TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

Welcome from

Texas A&M University-Commerce's

International Student Services Office

Welcome to Texas A&M University-Commerce!

Since 1889, Texas A&M University-Commerce has been known as a leader in providing an excellent education. It's because we care about people and relationships. Texas A&M University-Commerce provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond. For a brief virtual tour of campus click here.

This handbook has been created by the International Student Services Office (ISSO) to help our new international students as they prepare for their studies at A&M-Commerce. Our office is located in the Halladay Student Services building room 104. If you have any questions at any time please email us at Intl.Stu@tamuc.edu or call 903-886-5097. We are also are on Facebook at International Student Services at Texas A&M University- Commerce, Skype TAMUCISSO, and you may follow us on Twitter @ISSOTAMUC.

It is the mission of the ISSO to serve the international students, scholars, and their family members at our university and to enhance the global awareness of the Texas A&M University-Commerce community. Our goal is to assist international students and scholars in their transition to life in the United States and at Texas A&M University-Commerce, and to assist them in maintaining their immigration status. Some of our services include:

- Orientation for all new and transfer international students and scholars
- Advisement for cultural adjustment
- Immigration advising
- Employment authorization
- Cultural and educational programs
- Serve as liaison with university faculty/staff and members of the community

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I. I-20 and Visa Process

New Student Questionnaire: Included with this email is a New Student Questionnaire that you will need to complete and email to Intl.Stu@tamuc.edu along with a copy of your passport. Once we have received the questionnaire and a copy of your passport we will issue your I-20 within 10 business days (a business day if Monday through Friday). We understand the importance of issuing the I-20 for the visa and we appreciate your patience as we review your documents and process the I-20.

Mailing the I-20: Students will need to register for the mailing of the I-20 as soon as possible through our website by clicking here. Below are the mailing options:

- ***U.S. Postal Service International Air Mail***- documents will be sent at our expense and it takes an average of 2-6 weeks for the I-20 to be delivered. Please note that packages are often delayed for weeks or lost in route to the student and the ISSO is not responsible for lost packages. This option is not reliable and tracking is not available.
- ***U.S. Postal Service International Priority Mail***- documents are sent at student's expense and average delivery time is 1-2 weeks but may take longer in some countries. Tracking is not available.
- ***Express Mail (DHL or FedEx)*** is at the student's expense and is the most reliable option to have your I-20 delivered in a timely manner. ***We strongly encourage students to use this option.***

SEVIS I-901 fee and Visa Process: Once your I-20 has been issued we will email you your SEVIS number and our university school code DAL214F00099000. This information is used to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee and schedule your visa appointment. ***Scanned copies will not be emailed and I-20's will not be given to friends or family members in the U.S.*** You must pay the SEVIS I-901 fee as soon as possible.

- You may pay online at https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.jsp. Print a payment receipt and take it with you to the visa appointment.

- You will need to schedule a visa appointment with the U.S. Embassy/Consulate nearest you. You may go to www.usembassy.gov for more information.
- Complete the DS-160 and pay the applicable fees. For an instruction video on how to complete the DS-160 click here.

You will need to bring the following documents with you to the visa interview:

- Signed I-20
- Acceptance letter from A&M-Commerce (sent to university email)
- Financial documentation
- Valid passport
- Photos (as specified by Embassy/Consulate)
- DS-160 Application payment receipt
- SEVIS I-901 fee payment receipt
- One of the main concerns that the officer may have is your intention to study in the U.S. and your intention to return home upon completion of your studies. Click here for a video about the visa interview.

II. Traveling to the U.S.

When Should You Plan to Arrive On-Campus: ***Students are required to arrive in Commerce at least one day prior to their I-20 start date.*** Failure to arrive in Commerce at least one day prior to January 14 will delay your ability to register. ***THE ISSO DOES NOT GRANT PERMISSION FOR STUDENTS TO ARRIVE LATE.*** All new international students to A&M-Commerce are required to attend the international student orientation and check-in in person with an advisor in the ISSO.

Check-in for new students for spring 2015 ***will be by appointment*** and you may click here for more information. Students will be able to schedule their check-in appointment in early December 2014.

The ISSO will host International Student Orientation on Wednesday, January 14. Attendance is mandatory for all new international students (transfer and initial students). ***Students are required to register for the International Student Orientation here. There is no penalty for students who register for the orientation but do not attend classes at A&M-Commerce.*** Click here for more information and for the orientation schedule.

