



CRIJ 4333 - White Collar Crime

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 101, CRN 18284

Instructor Information

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Office Hours:

Mon./Wed. 10:00-11:30

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** e-mail is the BEST method of contact

Times and Location

MWF 1:10pm-2:05pm in Bullock Hall 113

Course Description

This course will focus on the study of contemporary forms of white collar crime and its explanations, theories, and practices along with its investigation, adjudication, and regulation. This course also explores the law of economic and political crimes associated with white collar crime. Students will examine reported cases, case studies, and other materials to investigate the topic of white collar crime - thus gain a foundation for an understanding of this fascinating subject.

Social Sciences Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Additional Course Information

Statement of Accommodation and Special Needs

If you have a disability (e.g., visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability, etc.) which may influence your performance in this course, you must meet with the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to arrange for reasonable accommodations to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. If you require accommodations due to disability, please email DSS at disabilityservices@tamiu.edu or visit their campus location: Student Center 124. You will be provided an Accommodation Form indicating your accommodation needs for the Semester. Please present this form to me as soon as possible to ensure your accommodation needs are discussed, agreed upon, and provided.

Course Structure

This course is organized in a weekly format that aligns with the semester calendar. Each week will include in-class lectures, discussions, and activities designed to support your understanding of the course materials.

To supplement the face-to-face sessions, course materials will be posted on Blackboard, including weekly outcomes, required readings, assignments, and any additional resources. Students are expected to review these resources regularly and complete all assigned tasks by the posted deadlines.

Presentation slides and other supporting documents will be uploaded to Blackboard as needed. Class participation and engagement during scheduled meeting times are vital to succeeding in this course, and information covered in lectures and discussions will appear in assignments and exams.



Learning Activities

A variety of learning activities are designed to support the course objectives and build a community of learners. Learning activities for the modules include the following:

1. Reading textbook assignments
2. Attending lectures and viewing other assigned videos
3. Completing the quizzes and exams
4. Preparing and delivering the team presentation
5. Participating in in-class discussions and activities

Course Policies

Participation Policy

Students are expected to read this syllabus in its entirety and ask if there are any questions or concerns well before any assignments are due.

Students are expected to participate in the Blackboard learning environment actively and to complete all assignments in a timely manner. Infrequent and inconsistent participation and work completion will reduce the benefits that may be obtained from the course, as well as lead to a lower grade.

Active participation in the course includes regularly checking and reading your email, as well as accessing the course on Blackboard. I will post all messages as announcements on Blackboard, which will also be emailed directly to you.

Active participation also includes reaching out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or problems with the course. I will work with you to help you succeed in the course.

Make-Up Policy

Assignments are due by 11:59 PM (CDT) on the indicated due date (see the Course Schedule). It is expected that students will complete all assigned readings and assignments by the respective due date.

There will be no opportunity for making up missed assignments of any kind unless a student has made arrangements – in writing/email – with me prior to the due date of the assignment. Please note that any makeup quizzes/exams/assignments may be entirely essay and application questions.

The entire semester's schedule has been provided for you in the Course Schedule. Please plan your semester accordingly.

Electronic Communication / Email Policy

I can be reached via email and will try to respond within 24 hours (it may be longer during the weekend). Email is the best and quickest way to reach me. Calling my office phone will result in a delayed response. If you need to speak with me, we can set up an online meeting.

Students are required to use a Texas A&M International University email address for all academic activities. The purpose of this policy relates to issues of confidentiality and security and to ensure receipt of information from the Texas A&M International University and your individual college. Failure to check your TAMU email will not constitute a failure of communication on the part of the university, this college, or this program.

All email communication must have a subject line indicating the course name and/or course number. Additionally, all email communication must begin with "Dr. Joo," and end with your first and last names. This is a courtesy that you should follow for all your academic and professional emails.

It is important to understand how to interact with one another online, sometimes called netiquette. A good rule of thumb is to write nothing online that you wouldn't be willing to say in person. You can read more about the rules of netiquette (<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>) here.

No part of this course (including but not limited to lecture materials, online discussion posts, assignments, or exams) is to be posted to any online or offline platform without the written permission of the instructor.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic dishonesty and misconduct, as defined by Texas A&M International University, will not be tolerated.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, falsifying work (e.g., fabricating/altering research data), cheating (e.g., copying others' work) and plagiarism (e.g., submitting another's published work without properly crediting the author; submitting a student's own work used in a previous course).



Students are expected to abide by the TAMU Code of Conduct. Any academic dishonesty or misconduct (regardless of the intent of the student) will be reported and dealt with pursuant to TAMU policy.

It is the policy of the professor to assign a failing grade on the assignment for an initial violation and then in the course for any subsequent violations of the TAMU Code of Conduct.

