

ARTS 4373 - Undergraduate Research

Spring 2026 Syllabus, Section 204, CRN 29244

Instructor Information

Emily Rice

Visiting Instructional Assistant Professor

Email: emily.rice@tamui.edu

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, By Appointment Only

Office Hours will be conducted in the studios (FPA 223 or 224) unless otherwise indicated. Please communicate with the instructor in class, over email, or during office hours

Allow for a 24-hour response time Monday-Thursday

Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

A course adapted to the study of special topics in studio art or art history. For advanced students capable of developing a project independently through conference and activities directed by the instructor. Project is chosen by the student with the approval of the instructor prior to registration. Course may be repeated, but not to exceed eight semester hours in total. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

Fine&Performing Arts Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Additional Course Information

"Since children don't have much experience, they can give themselves over totally to a world full of mystery, a world full of magic even. I want to feel this way about the world, that there is something that we can't explain with words, something that's a third thing. I think about poetry a lot. Poetry is made up of words, but it's also about sensations and concepts, it's a kind of abstraction. One of the things I love about art is that it doesn't stay the same. A painting doesn't move – the brush marks all stay in the same place – but you are always different when you're looking at a painting, and so you become this interesting element in the story of what the painting means and how it's apprehended."

–EJ Hauser in conversation with Molly Sheridan for "Cornell Architecture Art Planning"

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to create or perform an artistic work. The process of creation/performance will be the central focus of the course.
2. Students will be able to describe and articulate, with appropriate vocabulary, the creative process specific to the medium or discipline in which they are working.
3. Students will be able to assess and critique their own creative work/performance and the creative work/performance of others.
4. Students will be able to clearly articulate the broader relationships of their own performance/artwork to other works, both contemporary and historical.

This course also engages with the following objectives for the BA in Studio Art:

- A Studio Art major (BA) will create a body of artwork for public exhibition.
- A Studio Art major (BA) will use a critical language for the visual arts.
- A Studio Art major (BA) will express [their] artistic ideas in visual, verbal, and written forms.
- A Studio Art major (BA) will present themselves professionally through assemblage of artist portfolio, statement, and resume.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Expand practices in such a way that the advanced practitioner can go on to explore their own body of works independently
2. Explore various painting techniques, along with methods that will aid in the process for creating personal work
3. Apply advanced perception, composition, and accurate representation
4. Expand skills painting from observation in combination with photographic sources, and invention
5. Students will continue to make paintings that expand existing knowledge, experience and praxis levels
6. Further develop your painting imagery with emphasis on Methods, Processes, Research and Critical Thinking
7. Establish own voice within art, and create paintings that have integrity, both formally, and in what it might mean for the maker, as well as the audience
8. Lead critiques and discussion settings
9. Receive additional mentorship with more specific and curated guidance for professional practices

Important Dates

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

Other Course Materials

With your arrival to Advanced Painting, you have accumulated many supplies which I expect you to tap into throughout the course of this semester. My goal is that you distill your visual languages and preferred mediums while opening yourselves to experimentation. *At this point, TAMTU cannot fully support oil paint in the FPA studios as they lack proper ventilation, however, I encourage you to continue working with oil either outside or at home.*

Throughout this semester you will make a minimum of **17 paintings** that will require additional preparatory work. The following list breaks down the sizes and types of substrates required. Here, you will also find a recommended materials list from Painting I to assist in your sourcing.

Assignment 1: Distilling (5 substrates)

2 on substrates of your choosing (canvas or experimental), size 16" x 20" or larger

3 on experimental substrate, size 16" x 20" or larger

Assignment 2: Imperfections and Stains (2 substrates)

1 on substrate of your choosing, size 16" x 20" or larger

1 on canvas, size 30" x 40" or larger

Assignment 3: Experimental Tools (5 substrates)

2 on canvas, size 24" 30" or larger

2 on experimental substrate, size 24" x 30" or larger

1 on experimental substrate, provided in class

Assignment 4: Boundaries (2 substrates)

2 on canvas or experimental substrate, size 32" x 40" or larger

Assignment 5: Never Sent (3 substrates)

2 on substrates of your choosing, size 24" x 30" or larger

1 on canvas, size 24" x 30" or larger

Assignment 6: Horizontality (3 substrates)

3 on substrates of your choosing, size 24" x 36" or larger

You will find that some of the substrate options are up to you. I want you to seek continuity with your paintings. Consider how you might include materials from other areas of your life.

Make active decisions as to how and why you work over your substrates. Consider the story and message you are trying to communicate.

You will save money and learn more long-term by stretching your own canvases. I suggest that you purchase stretcher bars through Jerry's Artarama or Blick Art Supplies and source a roll of 10 oz. canvas through Jerry's or Hobby Lobby. To make this purchase in-person and for the best deal, you can find the raw canvas in the fabric section (not the art section). It will be on sale every other week for about 30-40% off.

