

PSYC 5388 - Psychology Internship I

Spring 2026 Syllabus, Section 262, CRN 28482

Instructor Information

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Office Hours:
TR 4:30-5:45 pm or by appointment
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Times and Location

R 6pm-8:45pm in Bullock Hall 219

Course Description

This is the first in a two-semester sequence in Psychology Internship. This course provides the first supervised service learning experience in a departmentally approved internship training facility. Prerequisite: PSYC 5302, 5304, and 5320 or permission of instructor. Enrollment in this course is restricted to students who are currently matriculated through the MS in the Psychology program. May be repeated with permission of instructor. Evaluation of performance in this course is on CR/NC basis. If successfully completed, course is followed by PSYC 5389, Psychology Internship II. Psychology & Communication Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Additional Course Information

The course is based on the principle of learning through reflecting, where students are guided to integrate their service-learning experience with academic knowledge. Students will complete 30 hours of community-based learning. Throughout the internship, students will engage in activities that will address community needs, as defined through collaboration between community partners, students, and faculty. The service-learning activities will provide a basis for critical reflection that will tie students' community service experience to their knowledge of the discipline of psychology and promote their academic, civic, and personal growth. Students will meet on a (bi)-weekly basis to discuss their service experiences and observations. In addition, students will complete guided reflection assignments and keep a reflection journal which will help them identify their feelings and thoughts about the experience, process their observations, and derive broader discipline-related insights.

There is no required textbook for the class.

The course materials will include various readings adjusted to the individual student's community service experience and to the goals developed and agreed upon with the community partners.

Class Format:

Critical reflection constitutes the primary teaching and learning strategy in the service-learning class, as it helps the student integrate what s/he has been experiencing in the community with their academic knowledge and learning objectives. The class will follow the framework of deep reflection developed by Ash and Clayton (2009) and known as the *DEAL (Describe-Examine-Articulate Learning) Model of Critical Reflection*. Accordingly, students will engage in regular guided written assignments promoting deep reflection on their community service that will allow them not only to describe their experience, but also analyze the situation from different perspectives and make a personal connection to the experience. As such, students should expect to engage in pre-service, during-the-service, and post-service reflection assignments. As part of the pre-service reflection, students will complete exercises helping them identify the community partner and develop the specific goals they hope to accomplish through their service. Reflection during the service will help students describe their service experiences and critically analyze them, as well as enhance their understanding

of the service experience by connecting it to academic knowledge and identifying their own personal reactions and insights. Finally, post-service reflection will promote students' appreciation of the broadening of their understanding of community issues that resulted from their service-learning experience. In addition, it will help them assess the degree to which they have accomplished their learning and serving goals and identify possible future implications.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on students' reflective assignments, reflection journal (minimum 3 entries to submit at the end of the semester), final presentation (end of Internship II), and active participation in group discussions. Students completing Internship II are required to prepare a final portfolio documenting their community service experience, which will be graded for student's ability to connect their internship experience to academic knowledge, civic goals, and personal growth. The portfolio will be submitted as a written document and, in addition, presented orally. It will be evaluated by the committee consisting of the MS Psychology faculty. In addition, students are encouraged to participate in the annual TAMIU Service-Learning Expo Conference to present their SL experience. Evaluation of performance in this course is on CR/NC basis. If grade of IP is received, student must enroll again for credit.

Guidelines for the final presentation and portfolio (cumulative paper):

The final presentation should include the following elements:

- 1) Information about the community partner- its mission statement, history, goals, etc.
- 2) Information about the service-learning experience throughout the Internship.
- 3) Critical reflection cast in the DEAL framework: specify the following learning outcomes: (a) your personal growth; (b) your civic growth; (c) your academic growth.
- 4) With regard to your academic growth, you will specify the psychological theory (framework) that you think can be applied to your particular service-learning context. You should outline a theory and discuss (based on at least **15 peered-reviewed journal articles**) how the theory in question has been applied and used in previous research.

Your portfolio should consist of a cumulative paper describing all the information specified above and included in the oral presentation; in addition, you should include in your portfolio such documents as your contract, **reflection journals (minimum 6)**, written assignments for class, any additional promotional materials that you have worked on during your Internship and that might shed light on your experience with the community partner, as well as any other work you have done for them. The cumulative paper should adhere to the APA stylesheet and will be evaluated based on the discipline specific Writing Rubric for social sciences.

