

# MAKING THE GRADES: ACADEMIC TRANSITION TO TAMs

Summer Orientation  
Class of 2026



# AGENDA

**1 Meet the Academics Team**

**2 Semester & 2-Year Overview**

**3 Advice for Students**

**4 Staying at TAMS**

**5 TAMS & UNT Resources**

**6 Communication & FERPA**

**7 Summer Suggestions**

**8 Questions**



# ACADEMICS TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

## Academic Counselors:

**\*Kit Shattuck**

**\*Sydney McKinnis**

**Francine Hazy**

- First point of contact for any questions or concerns related to academics
- Offices located in McConnell Hall
- Email is the best way to contact each of us
- **Kit & Sydney** will be the Academic Counselors working with the Class of 2026

## Associate Dean,

### Admissions &

### Academics:

**Dr. Eric Gruver**

- ACs may include Dr. Gruver in emails and meetings as a source of additional advice and support
- Second point of contact for any questions or concerns related to academics
- Office located in Sage Hall
- Email is the best way to contact him
- Works with all TAMS students



# ACADEMICS TEAM INTRODUCTIONS, CONT.

## College Admissions Advisor:

### Mr. Jarred Stewart

- Important part of the college application process
- Office located in McConnell Hall
- Email is the best way to contact
- Works with TAMS students from their first spring semester until graduation



## Student & Program Coordinator:

### Ms. Cindy Hoffman

- Helps with enrollment, textbook orders, and much more
- Office located in Sage Hall
- Email is the best way to contact
- Works with all TAMS students



# ACADEMIC COUNSELING



## GRADES

ACs track grades during the semester to make sure students are making progress.

May set up meetings if grades show significant room for improvement.

## ATTENDANCE

Professors report attendance, tardiness, and behavior during class to ACs.

Students check in to classes using an electronic attendance system, which ACs monitor.

## PROFESSORS

ACs ask for syllabi and grade information from professors.

Will advocate for a student if they need support or accommodations in class.

## SUPPORT

ACs should be your first point of contact if you have any concerns and you're unsure how to address them.

Proactivity and transparency are crucial.

# WHAT TO EXPECT IN A SEMESTER

## SEMESTER BEGINS

AKA Syllabus Week. Students meet their professors and receive syllabi.



## FIRST ROUND OF EXAMS

Major exams in most classes within a 2-week span. Students may earn low grades as they adjust to the college workload.



## ROUTINE CONTINUES

Most classes have 3-4 unit exams per semester.



## FINALS WEEK

Busy time with many exams, due dates, and end-of-semester responsibilities (packing, move-out, returning textbooks).



# ADVICE: WHAT TO EXPECT IN A SEMESTER

## **SEMESTER BEGINS**

AKA Syllabus Week.  
Students meet their professors and receive syllabi.

Visit office hours.  
Get a head start on note-taking.  
Add exam dates and deadlines to planner.



## **FIRST ROUND OF EXAMS**

Major exams in most classes within a 2 week span.

Prepare consistently far in advance so you can avoid cramming.



## **ROUTINE CONTINUES**

Most classes have 3-4 unit exams per semester.

Adjust study routine and set aside more time if you are not earning the grades you want.



## **FINALS WEEK**

Busy time with many exams, due dates, and end-of-semester responsibilities.

Continue preparing consistently long before Pre-Finals Week begins.

# WHAT TO EXPECT OVER 2 YEARS AT TAMS

## FALL 1

Adjusting to college classes and life in McConnell Hall

Last chance to change track/pathway



## SPRING 1

First chance for students to take electives

Club leadership application process

College applications begin



## SUMMER

Optional summer research OR summer classes (retakes or electives)

College applications bootcamp



## FALL 2

College applications continue

Balancing classes with club leadership responsibilities



## SPRING 2

College applications and decisions

Senioritis

Big events like Prom, Senior Day, Rosecutting, and Commencement



# ADVICE: WHAT TO EXPECT OVER 2 YEARS AT TAMS

## FALL 1

Adjusting to college classes and life in McConnell Hall;  
Last chance to change track/pathway

Look for mentors.  
Develop and implement a system to stay organized.



## SPRING 1

First chance for students to take electives;  
Club leadership application process;  
College applications begin

Keep academics as a top priority.  
Don't bite off more than you can chew.



## SUMMER

Optional summer research OR summer classes;  
College applications bootcamp

Attend bootcamp.  
Follow the suggested college application timeline.



## FALL 2

College applications continue;  
Balancing classes with club leadership responsibilities

Academics are still the priority.  
Ask for help before you need it.