Other substrates you can stretch or mount on stretcher bars might include MDF board, wood panel, yupo paper, watercolor/mixed media paper, aluminum, plastic, linen, sewn together and upcycled fabrics, and more.

If you would like a comprehensive **materials list**, below is the one for Painting I in which they use acrylic paints. Review the list and see if there are any materials that might make this semester more exciting for you.

PAINTING I MATERIALS LIST:

The following is a conclusive list of materials you will need for the duration of this semester. It is necessary to bring the essential painting supplies to each class. For this course, you will be using GOLDEN paint brand. In making these investments, you are building your artist toolkits and laying the groundwork for your creative futures.

Required materials:

Painter's edge painting knife, 40, 44, or 11 T

Gesso brush, 3 inches

Masking tape/Painter's Tape (I recommend two rolls)

Sta-wet palette

Pad of palette paper (You can also use wax paper for baking)

1 2-pack practica stretched canvas 16 x 20 inches

1 sketchbook any size

2 sheets of 22 x 30 in. yupo paper (white) (I will provide this upon reimbursement)

Stretcher bars for two 32 x 40 inch canvases (Order these immediately) (Total: 4-32", 4-40")

Synthetic acrylic brushes student grade, size 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 (mix of round and filberts)

Gesso, 1 qt

Required paints (with colors and sizes):

GOLDEN Cadmium Red Medium Hue 2 oz

GOLDEN Quinacridone Magenta 2 oz

GOLDEN Hansa Yellow Opaque 2 oz

GOLDEN Benzimidazolone Yellow Medium 2 oz (to substitute Indian Yellow Hue)

GOLDEN Viridian Green Hue 2 oz

GOLDEN Chromium Oxide Green 2 oz

GOLDEN Phthalo Blue (Red or Green Shade) 2 oz

GOLDEN Ultramarine Blue 2 oz

GOLDEN Dioxazine Purple 2 oz

GOLDEN Raw Umber 2 oz

GOLDEN Burnt Sienna 2 oz

GOLDEN Titanium White 5 oz (opaque)

GOLDEN Zinc White 2 oz (semi-transparent)

GOLDEN Carbon Black 2 oz

GOLDEN Bone Black 2 oz

Students use an ample amount of paint in a semester. From this list, consider purchasing larger quantities of the paints you prefer.

Required mediums:

GOLDEN satin glazing liquid 8 oz

GOLDEN matte medium 8 oz

Optional Colors:

GOLDEN Transparent Red Iron Oxide 2 oz

GOLDEN Transparent Yellow Iron Oxide 2 oz

GOLDEN Yellow Ochre 2 oz

GOLDEN Cerulean Blue 2 oz

You may purchase these materials through Blick Art Materials, Jerry's Artarama, or Michaels either in store or online, but there are many more online stores to choose from. My preference is for Jerry's and Blick because they carry all of these paint options. Michaels offers a 25% discount and Blick Art Materials has several discounts as well. Jerry's Artarama has a brick and mortar store in San Antonio that is fantastic.

Give yourselves time to make your purchases because many of these items will require shipping. Some of these materials can also be found at Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Lowe's, Amazon, and Artist and Craftsman Supply.

Grading Criteria

Please do not let your concerns with grading outcomes this semester interfere with learning to paint, which often involves taking risks and making mistakes. This is an important part of the process. You will receive a midterm and a final grade in this course, and you will receive written and verbal feedback from me during class meetings. Critiques are a good marker of your progress in the course because they give you an opportunity to hear how your classmates and instructor are responding to the work you are producing.

Hard work alone will not guarantee an A. Your grade is also determined by a willingness to adapt, an ability to improve, a capacity to reflect, listen and contribute as well as maintaining rigor and urgency of making both during and outside of class time. As such, simply completing assignments on time and showing up to class will typically result in a "C". The amount of work and thought put forth will improve your grade. Have fun, be inspired. If you're enjoying an assignment, that joy will come across in your work. **Critique grades will be determined as follows:** Originality of Concept/Design 45%, Technical Craftsmanship 45%, Overall Presentation of Painting 5%, Critique Engagement 5%

Final Grade Distribution:

Participation (Mini-Critiques, Daily Classroom Engagement, Attendance, Writings, Mid-Semester Portfolio Review) 25%

Critiques of Studio Assignments 65%

Final Critique and End of Semester Portfolio Review 10%

Late work will not be accepted unless under extenuating circumstances as determined by the instructor.

A 90-100% Superior accomplishment

B 80-89% Above average performance

C 70-79% Average work

D 60-69% Below average performance

F 50-59% Failure to meet basic course requirements

A: Exemplary: consistently exceeds expectations

Outstanding: work demonstrates significant growth and progress. Student offers thoughtful participation in class, is an active critical thinker, meets all deadlines, shows a strong depth of inquiry, and is willing to take risks and explore challenging solutions.

