**Dates & Deadlines**

**January 2016**

- **Jan 1** 2016-2017 [FAFSA](#) Application Available
- **Jan 4** University Officially Open
- **Jan 4** Late Registration Begins
- **Jan 11** Financial Aid Refunds Begin
- **Jan 11** Emergency Loan Plan/Short Term Loan Available
- **Jan 14** Spring 2016 Payment Due
- **Jan 16** Late Schedule Changes Begin
- **Jan 17** Halls Re-Open for Returning Students
- **Jan 18** MLK Holiday (no class)
- **Jan 19** Spring Classes Begin
- **Jan 19** University Camp Reopens
- **Jan 27** Late Schedule Changes End

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**Performances, events & Sports**

- **Jan 20** MLK Jr. Commemoration Celebration
- **Jan 20** RA Applications Due
- **Jan 21** Mijung An Graduate Piano Recital
- **Jan 23** McNeese State vs. Texas State Women’s Tennis
- **Jan 24** LSA Bootcamp Digital Marketing
- **Jan 27** U.S. Army Brass Quintet Concert and Masterclass
- **Jan 27** Bobcat Career Prep

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**Parent & Family Newsletter**

Parent and Family

January 2016

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**Parent and Family Relations**

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Welcome Back!

Parent and Family Relations is happy to welcome everyone back! We hope you had a safe and fun holiday break. We are excited to have your students return to campus for what will be another great semester at Texas State. As a quick refresher, here are a few of the programs our office provides that your students can take advantage of this Spring:

Brilliant Bobcats workshop series topics include organization, goal setting, time management, test preparation, effective study habits, note taking, stress management, motivation and will power, and money management. The free workshops collaborate with several campus partners including Financial Aid, Academic Advising, Student Learning Assistance Center and the Writing Center.

The Bobcat Bond program is a mentoring program provided for second year students and above. Students are paired with mentors who serve as coaches, role models, advisors, guides and referral agents.

The Second Year Experience Program is part of the University's retention plan for sophomore and transfer students. The program coordinates with resources across campus to bring second year students educational and developmental events.

Our newest initiatives include our Students Who Are Parents program aimed to support students who are also mothers and fathers, as well as our Out of State Student program for students attending from outside of Texas.

For more information about any of our programs please visit Retention Management and Planning.

Family Day 2016

The date has been set! This Spring's Family Day event will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2016!

We are excited to be able to offer an array of activities this year that both you and your students will enjoy.

Our event will kick off with a keynote address by Dr. Mark Taylor, a recognized educator, expert, speaker and consultant. Dr. Taylor will discuss how different generations communicate and how to improve your communication with other generations.

The day will proceed with Texas State faculty presentations, a catered lunch, and end with a baseball game against Incarnate Word.

Tickets will go on sale starting Monday, January 25 and can be purchased on our Family Day page.

Be sure to visit our page routinely as we continue to flush out details for the event. We look forward to spending another great Saturday with you and your families!

MLK Commemoration Celebration

On January 20th, the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion provides and sponsors an MLK Freedom March and Celebration Program to honor the legacy of American civil rights leader Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The MLK Freedom March at Texas State begins at Old Main and culminates with a celebration program held at the LBJ Student Center Ballroom. The March is made up of local high school and Texas State students, organizations, faculty and staff to reenact marches similar to those conducted during the Civil Rights Movement.

The Celebration Program held in the ballroom honors Dr. King and other Civil Rights leaders and their impact on our civil liberties.

The March begins at 6:15pm with the Celebration Program beginning at 7pm.

The Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion sponsors many events throughout the year including the Celebration of the People Pavo, Powwow, Diwali, and Mama's Kitchen during Black History Month.
Unhappy with Last Semester Grades?

Some students may have returned home from winter break with the news that they were not as happy with their grades as they would have liked. Some students may have expected it, while for others it may have come as a shock. Fortunately, there are options for those students who are wanting to improve their course grade.

Texas State allows students to repeat a course for the possibility of improving the original grade. However, keep in mind that students will not be given additional credit for the repeated course. The second grade recorded will replace the first, and will also replace the first in GPA calculations. Any subsequent repeats will be included in the Texas State GPA as well. Only a Texas State course grade will replace a Texas State course grade, and only Texas State courses will be counted in the Texas State GPA. Courses from outside institutions will only be counted in the overall GPA.

For students seeking a bit of extra help in their courses, Texas State offers FREE tutoring services. Check out some of the services available here. Also, remember that professors are great resources too! Students should not hesitate to contact their professors if they have a specific question or are struggling with a concept.

Other study aid resources include Quizlet which allows you to create and share virtual flashcards, Khan Academy which provides an extensive library of science videos, and Citation Machine for ensuring proper source citations.

You can visit the study aids page for even more great study resources for your students!

What is Academic Probation/Academic Suspension?

The University requires that all students maintain a 2.00 GPA or greater per semester while enrolled at Texas State. Students who fall below the 2.00 GPA requirement for their first time will be placed on academic probation.

Students who are placed on academic probation are given two probationary semesters (spring and fall) to raise their GPA to 2.00 or greater. Advising holds are also placed on the records of all students who are on academic probation. These holds prevent students from registering for classes or changing their course schedules. Holds are removed once your student meets with an academic advisor.

Students who fail to meet the 2.00 GPA requirement after two probationary semesters will be placed on First Academic Suspension. Students placed on first academic suspension will not be able to enroll for classes for the period of one long semester (spring or fall). Students may appeal this decision to the dean or designee of their college, or to the Suspension Appeals Committee. If reinstated, students are given two probationary semesters in which to raise their GPA to 2.00 or greater.

Students who fail to meet the 2.00 GPA requirement after the additional two probationary semesters will be placed on Second Academic Suspension. The second suspension period will last two years. After the two-year suspension period, students may apply for re-admission to the University.

Please visit the Academic Probation and Academic Suspension page for further details.