**Dates & Deadlines**

Dec 1 Summer 2016 Financial Aid Application Available

Dec 3 Last Day of Classes

Dec 2-5 Sights and Sounds

Dec 3 StressLess Yoga Fest

Campus Recreation

Dec 4 Reading Day

Finals Begin 5pm

Dec 11 Final Exams End

Dec 11-12 Commencement

Dec 12 Residence Halls Close 6pm

Dec 16 Grades Available

Dec 22 Spring 2016 Registration Ends 5pm

Dec 23-Jan 3 University Closed for Holiday Break

Jan 4 University Officially Open

Jan 19 Spring Classes Begin

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**Performances, Events & Sports**

Dec 3 Latin Music Studies

Salsa Night

Dec 3 TX State Jazz Ensemble

“The Nutcracker”

Dec 5 TX State vs. Arkansas State Football

Dec 6 TX State Chorale

Handel’s “Messiah”

Dec 9 Aria & Concerto

Final Competition

Dec 13 Texas A&M-Commerce vs. TX State

Women’s Basketball

Dec 21 Howard Payne vs. TX State

Men’s Basketball

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Parent & Family Newsletter

December 2015

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TxState Home  Housing  Student Business Services  Registrar  Academic Calendar

parentandfamily@txstate.edu  512.245.4326  Connect with Facebook
Sights and Sounds

Every year during a very special week in December, the City of San Marcos hosts a winter carnival called Sights and Sounds at Plaza Park. If you’ve been looking for a reason to come back to San Marcos and visit with your student, this is the weekend to come!

Sights and Sounds provides an assortment of family friendly events. From carnival rides and games to an outdoor ice skating rink, there’s bound to be an activity that everyone can enjoy!

Sights and Sounds takes place this year December 2-5. Tickets can be purchased at the gate for $10/day, $5/evening, and kids 12 and under are free! Profits are donated back to the community including schools, parks and other non-profits that need help with fundraising.

How to Help Your Student During Final Exams

Although some students may thrive under the pressure of final exams, many students find this time to be stressful and overwhelming. For new students, this could be their first time ever going through the process of taking college final exams. You may notice that your student is stressed, and unfortunately you cannot take the exams for them. Living apart from your student may make it seem difficult for you to offer support. However, there are a few things you can do to help ease your student through final exams.

First, just recognizing why your student is stressed is often helpful. Understand where they are coming from, and offer plenty of encouragement.

Second, feel free to share any final exam tips or tricks you may have. Many of you have also gone through this process and can offer advice on how you were able to succeed, just be careful not to overwhelm your student.

The Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC) and Alkek Library are free resources your students can utilize.

Next, be sure to check with your student’s final exam schedule before making plans for them to return home. Unless there is an emergency, most professors will stand by the original date for their final exam.

Finally, if there are issues from home that you would like to discuss with your student, see if you can wait until final exams are over. Try not to bother your student with anything that isn’t completely necessary.

Yes, final exams can be stressful, however it is only for a short period of time. You will be surprised at what understanding, encouragement and a bit of support from home can do to help your student be successful. For students who may be seeking additional comfort, the Counseling Center provides a multitude of quality support resources.

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE PDF

Holiday Gift Guide

Looking for that special university gift this holiday? The University Bookstore is well stocked in apparel for infants and siblings, all the way up to alumni and grandparents. With winter soon approaching, be sure to browse our Texas State hoodies, jackets and sweatshirts.

Starting in 2008, the university began offering unique holiday ornaments that promote pride in Texas State. Each year provides a new design that helps display our Bobcat Spirit. Ornaments are $19.95 each or $139 for the entire set of 8. All proceeds go towards student scholarships.

All proceeds through the university bookstore are reinvested back in to the programs, departments, facilities and services that enhance the quality of life and work for the university community.

Support your students by showing off your Bobcat Spirit!

SAVE the DATE
MARCH 5, 2016 FAMILY DAY

Does your on-campus student plan to stay during winter break?

Students who live on campus but are not returning home for winter break have the option to enroll in break housing.

Students may leave their belongings over winter break, please only sign up if you are staying on campus over the break.

Halls closed December 12, 2015 (6 pm) – January 17, 2016 (2 pm)

Only students at Blanco, Falls, Sayers, Chautauqua, Gaillardia, San Marcos, Laurel, and Lantana halls are offered break housing, others are only housed as space permits.

Students may either stay late, return early or stay the entire break. You may not sign up for days that are sporadic (here & there).

Visit the Break Housing page for specific information on sign up periods and fees.

Has your student registered for Spring?
Register before Dec. 22 to Avoid Late Fees
What to do During University Breaks?

The university has several breaks during the academic year. For some students this means a relaxing time off from classes and enjoying San Marcos. For other students, it could mean they are leaving the residence halls and returning home. Several of our students take part in a volunteer program offered through the university called Bobcat Break.

Bobcat Break works to help student volunteers become life-long active citizens in their own community by focusing on causes that affect our world, country and community.

From January 10-17, students will spend a week in one of the largest immigration and refugee areas in Dallas Texas. Here they will help develop cultural and financial workshops, prepare homes for families and assist agencies who serve new Americans.

Bobcat Break also offers volunteer opportunities during spring break in areas such as humanitarian, education and environmental.

Students who participate in Bobcat Break return home with an enhanced understanding of the root causes of issues, and how they can make an impact. Because of this, spaces are competitive.

If your student is interested in participating in a valuable volunteer experience, encourage them to sign up as soon as possible!

Changing Majors?

Many students may find after a few semesters, what they thought was a good major for them is no longer interesting. Or maybe they’ve realized what they thought was one major, is actually another. Whichever the case, some students may be returning home needing to have a conversation about changing their majors. While some parents may find the news to be celebratory, others may find it quite frightening. Know that your student is also most likely nervous about bringing up the conversation. The important thing for you to remember is don’t panic!

Here are a few things to consider:

There may be very good reasons for your student to change majors. Communicate with them. Why did they choose the major in the first place? Do their reasons make sense? What has changed?

Staying in the wrong major can be detrimental. Your student will not be motivated and may not do well.

Before your student makes the change, remind them that many students may go through a period when they question their choices. Doubts are natural.

Are there other alternatives to changing interests? Could your student consider a double major? A minor in another area?

Encourage your student to meet with an academic advisor if they have not already.

Continue to offer as much support for your student as possible. Remember, if your student is contemplating a major change, this might be a difficult time for them. The best thing you can do is listen, guide, and then step out of the way to let your student take control.