## SPRING 2

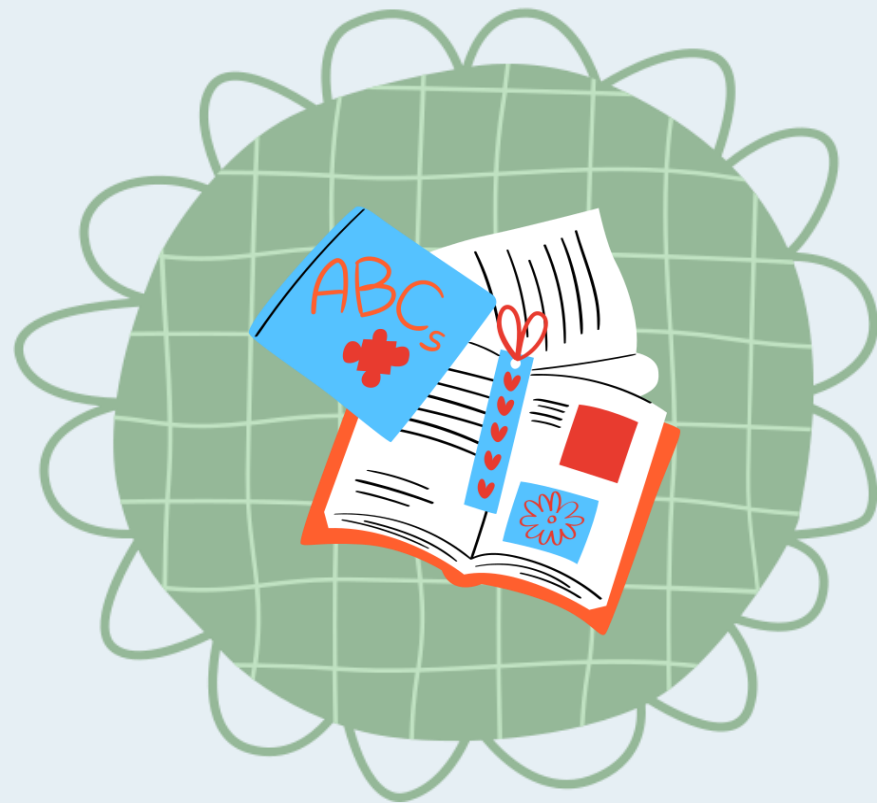
College applications and decisions; Senioritis;  
Big events

Build a solid foundation early in the semester so you can enjoy time with friends at the end of the semester.

