

Freshmen get start from TEAM program

By ELIZABETH RAINES
THE BATTALION

The Blinn Transfer Enrollment at A&M (TEAM) program, a two-year collaborative effort between Texas A&M and Blinn College, gives students a head start on being Aggies, said Blinn Vice President Barbara Pearson.

From the A&M waiting list, 371 students formed the inaugural Blinn TEAM, taking three to five hours of classes at A&M and nine to 12 hours at Blinn for four semesters in the TEAM program. If the student has a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade-point ratio after two years in the program, they automatically will be transferred to A&M. Although students in the TEAM program may apply for early transfer, there will be no guarantee of acceptance until a student has completed a total of 60 hours — 15 at A&M and 45 at Blinn.

"Blinn has an outstanding history of working with Texas A&M and this TEAM pro-

gram," Pearson said. "This furthers that cooperative effort to the benefit of both our students. We have so many students who plan to transfer to Texas A&M."

TEAM student Patty Gibbs said she chose Blinn TEAM over going to Southwest Texas State University.

"I really want to graduate from Texas A&M, and Blinn TEAM lets me do this," Gibbs said. "You are basically considered an A&M student, and you get all the benefits of being one."

Students in the program pay fees to both schools to gain the benefits of both campuses, including access to A&M's library resources, the Student Recreation Center, Beutel Health Center, food services and sporting events. The students also were given the option to live on campus and join the Corp of Cadets.

For Ashley Lloyd, attending classes at both A&M and Blinn College will not be a problem.

"TEAM Blinn has been a blessing for me because, although I had been accepted to

University of Texas at Austin, I was going to go to Blinn and try to transfer into A&M," Lloyd said. "When I got the application to do Blinn TEAM, I was so excited. I love it. It is almost as though I am a full-time student at A&M."

Lloyd, who just returned from Fish Camp, said the TEAM program makes her feel like an A&M student.

"This is an awesome program," Lloyd said. "I felt like a regular A&M student. You can't even tell the difference [between TEAM students and A&M students]."

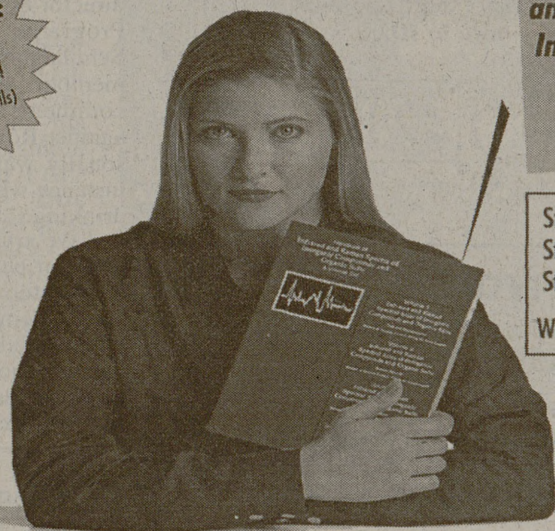
Faculty at both A&M and Blinn are enthusiastic about the program as well.

"I am very excited about the Blinn TEAM program because it provides a great opportunity for the students in making a seamless transition to Texas A&M," said Kriss Boyd, director of general academic programs at A&M. "It really looks like a win-win situation for both schools and the students."

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