Please see the following links for more details: TAMU's Academic Integrity page (<https://www.tamui.edu/handbook/article-07.shtml>) and TAMU's Student Code of Conduct page (<https://www.tamui.edu/handbook/article-06.shtml>).

Course Changes Policy

This syllabus serves as a general plan for the course. While every effort will be made to follow the schedule as written, the instructor reserves the right to make changes in response to circumstances that may arise or to better meet course objectives. Any changes will be communicated promptly via email and/or Blackboard, and students are responsible for staying updated on such announcements.

Professor's Responsibility Policy

As a student, you should expect that I will do everything I can (within the boundaries of my position as faculty) to ensure that you succeed in the course.

1. You should expect weekly interaction with me via in-class announcements and emails.
2. You should expect your assignments to be graded within about a week after submission.
3. You should expect a response to emails and questions posted to the Course Q&A Board within about 48 hours.
4. You should expect to be notified via Blackboard and/or email of any changes to the course.

Please always feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns about the course.

The "I've read the syllabus in its entirety" Policy

As a reward for reading this syllabus in its entirety, students can obtain two bonus points on the Mid-term Exam.

To obtain the bonus points, students must first read the syllabus in its entirety and then post the title of their favorite book, movie, music, or video game (or all four!) to the "I've read the syllabus in its entirety" discussion board on Blackboard Ultra by the end of the second week (i.e., Sunday, September 6, by 11:59 pm CDT).

For the sake of transparency, and since I am making you folks choose, my favorite book is the Robert Langdon series, like *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown, my favorite movie is *Lilo & Stitch* (only an animation version), and my favorite video game is probably *Starcraft* (*Civilization V* would be up there as well).

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course:

1. Define white-collar crime and distinguish it from conventional forms of criminal behavior.
2. Describe major forms of white-collar, corporate, economic, and political crime, including their victims, costs, and social harms.
3. Explain major individual, organizational, and structural explanations for white-collar crime.
4. Apply white-collar crime concepts to interpret reported cases, case studies, or contemporary examples.
5. Explain how legal, regulatory, and criminal justice responses are used to address white-collar crime.

Important Dates

Visit the Academic Calendar ([tamui.edu](https://www.tamui.edu/academiccalendar/)) (<https://www.tamui.edu/academiccalendar/>) page to view the term's important dates.



Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	White-Collar Crime: An Opportunity Perspective, 4th Edition	Michael L. Benson, Sally S. Simpson, Melissa Rorie, & Jay P. Kennedy	978-1-032-00719-9

Other Course Materials

Supplemental required readings (e.g., journal and online articles) may be assigned over the course of the semester and will be made available in the modules on Blackboard (eLearning).

If you're accessing these materials off-campus, you may be prompted to use the Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) proxy (OpenAthens) for authentication. Log in with your TAMIU NetID and password to gain remote access to library-licensed content such as databases and e-journals. The Sue & Radcliffe Killam Library provides rich resources, including books, eBooks, eJournals, databases, and research support (e.g., My#Account, interlibrary loan, research consultations). You can access many resources via Blackboard links or the library portal.

Students often ask about using prior editions of the course text. Please note that this course follows the 4th edition, whose chapter structure differs substantially from prior editions (several chapters were reorganized, consolidated, or newly added). If you choose to use a prior edition, it is your responsibility to match up the content between editions, and some assigned chapters may not have a direct equivalent.

Grading Criteria

Neither extra credit after the course is completed nor grade curving will be offered or employed in this course. This grading scale is set by Texas A&M International University (TAMIU).

Grade Center

All grades will be maintained in Blackboard's online Grade Center. Students are responsible for tracking their progress by referring to the online grade book. Please email the professor if you have questions.

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	91-100
B	80-90.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

Open Boilerplate

Attendance

To support your learning and encourage ongoing engagement with course materials, attendance at all scheduled class sessions is mandatory. Active participation during lectures, discussions, and in-class activities will be an essential part of your success in this course.

Participation points will be awarded based on your consistent attendance and meaningful involvement in class activities. There are no make-up opportunities for participation points except in cases of documented emergencies.

Class sessions will begin and end promptly as scheduled. Please arrive on time and remain engaged throughout the class period, as the material covered during lectures and discussions will appear on assignments and exams.

Quizzes

To help you prepare for the exams, short quizzes will be assigned throughout the semester (see the Course Schedule). Each quiz will have about 10 questions covering the readings and lectures for the designated chapter(s). The questions will be similar to those that appear on the exams.

The quizzes will be completed in class through Blackboard at the designated class sessions.



Because these quizzes are meant to be learning exercises and to provide you with an opportunity to check your understanding of the material, you will be allowed to complete each quiz up to two times during the class session, and the higher of your two scores will be recorded. The procedures for the second attempt will be explained in class.

