

GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose of the Catalog

This catalog is the official bulletin of Texas A&M University-Kingsville for the years 2019-2020. It includes descriptions of academic programs and courses as well as regulations, fees, and policies in effect for those years. Fees and policies (except standards and requirements for degrees) are, however, subject to change.

The courses of instruction announced herein are those that are available for offering during the sessions of 2019-2020. Courses to be offered during any one semester or summer term are posted in the *Blue and Gold Connection (Web for Students/Faculty)* prior to registration for a particular semester or term. To meet evolving needs, the university does reserve the right to make changes in courses and to offer only those for which a sufficient number of students register.

The provisions of this catalog do not constitute a contract, express or implied, between any applicant, student, faculty or staff member of Texas A&M University-Kingsville or The Texas A&M University System. This catalog is for informational purposes only. The university reserves the right to change or alter any statement herein without prior notice. This catalog should not be interpreted to allow a student that begins his or her education under the catalog to continue the program under the provisions in the catalog.

Student Responsibility

Each student is responsible for knowing the academic regulations in the **Catalog**. Unfamiliarity with these regulations does not constitute a valid reason for failure to fulfill them.

Equal Opportunity Policy

In compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Executive Order 11246, Texas A&M University-Kingsville is open to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran's status who are otherwise eligible for admission as students. Texas A&M University-Kingsville does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to its programs.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and no applicant or employee will be discriminated against because of race, color, age, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran's status in any personnel action. This university will not knowingly enter into contractual agreements for services or supplies with any firm failing to follow fair employment practices.

Contact the Compliance Office, Lewis Hall, Room 130 - (361) 593-4758 for additional information.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and Amendments Thereto

This act is designated to protect the privacy of education records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their education records and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Students have the right to file complaints with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office (FERPA) concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the act.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville accords all rights under the law to all students. No one outside the institution shall have access to nor will the institution disclose any information, other than directory information, from a student's education records without the written consent of the student, except to personnel within the institution, to officials of other institutions in which the student seeks to enroll, to persons or organizations providing student financial aid, to accrediting agencies carrying out their accreditation function, to persons in compliance with judicial order and to persons in an emergency in order to protect the health or safety of students or other persons. All these exceptions are permitted under the Act.

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, information classified as "Directory Information" may be released to the general public without the consent of the student. The following is designated as directory information:

Student's name, a local and home address, telephone number, major or minor, enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time), classification, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees, honors, and awards received, and most recent educational agencies or institutions attended.

Students reserve the right to suppress any information from being released without their consent. Any student wishing to withhold any or all of this information should notify the Office of the Registrar. The university assumes that failure on the part of any student to specifically request the withholding of directory information indicates individual approval for disclosure.

Standards of Campus Conduct

Members of the university community assume full responsibility for compliance with Texas laws and for proper self-conduct. In addition to behaving according to the ordinary conventions of adult society, members of the university community are bound by university rules and regulations conducive to creating a positive campus atmosphere and general academic well-being.

The code for student conduct is set forth in the *Student Handbook*. Specific attention is given there to rules addressing academic misconduct, hazing, sexual harassment and substance abuse, including alcohol abuse and the illicit use of drugs. Grievance procedures and guidelines for sanctions are outlined.

Standards of conduct for university employees are detailed in the Texas A&M University *System Policies*. The Texas A&M University-Kingsville *Faculty Handbook* sets forth rules and regulations governing academic freedom and responsibility, sexual harassment, substance abuse, conflict of interests, research policies and other professional issues. Grievance procedures are set forth there.

In order to create a healthy and pleasant atmosphere, a campus-wide smoking policy designates only certain areas for smoking.

Hazing

The Education Code defines hazing as “any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization.” The statute contains a list of conduct which constitutes hazing.

Hazing is a criminal violation under Texas law. A person may be found guilty of criminal conduct for hazing, encouraging hazing, permitting hazing, or having knowledge of the planning of hazing incidents and failing to report in writing his/her knowledge to the Dean of Students.

Both failing to report hazing and hazing that does not result in serious bodily injury are Class B misdemeanors. Hazing that results in serious bodily injury is a Class A misdemeanor. Hazing resulting in a death is a state jail felony. An organization found guilty of hazing may be fined \$5,000 to \$10,000 or, for incidents causing personal injury or property damage, an amount double the loss or expenses incurred because of the hazing incident.

It is not a defense to prosecution that the person hazed consented to the hazing activity.

Any person reporting a specific hazing incident to the Dean of Students or other appropriate institutional official is immune from civil and criminal liability unless the report is in bad faith or malicious.

This state law does not limit or affect the right of an educational institution's right to enforce its own penalties against hazing.

Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act, Public Law 101-542 and Amendments Thereto

This act is designed to provide prospective or entering students with information concerning:

1. campus security policies and procedures, security services available, campus crime statistics and alcohol and drug use policies;
2. completion or graduation rate of full time certification-seeking or degree-seeking undergraduate students; and
3. graduation rate of student athletes who receive athletic scholarships.

This information is contained in an annual report available in the library.

University Assessment

Students enrolled at Texas A&M University-Kingsville are required to participate in university assessment activities for the evaluation and improvement of university programs and curricula.

Supplementary University Publications

Faculty Handbook (published by the Academic Affairs Office)

Student Handbook (published by the Student Affairs Office)