# TAMS RESOURCES

## TAMS Academic Society

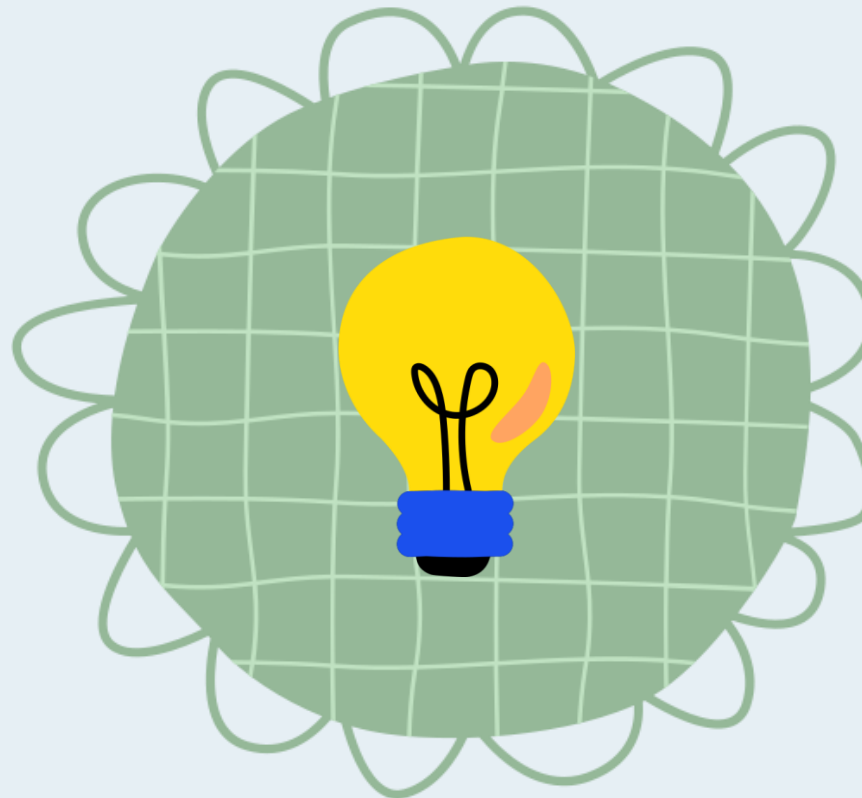
<https://www.tamsacademicsociety.com/>



Online resources, one-on-one tutoring, study groups

## Mental Health Counseling

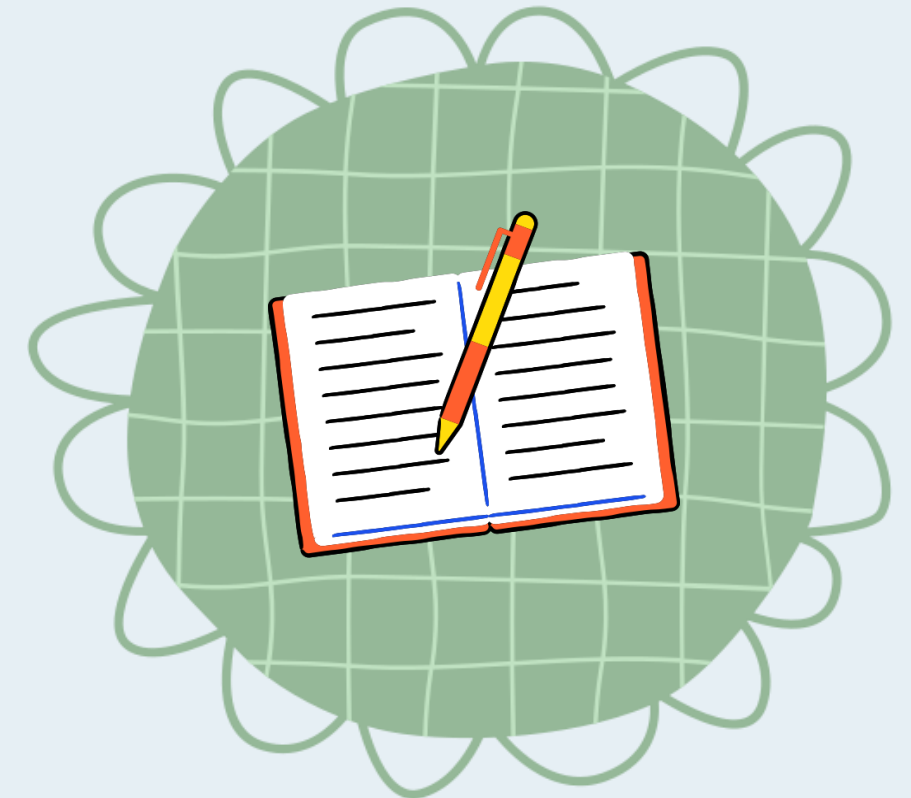
<https://tams.unt.edu/counseling.html>



Offers personal counseling and career counseling

## Academic Counseling

<https://tams.unt.edu/academics/academic-advising.html>



Finding resources, time management, study skills

# UNT RESOURCES\*

[Office of Disability Access](#)

**Professors & Teaching Assistants** (see class syllabus for office hours)

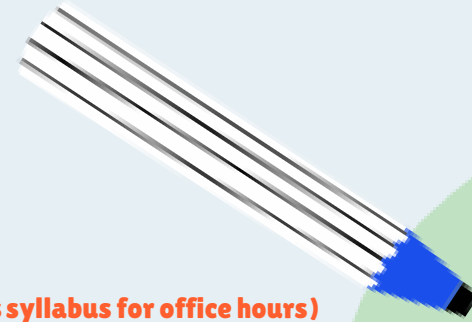
[Math Lab](#)

[Chemistry Resource Center](#)

[Physics Instructional Center](#)

[Writing Center](#)

[Technical Communication Lab](#)



All resources are free to TAMS/UNT students, so take advantage of what your tuition already covers!

Most tutoring centers offer drop-in tutoring, one-on-one tutoring, and online resources.

# COMMUNICATION & FERPA



## ACs → PARENTS

ACs will send Mid-Semester Grade Report to parents halfway through each semester.

We will also reach out if we have questions or concerns about a student's progress.

## PARENTS → ACs

Parents are welcome to contact ACs to check on a student's academic progress. We encourage (and expect) students to keep parents updated on all topics.

## FERPA

*Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*

TAMS students sign FERPA waivers so ACs can communicate with parents about grades, classes, etc.

## FERPA, CONT.

ACs serve as liaisons between UNT faculty and TAMS parents, so parents should not directly contact UNT faculty. Instead, contact an AC first.

# STAYING AT TAMS

## GRADES

TAMS Handbook will include full details but generally, students need to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0+.

Students will be placed on Academic Alert if they are at risk for not meeting minimum TAMS requirements.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Involvement in any form of academic dishonesty makes a student eligible for dismissal from TAMS.

Details available in TAMS Handbook.

Be proactive and report any suspicions to ACs.

## BEHAVIOR

Students are not automatically invited to return to TAMS.

Poor attendance, accumulation of academic points, and disciplinary infractions within McConnell Hall could make a student eligible for dismissal from TAMS.

# SUMMER SUGGESTIONS

- Rest and conserve your energy for the school year.
- Review the TAMS Handbook once available online.
- Reflect on your application and interview.
- Keep an eye out for the summer assignment.
- Contact Kit and Sydney to ask questions.





# Thank you for your attention!

## Time for Q & A!

Email [Kit.Shattuck@unt.edu](mailto:Kit.Shattuck@unt.edu) and/or [Sydney.McKinnis@unt.edu](mailto:Sydney.McKinnis@unt.edu)  
if you have additional questions.