B: Proficient: meets and sometimes exceeds expectations

Very good: work demonstrates moderate growth and progress. Student offers adequate participation in class, often displays critical thinking, meets most deadlines, shows an adequate depth of inquiry, and engages in some risk taking within the expectations of the course.

C: Overall average: work as expected at this level but is without demonstrable growth

Average: work demonstrates aptitude but not measurable growth or progress. Student infrequently participates in class, displays some critical thinking, does not frequently meet deadlines, shows little depth of inquiry, and does not engage in frequent experimentation or risk taking within the expectations of the course.

D: Overall below average: work rarely meets expectations or demonstrates growth

Below average: work demonstrates little aptitude, growth, or progress. Student usually does not participate in class, rarely meets deadlines, does not engage in a necessary depth of inquiry or experimentation within the expectations of the course.

F: Failure: work does not meet minimum expectations

Poor: work does not meet minimum expectations for one or more of the following factors: work, progress, inquiry, critical thinking, participation, or attendance.

PARTICIPATION

It is necessary for students to be present and active during class meetings. Repeatedly coming to class unprepared, missing a scheduled critique, missing reading discussions, not completing a reading, or not participating in class activities will result in a grade deduction. Please be in touch with me if you are unprepared for class or unable to attend due to an unforeseen major personal circumstance.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The nature of the studio course necessitates hands-on experience, development through practice and critique, and interaction with the instructor and one's peers. Attendance is required, and students are expected to be in class on time and for the entire duration of the class period.

Arriving 15 minutes late or departing 15 minutes early counts as an absence. A combination of three late arrivals and/or early departures within this 15 minute window will equate one absence. Use of cellphones (texts/calls/social media) limits engagement and will count as an absence.

More than three unexcused absences will result in a 10% final grade drop. Save these for emergencies and illness. Seven absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Unless in extenuating circumstances, there is no make up work.

If late or absent for medical reasons, students must notify faculty with an email including a doctor's note to have their record adjusted.

STUDIO ETIQUETTE

Please do not engage with social media, sleep, or study for other classes during our class meetings. Headphones are welcomed for individual studio work outside of class; however, they hinder the interactive environment of this course and will not be used during class meetings. Be respectful of the shared space and follow the classroom policies and material safety guidelines.

COURSE FEEDBACK

Students will have the opportunity to evaluate the course through the university course evaluations at the end of the semester. The instructor will also send out additional evaluations for in-progress feedback.

INSTRUCTOR'S AI POLICY



Students are not permitted to use AI in this course unless granted explicit permission by the instructor. The use of AI poses serious ethical, environmental, and educational points of concern which we will discuss. Use of AI on any project without faculty permission will be considered an act of academic dishonesty.

Assignments

Assignments and Lectures will be posted on Blackboard at the start of each unit. Subject to change.

Assignment Schedule

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
1/19	Introduction to Advanced Painting Assignment 1: Distilling Assignment 1: Distilling	*All readings will be posted on Blackboard and distributed in class at the start of each assignment	TBD
1/26	Assignment 1: Distilling Assignment 1: Distilling		
2/2	CRITIQUE 1: Distilling Assignment 2: Imperfections and Stains Assignment 2: Imperfections and Stains First Evaluations		
2/9	Assignment 2: Imperfections and Stains Assignment 2: Imperfections and Stains		
2/16	CRITIQUE 2: Imperfections and Stains Assignment 3: Experimental Tools Assignment 3: Experimental Tools		
2/23	Assignment 3: Experimental Tools Assignment 3: Experimental Tools		
3/2	CRITIQUE 3: Experimental Tools Assignment 4: Boundaries Assignment 4: Boundaries		
3/9	Spring Break Spring Break		
3/16	Assignment 4: Boundaries Long-Term Studio Day Assignment 4: Boundaries Midterm Portfolios Due		
3/23	Assignment 4: Boundaries Assignment 4: Boundaries		
3/30	CRITIQUE 4: Boundaries Assignment 5: Never Sent Assignment 5: Never Sent		
4/6	Assignment 5: Never Sent Assignment 5: Never Sent		
4/13	CRITIQUE 5: Never Sent Assignment 6: Horizontality (Long-Term) Assignment 6: Horizontality (Long-Term)		



4/20 Assignment 6: Horizontality (Long-Term)
*Course Evaluations 4/20-4/26
Assignment 6: Horizontality (Long-Term)

*Senior Practicum Exhibition: April 23,
5pm-7pm

*Junior Portfolio Review: April 24,
10am-1pm

4/27 Assignment 6: Horizontality (Long-Term)

FINAL CRITIQUE: Horizontality (Long-Term)

5/4 Reading Day - Instructor Available for In-
Person Feedback
Final Portfolio Review + Clean Up

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.tamui.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.tamui.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.

TAMU 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 TAMU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMU 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 TAMU 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.