M University's programs and efforts for the benefit of disabled students.

Students who have documented disabilities or believe they have a disability should be referred to Services for Students with Disabilities. This office has the responsibility for verifying the existence of a disability and suggesting what accommodations/modifications are appropriate. Services for Students with Disabilities may be reached at 845-1637 (V/TTY).

When there is a need for accommodation of a student's academic program, Services for Students with Disabilities will contact the student's classroom instructors regarding this need and direct the student to work with the classroom instructors to make specific arrangements. As needed, personnel from Services for Students with Disabilities will participate in discussions with the classroom instructor. Information about Disability Services can be found at <http://disability.tamu.edu/>.

### **Campus Carry**

New legislation concerning campus carry in the state of Texas took effect August 1, 2016. Please review updates and understand the rules associated with the implementation of this new law at the following website: <http://www.tamu.edu/statements/campus-carry.html>. Please see [University Rule 34.06.02.M1](#)

### **Appendix D: Emergency Evacuation Procedures**

1. You are responsible for your own safety! Stay calm – avoid panic and confusion.
2. Know the locations and operation of fire extinguishers.
3. Know how to report an emergency (9-911):

Your Name

Fire Location (Bldg. #1607, Floor #, Room #)

Building name: Allen Building

Size and Type of Emergency

Any additional information requested by the Operator

4. If you are not in immediate danger, also notify the Dean's Office, phone number 979-862-3469.
5. When the fire alarm sounds, make sure other personnel in your immediate area are aware of the alarm.
6. Inform visitors of pertinent information about evacuation procedures.
7. Close but DO NOT LOCK doors as you leave. Items requiring security may be placed in a locking file cabinet or desk drawer on the way out. Turn off unnecessary equipment, if possible.
8. Know the locations of primary and alternate exits. During an emergency, walk to the nearest exit and evacuate the building. NOTE: Do not use the elevators during a fire-related emergency!
9. Go to your assigned area of assembly\* outside the building and wait there. Do not leave the area unless you are told to do so.
10. Persons needing special assistance not able to exit directly from the building are to proceed to and remain in a stairwell vestibule. Inform evacuating occupants to notify the evacuation coordinator of your location. Fire Department personnel will evacuate occupants needing special assistance from the building.
11. Do not re-enter the building until you have been notified to do so. Emergency personnel often silence the alarm in order to communicate with each other. Silencing the alarm is NOT a signal for occupants to re-enter!

*\*Students typically go to the bus stop area on John Kimbrough Blvd. or out by the Bush pond in back; well away from the building*