Navigating through Port of Entry: U.S Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has provided a video for information about what to expect at port of entry. Click here for more information. Please see below for more information about navigating through port of entry (customs) once you arrive in the U.S.

Be sure to keep the following documents with you when you travel to the U.S. Do not put these documents in your checked luggage.

- I-20
- Passport and visa
- Financial documents
- Acceptance letter

I-94 Arrival/Departure record: Students ***entering the U.S. through an air or sea port of entry*** will have an electronic record I-94 Arrival/Departure created at www.cbp.gov/I94. You should be able to access your electronic I-94 record within 2 days of entering the U.S. Students who ***enter the U.S. through a land port of entry*** (example…U.S./Mexico border) will be issued a paper copy I-94. You will also complete a CBP Customs Declaration form once you have arrived in the U.S.

U.S. Customs Interview: When you go through customs you will be interviewed briefly by a port of entry officer

- The officer may ask you questions like "Why are you traveling to the U.S.?" or "How long do you plan to stay here?"
- Have all the documents listed above ready to present to the officer
- The officer will scan your fingerprints and take your picture.
- Once you have passed through customs you may collect your luggage and exit customs for transportation to your destination

What Items to Not Bring?

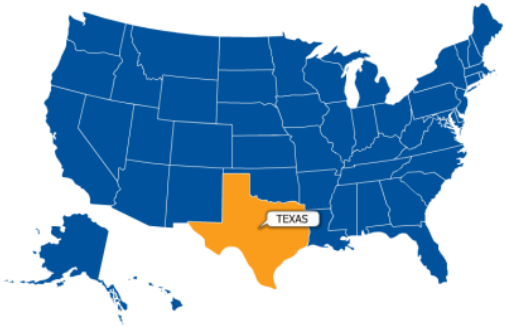
- A large amount of cash. Students are strongly discouraged from carrying a large amount of cash due to possible questions with customs and also due to safety concerns.
- Any prohibited or restricted items listed here.

Who can assist me with pre-arrival questions or concerns?

- Students may contact the ISSO with any questions or concerns.
- Students may also contact one of A&M-Commerce's international student groups with any questions or concerns. Click here and select Cultural/Social Organizations for a list of international student groups.
- Students may also visit or contact an Education USA Center in their home country.

III. Arriving in Texas and Temporary Housing

Shuttle/Transportation Options from Airport: **Please note that students will need to arrive in Commerce at least one day *prior* to their I-20 start date.** Commerce, TX is located about 1 and a half hours from the Dallas/Forth Worth International Airport (DFW). Students are encouraged to arrange transportation from the airport to Commerce prior to arrival in Texas. Be sure to review the transportation options listed on the DFW Airport website here:



- There are several options from the airport including hiring a taxi or hiring a limousine. Please note that the cost for hiring a taxi or limousine may be $150-$200 USD.
- Contact one of A&M-Commerce's international student groups to arrange airport pickup if available. Click here and select Cultural/Social Organizations for a list of international student groups or review the group list included with this packet.
- The ISSO will provide a FREE airport shuttle for international students. Shuttle dates are limited and the shuttle will usually only run once a day

to the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW). Registration for the shuttle is required and you may click here for more information.

Temporary Housing: You may not have permanent housing once you arrive in Texas and you will need to arrange temporary housing once you have arrived until you are able to find permanent housing or move into on-campus housing. Please see below for more information:

- For a list of local hotels in Commerce click here.
- Contact one of A&M-Commerce's international student groups to arrange temporary housing if available. Click here and select Cultural/Social Organizations for a list of international student groups.
- Students who plan to live on-campus may need to arrange temporary housing until on-campus housing has opened. It may be possible to move in earlier the week before classes but students must arrange this through the ISSO ***prior to arriving in Commerce***.

IV. Orientation and Check-in

All new international students are required to attend check-in with an International Student Advisor in person and attend International Student Orientation:

- Check-in must be ***in person*** and students will schedule their check-in time online. Click here for more information. Students will need to provide copies of documents and contact information. ***Students will not be allowed to register for classes until they have checked in with an advisor at the ISSO.***
- Attend the mandatory International Student Orientation hosted by the ISSO on Wednesday, January 14. Students are required to register for the International Student Orientation here. There is no penalty for students who register for the orientation but do not attend classes at A&M-Commerce. For more information about the International Student Orientation click here.