While the quizzes will be open book, the first attempt must be completed independently (i.e., you will not be allowed to work with other students during your first attempt).

One quiz (the lowest score) will be dropped prior to calculating your overall grade.

Team Presentation

During the second week of the semester, teams (3–4 students) will be formed and will remain the same for the entire semester. Each team will sign up for ONE presentation topic from the list posted on Blackboard (*first come, first served*). Each topic is tied to a chapter of our textbook and has a designated presentation date (see the Course Schedule) — scheduled after the material has been covered in lecture, so your presentation serves as a recap and real-world application of the assigned topic.

Each presentation will be about 15 minutes (followed by ~3 minutes of Q&A). Presentation days host two to three teams; time limits will be strictly enforced.

The presentation **MUST** include the items below:

- Introduction (includes purpose statements and structure)
- Recap of the assigned topic's key concepts in your team's own words
- Case Analysis (at least one real-life example; two or more encouraged) — the actors involved; how the scheme operated in detail; how it was revealed
- Explanation of why the offense is considered white-collar crime, based on the characteristics and techniques from the book/lectures
- Potential prevention strategies (at least two)
- Conclusion (or Summary) — taking questions and comments

It is crucial that everyone on the team participates evenly. All team members must be part of the oral presentation (e.g., Member 1 – Intro & conclusion; Member 2 – Case Analysis, etc.).

1. Each team must email me which member is responsible for which part at least two weeks before their presentation date.
2. Teams must send their final presentation materials (e.g., Microsoft PowerPoint) to me two (2) days before the presentation.
3. Every student must submit a brief reaction post on Blackboard for each presentation day (except their own team's day), due by 11:59 pm (CDT) on the Sunday of that week. The reaction post should state the topic(s) and a 3–4 sentence description of your reaction.

Grading: Presentation 12%; Peer (team-member) Assessment 5%; Reaction Posts 3%. A detailed rubric will be posted on Blackboard.

Note: If any team member does not participate during the preparation, please report it to me as soon as possible — do not wait until the presentation date. A member who does not contribute may receive no points for the team presentation.

Exams

There will be two exams over the course of the semester (see the Course Schedule): a Mid-term Exam and a Final Exam.

The Mid-term Exam will be completed over two class sessions: Part 1 (multiple-choice and true/false questions) and Part 2 (short-answer and essay questions). The Final Exam is cumulative, but focus will be placed on the material covered since the Mid-term. Many of the questions on the exams will be similar to those that appear on the quizzes.

The exams will be completed individually in class through Blackboard. All the exams will be open book but must be completed independently (i.e., you will not be allowed to work with other students while completing the exams).

Feedback and comments about your exam may be provided within Blackboard.

The Mid-term Exam will be completed during the class sessions indicated in the Course Schedule. The Final Exam will be given at the time specified by the Registrar's Final Exam Schedule: Wednesday, December 2, at 1:10 pm, in our regular classroom.



Both exams will factor into your overall grade (i.e., neither of the exams will be dropped).

Comments regarding the assignments

When completing the quizzes and the multiple-choice portions of the exams, please make sure your device is fully charged and connected to a stable network before class. A lost connection is not considered an acceptable excuse for the lack of completion of a quiz or exam.

Each component of the course is designed to help you do well on the assignments. Thus, to succeed in the course overall, it is crucial that you avoid missing any component of the course materials. I will do my best to help you along the way, but the responsibility for completing the assignments will necessarily fall on your shoulders. Effort will go a long way in this course.

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Attendance/Participation	10%
Quizzes	30%
Team Presentation	20%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
8/24	Course Introduction What is White-Collar Crime?	Syllabus Chpt. 1	Team Formation
8/31	Who is the White-Collar Offender?	Chpt. 2	Team Presentation Sign-up Quiz 1
9/7	Explaining White-Collar Crime - Traditional & Modern Criminological Theories	Chpt. 3	No Class (Labor Day; 09/07)
9/14	Explaining White-Collar Crime: Individual Traits & Psychological Approaches	Chpt. 4	Quiz 2
9/21	Explaining White-Collar Crime - The Opportunity Perspective	Chpt. 5	Quiz 3
9/28	Financial Crimes (Pt. 1 - Health Care)	Chpt. 6	Team Presentation Day 1
10/5	Financial Crimes (Pt. 2 - Mortgages, Securities, & Markets)	Chpt. 6	Team Presentation Day 2 Quiz 4
10/12	Corporate Violence (Pt.1 — Environmental)	Chpt.7	Team Presentation Day 3
10/19	Corporate Violence (Pt. 2 - Workplace & Manufacturing)	Chpt. 7	Quiz 5
10/26	Mid-term Review Mid-term Pt. 1 (MCQ & T/F) Mid-term Pt. 2 (Short Answer/Essay)		
11/2	The Symbolic Construction of Opportunity - Neutralization & Normalization	Chpt. 8	Team Presentation Day 4 Quiz 6
11/9	The Social Distribution of Opportunity - Class, Gender, & Race	Chpt. 9	Team Presentation Day 5 Quiz 7
11/16	Legal Controls - Criminal Justice, Regulatory, & Civil Justice Systems	Chpt. 10	No Class (ASC Conference; 11/18 & 11/20)
11/23	Opportunities, Prevention, & the Future of White-Collar Crime	Chpt. 11	No Class (Reading Day 11/25; Thanksgiving 11/27) Quiz 8
11/30	Final Exam Review (Last Class: 11/30) Final Exam - Wednesday, 12/02; cumulative)		