Your final oral presentation will count as a comprehensive exam. You will present in front of the committee consisting of the MS in Psychology faculty and will be expected to successfully address questions from the field asked by the committee. Your presentation will be evaluated according to the Oral Presentation Rubric.

For all written assignments: One of the purposes of this class is to stimulate your mind and enhance your critical thinking skills. You will not develop these skills if you rely on AI to complete literature reviews, etc. for you. Therefore, usage of AI for any assignments is strictly forbidden. Written assignments generated by ChatGPT or other AI platforms will be graded as zero points and considered plagiarism. You are allowed to use Grammarly only on the condition that you attach the original version that you prepared and the version edited by Grammarly.

Program Learning Outcomes

- Designing a theory- or practice-based research project: Graduating students will develop an independent research and/or a community-based project in the area of psychology. Completion of the project will necessitate successfully implementing knowledge of the discipline, demonstrating cultural sensitivity, leadership and critical thinking skills.
- Effective oral communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate on a scholarly topic in psychology which will reflect their knowledge of the discipline, sensitivity to multicultural differences, civic responsibility, and critical thinking skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the course, the students will:

1. Develop the ability to articulate the academic, civic and personal growth generated through examination of their field experiences.
2. Demonstrate critical reflection skills, such as the ability to analyze and evaluate their community-based learning experience, as well as to apply their academic knowledge and skills to address community challenges emerging from this experience.
3. Demonstrate enrichment of their civic capacities through deep individual and collaborative reflection on how to create positive social and political change.

4. Deepen their knowledge of the issues facing their community and demonstrate enhanced capacity for understanding themselves in relation to others.
5. Demonstrate increased growth in their ability to communicate with diverse audiences, sociolinguistic awareness, and cultural understanding.

Important Dates

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

Grading Criteria

Evaluation will be based on students' reflective assignments, reflection journal (minimum 3 entries to submit at the end of the semester) and active participation. Evaluation of performance in this course is on CR/NC basis. If grade of IP is received, student must enroll again for credit.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
Thu	1/22	Introduction, syllabus, portfolios, community partners.		
Thu	1/29	Community-based Experience		
Thu	2/5	Service-Learning and Civic Engagement	1. Helping, Fixing, and Serving Rachel Naomi Remen 2. Reflection in Service Learning: Making Meaning or Experience, Robert G. Bringle & Julie A. Hatcher 3. Comparing the Effects of Community Service and Service-Learning Lori J. Vogelgesang and Alexander W. Astin 4. What Do We Mean By "Civic Engagement"? Richard P. Adler and Judy Goggin	WRITING ASSIGNMENT/REFLECTION 1
Thu	2/12	Community-based Experience		
Thu	2/19	Stages of Internship	1. "The Unheard Voices", Randy Stoecker and Elizabeth A. Tryon 2. Framing the experience: The developmental stages of an Internship 3. Students Reflection on Community Service Learning, Jay D. Anderson	WRITING ASSIGNMENT/REFLECTION 2
Thu	2/26	Community-based experience		
Thu	3/5	DEAL Critical Thinking Rubric	1. Reflection in Action (Learning through Serving) 2. DEAL Critical Thinking Rubric 3. DEAL Examples 4. Engaging All partners in Reflection, Kathleen Rice 5. Reflection in DEAL (Reflection Template)	WRITING ASSIGNMENT/REFLECTION 3
Thu	3/12	SPRING BREAK		
Thu	3/19	Community-based Experience		
Thu	3/26	Academic Framework for the SL Experience	1. Creating Cultural Connections (Learning through Serving)	WRITING ASSIGNMENT/REFLECTION 4
Thu	4/2	Internship II final presentations		
Thu	4/9	Internship II final presentations		
Thu	4/16	Community-based Experience		
Thu	4/23	Service Learning: Theoretical Perspectives	1. Expanding Horizons: New Views on Course Concepts (Learning through Serving) 2. Does Service Learning Promote Adult Development? Theoretical Perspectives and Directions for Research; M. Cecil Smith	WRITING ASSIGNMENT/REFLECTION 5
Thu	4/30	Community-based Experience		

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>)).

TAMUI Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMUI student, you are bound by the TAMUI Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMUI 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.

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>).

www.tamui.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 (tamui.edu) (<https://www.tamui.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.