

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY FACTS

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- Texas' first public institution of higher learning opened October 4, 1876
- Has awarded more than 330,000 degrees since the university opened
- One of a select few academic institutions in the nation to hold triple federal designations as a Land-Grant, Sea-Grant and Space-Grant university
- Ranks as the nation's sixth largest university in enrollment, with more than 48,000 students on the main campus - plus hundreds of students from the Galveston campus who were displaced by Hurricane Ike
- Consistently ranks among the country's top 20 universities in enrollment of National Merit Scholars, with more than 600 of these high-achieving students currently on campus
- Ranks among the top public universities by *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2008 "America's Best Colleges" issue and among its "best values" ratings, with other national and international publications, including *Kiplinger's*, also giving the university high marks for academics and value
- Conducts research valued at more than \$550 million annually, placing it among the top 20 universities nationally
- Operates branch campuses in Galveston and in the Middle East state of Qatar and centers in Mexico City and Castiglione Fiorentino, Italy. (The Qatar campus is fully funded by the Qatar Foundation.)
- Serves as home to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, which opened in 1997 and has attracted more than 1 million visitors
- Holds membership in the Association of American Universities, a highly selective organization that promotes high standards for teaching, research and scholarship at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels
- Serves as home to one of the largest chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and largest academic honor society, with its Kappa of Texas chapter having more than 150 members
- Ranks at the top among the state's public institutions in student retention and graduation rates—among the leaders overall and for minority students, both African-American and Hispanic
- Has an endowment valued at more than \$5 billion, which ranks fourth among U.S. public universities and 10th overall; exceeded its \$1 billion goal by more than \$400,000 in its recent capital campaign
- Has formal agreements for collaborative research and faculty/student exchanges with more than 130 institutions in 52 countries, with active research programs on all seven continents
- Ranks among the top U.S. universities in attracting international students, with more than 3,700 from 120 countries currently enrolled

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FACULTY

- More than 80 percent of the 2,800 faculty members hold doctoral degrees; more than 300 hold endowed professorships or chairs
- Includes winners of the Nobel Prize, National Medal of Science, Pulitzer Prize, World Food Prize and Wolf Prize, with 26 holding membership in the prestigious National Academy of Sciences or the National Academy of Engineering

STUDENT BODY

- In addition to their formal academic studies, Texas A&M's more than 48,000 students have abundant opportunities to round out their education and hone their leadership skills through participation in more than 800 campus organizations, including the Corps of Cadets. More than 14,000 Aggies have part-time jobs, serving in a variety of positions that help them learn—and learn to lead—and that also benefits the university. About 75 percent of the student body receives some form of financial aid, sharing in more than \$420 million annually

CORPS OF CADETS

- Includes the nation's largest uniformed student body and commissions more officers than any other institution, except for the nation's service academies, with approximately 1,800 men and women participating on a voluntary basis. ROTC programs lead to commissions in all four branches of the military: Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps

TRADITIONS

- Aggie Spirit—an intangible that binds together students and former students in a unique camaraderie
- The 12th Man—students stand during football games to show support for the team—and for fellow Aggies—a personification of the Aggie Spirit
- Muster—Aggies worldwide gather each April 21 to renew friendships and honor those who have died since the previous year's Muster. The largest Muster is held on campus, but hundreds of others are held throughout the state, nation and abroad

- Silver Taps—unique silent campus memorial service held on the first Tuesday of any month during the regular academic year when one or more students died during the previous month
- Yell Practice—Midnight rally on eve of football games—held at Kyle Field for home games (and at announced sites for games away from campus) to underscore school spirit and rehearse “yells” (Aggies yell; they don't cheer)

POINTS OF INTEREST

- George Bush Presidential Library and Museum
- Bonfire Memorial
- Appelt Aggieland Visitor Center
- Sanders Corps of Cadets Center
- Cushing Memorial Library (Archives & Special Collections)
- Liberty Bell replica in Academic Building rotunda
- Historic Texas cattle brands in Kleberg Center
- Memorial Student Center
 - MSC Flag Room
 - Medal of Honor Displays
 - Art Galleries
 - Historical Wall Carvings
- Texas A&M Sports Museum (at Kyle Field)

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