

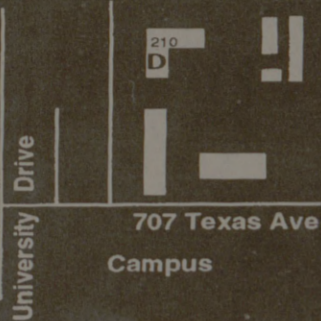
## Let's Talk

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• From the beginning of one's college career to the end, Admissions and Records is there to lend students a hand.

BY TRAVIS IRBY  
The Battalion

In terms of value to A&M students, the office of admissions and records may be immeasurable.

It is the first part of Texas A&M students come in contact with, because it is responsible for sending out applications to prospective students and then determining whether those students should be accepted by the University.

Once those students are accepted, the admissions and records department helps coordinate New Student Conferences to get students registered for class. It also puts together course catalogs and semester schedules designed to help students pick the right classes to take.

The office is actually separated into three sections across campus. The sections are admissions, records and registrar's office and academic services.

Admissions handles the recruitment and admission of all students, undergraduate and graduate. The office processes the applications sent to A&M.

The registrar's office handles the creation, archiving and distribution of students primary academic transcripts. It also oversees the University's formal academic records, grade reports registration and commencement.



Lanicia Chaloupka, a freshman genetics major and a worker at the Undergraduate Degree Audit Office, reviews application materials with Matt Hader, a senior industrial distribution, and Amy Savoy, a senior accounting major.

Academic services is the third tier in the office of Admissions and Records. It works in conjunction with the first two offices and individual colleges, to put together catalogs, class schedules and commencement programs.

It helps monitor the approval process for all new programs.

With all the duties and responsibilities, Admissions and Records is busy throughout most of the year.

Gary Engelgau, executive director for the office of Admissions and Records, said this has been an active year.

"We are busy all year accepting applications," Engelgau said. "Though now the fall class is settled, we will soon start sending out the recruiters to high schools."

The office sends recruiters out to various high schools around the state in an effort to spread the word about A&M.

The recruitment trips are coordinated through the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. Engelgau said there are three types of high schools targeted by the recruiters.

"The first group are comprised of the major feeders, which send us the most applicants; the second group are the emerging feeders, and the third schools where we get very few applicants," Engelgau said.

After students are admitted and have accepted the invitation to A&M, they need to become acquainted with the University.

This is where the New Student Conference comes into play. All incoming freshmen are required to attend, as the conference is where they register for classes.

There are 12 conferences, each one averaging about 620 students.

Stephanie Tefas, New Students Conference coordinator, said

A&M has a unique student orientation program.

"A&M's program is only about a day," she said. "Most other schools' programs are only about a day."

"We combine academic and freshman orientation into one program. Freshmen begin their initial meetings in Harrington Hall, followed by their individual meetings with their advisors. Students also have the opportunity to take credit by exam during the conference."

The conference also includes a booklet called "Welcome to A&M" which is designed to help students get an idea of all A&M has to offer. The booklet is filled with information on organizations, student services and school traditions.

The Admissions and Records Office is an organization that helps students from the beginning of their college career to

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## UPD aims to protect and educate student body

BY GRAY WHITTEN  
The Battalion

Upon arriving at Texas A&M University or any other institution, many students may feel they are in a perfect new world where they are immune to crime and abuse.

The University Police Department has the job of teaching newcomers how they can best protect themselves and their belongings, because although Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal, not everyone on campus is an Aggie.

Efforts to educate Aggies begin at Fish Camp, where Aggies-to-be are warned of the potential dangers involved with college life, Bob Wiatt, director of security and University Police at A&M, said.

"We have a three-man crime prevention unit ... They preach and pray that you understand what safety is."

While preliminary measures are helpful, the University Police Department must still rely on old-fashioned police work to reduce the amount of crime in the area that means manpower is needed to increase our compliance officers. We're up to 53 compliance officers, now that we have with the much larger area of Campus," Wiatt said. "We're responsible for the security of the School library and museum."

The UPD employs 65 commissioned security officers and a number of support staff members provide 24-hour security coverage of the year, department said. The jurisdiction of the department extends to the 5,500-acre over 500 buildings owned by A&M, Easterwood Airport and included in their authority.

"We've also established a person bicycle patrol to give greater mobility on campus that more areas are being covered by automobile traffic," Wiatt said.

Services that new students not be aware of when they arrive include nighttime escorts to Fish Camp on campus and foot patrols throughout the campus during dark hours.

UPD dispatch, which is always open, can be reached at 845-5555 and the campus emergency number is available by dialing 9-911.

Numbers, used with a network of outdoor phones, add a factor of safety that compliments regular patrol methods are helpful to the police force, but there will always be crime in the world.

To combat this, Wiatt lists simple methods as the heart of the program.

"We try to increase safety awareness," Wiatt said. "We tell students think nothing on Earth can hurt them here on college campus."

"On our part, we sometimes use increased force, we have more aware that the kids are there and they are vulnerable. Most of all we must enforce the law in this area," he said. "When we see the guilty parties, we have to deal with them as the law prescribes."

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