University/College Policies

Please see the University Policies below.

COVID-19 Related Policies

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the Student Handbook, Appendix A (Attendance Rule) for instructions.

Required Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class in person (or virtually, if the class is online) and to complete all assignments. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to communicate absences with your professors. The faculty member will decide if your excuse is valid and thus may provide lecture materials of the class. According to University policy, acceptable reasons for an absence, which cannot affect a student's grade, include:

- Participation in an authorized University activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- Illness of a dependent family member.
- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

Students are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to faculty members within seven calendar days of their absence and return to class. They must substantiate the reason for the absence. If the absence is excused, faculty members must either provide students with the opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed, or provide a satisfactory alternative to complete the exam or other work missed within 30 calendar days from the date of absence. Students who miss class due to a University-sponsored activity are responsible for identifying their absences to their instructors with as much advance notice as possible.

Classroom Behavior (applies to online or Face-to-Face Classes)

In the classroom, students are expected to listen attentively, participate respectfully, and adhere to established rules. Behavior that interferes with the class lecture may result in disciplinary action, ensuring a productive and respectful learning environment for everyone. Any disputes over academic matters should be addressed calmly and constructively, ideally during designated times such as office hours or after class. If a student does not agree with a decision, they can request a meeting with the instructor to discuss their concerns in more detail. Should further resolution be needed, the student may escalate the matter to the department head or use formal grievance procedures as outlined in the sections below. (please refer to Student Handbook Article 4 (<https://www.tamtu.edu/handbook/article-04.shtml>)).

TAMU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMU student, you are bound by the TAMU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at Student Handbook (<https://www.tamtu.edu/handbook/index.shtml>).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254). This same principle applies to the illicit use of AI.

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence



and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMIU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism:** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.
 - **Caution:** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.
 - **Caution:** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- **Penalties for Cheating:** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."
 - **Caution:** Chat groups that start off as "study groups" can easily devolve into "cheating groups." Be very careful not to join or remain any chat group if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMIU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course. In general, you should get credit for a work product only once.

AI Policies

Your instructor will provide you with their personal policy on the use of AI in the classroom setting and associated coursework.

TAMIU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU E-mail (tamiu.edu or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to SafeZone (<https://www.tamiu.edu/adminis/police/safezone/index.shtml>) for more information.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright



may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment. Copyright laws do not allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Office of Disability Services for Students located in Student Center 124. This office will contact the faculty member to recommend specific, reasonable accommodations. Faculty are prohibited from making accommodations based solely on communications from students. They may make accommodations only when provided documentation by the Office of Disability Services for Students.

For accommodations or assistance with disabilities, contact the Disability Coordinator, Karla Pedraza, at karla.pedraza@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2763, or visit Student Center 124.

Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: Student Handbook (<https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml>)).

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. Students who experience or observe alleged or suspected discrimination due to their pregnant/parenting status, should report to the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site, *Report It*, at <https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit/index.shtml>).

TAMIU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Compliance (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodation. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student needs a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMIU urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence (LOA) as outlined in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.#As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOAs for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule.#Both rules can be found in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.

For parenting-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the Parenting Liaison, Mayra Hernandez, at mghernandez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2265, or visit Student Center 226.

For pregnancy-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the TIX Coordinator, Lorissa Cortez, at lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2857, or visit Killam Library 159.

Anti-Discrimination/Title IX

TAMIU does not discriminate or permit harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, *ReportIt* (<https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit>) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office), U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a “W.” To qualify for an “incomplete” and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a “W”, and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an “Incomplete Grade Contract” and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the “I” to automatically be converted to an “F”; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college. This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an “incomplete” may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

WIN Contracts

The Department of Biology and Chemistry does not permit WIN contracts. For other departments within the college, WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to graduating seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the Student Handbook and in the Faculty Handbook.

Final Examination

All courses in all colleges must include a comprehensive exam or performance and be given on the date and time specified by the Academic Calendar and the Final Exam schedule published by the Registrar’s Office. In the College of Arts & Sciences all final exams must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it. The Telus app is available to download directly from TELUS (tamiu.edu) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.