- ***Undergraduate*** students will also need to attend the New Student Orientation.
- Students are encouraged to contact their academic departments prior to arriving in Commerce to discuss their first semester at A&M-Commerce. See academic advising section for more information.
- The ISSO will provide a shuttle from the DFW airport the day before the international student orientation for students. Students will need to arrange housing at one of the local hotels in Commerce or with a friend in Commerce. The shuttle schedule will be posted in late September.

V. How to Communicate with the ISSO

The ISSO has a number of different ways that you may contact us with any questions or concerns. Also, included in your I-20 packet is a list of the international student groups at A&M-Commerce and their contact information:

- Facebook search International Student Services at Texas A&M University-Commerce for the ISSO and search Texas A&M University Commerce-International Students for the student page.
- Skype to TAMUCISSO
- On Twitter you may follow @ISSOTAMUC
- In Google Hangouts you may search International Student Services at Texas A&M University-Commerce
- Email intl.stu@tamuc.edu or phone 903-886-5097
- The ISSO is located in Halladay Student Services building Room 104 (building B17 on campus map).

Our office is open year around Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm Central Standard Time U.S. ***The ISSO and the university will close on Wednesday, December 24 for the Christmas and New Year holidays and will reopen on Monday, January 5 at 8am.***

VI. Campus Housing

Students will often chose to live on-campus because of the easy accessibility to on-campus services, classes, library, professors, other students, and recreational activities. Living on-campus can be a very fulfilling experience for any student as they truly get to experience "American college life." In many cases we recommend that international students who are studying at A&M-Commerce strongly consider living on-campus their first year so they may become more familiar with the area and American culture. To learn more click here.

- Meal plans are available for students who live on-campus. For students who prefer cooking their own meals some halls will have kitchens in each room and some will only have a common kitchen area on each floor or the main lobby.
- Some residence hall rooms and bathrooms provide some privacy but they are generally communal in nature.
- You may chose a preference of where you would like to live on-campus but there is no guarantee that you will be assigned to one of those preferences.
- You may give preference for someone as a roommate but there is no guarantee that you will be assigned to a room with the person you have listed as a preference.
- Students who live on-campus are required to sign a one-year lease agreement (fall/spring) and it is very difficult to be released once you have signed the contract and moved in on-campus

Students interested in learning more about on-campus housing may contact Residential Living and Learning by clicking here.

VII. Off-campus Housing

There are a number of different rental options for new international students in Commerce, TX. ***AM-Commerce does not endorse nor is affiliated with any of these services or companies. They are independently owned and operated.*** Below is a list of many of the local apartment complexes and rental companies.

You may also find more information by searching through Google " apartments Commerce, TX" or you may also go to http://www.commerce-chamber.com/real_estate.php. Students may also post on the ISSO or A&M-Commerce international student Facebook pages for more information:

- **Village Creek Apartments: 2231 Live Oak Street, Commerce, TX**
  www.villagecreektamu.com 903-246-3120

- **Churchill at Commerce: 731 Culver Street, Commerce, TX**
  www.churchillcommerce.com 903-886-4444

- **Bradford Place Apartments: 3301 FM 3218, Commerce, TX**
  www.bradfordplaceapartments.com 903-886-8855

- **GANT Apartments: 1814 Hunt Street, Commerce, TX 903-886-6863**

- **Maple Place Apartments: 2112 Monroe Street, Commerce, TX**
  www.commerceapartments.com 903-886-4050

- **Oak Meadow Townhomes: 150 Maple Street, Commerce, TX**
  www.oakmeadowtownhomes.com 903-886-8881

- **Regency Square Apartments: 220 Taylor Street, Commerce, TX 903-886-7038**

- **American Eagle Properties: 1224 Main Street, Commerce, TX 903-886-4430**

- **Valentine Properties: 1505 West Neal Street, Commerce, TX 903-886-8881**

VIII. Vaccination and Health Insurance Requirements

Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Requirement: Texas state law requires all new students ***under the age of 22*** who are admitted to a Texas university or college to either receive a ***Bacterial Meningitis vaccination*** or meet the exemption requirements prior to the first day of their first semester. Click here for information about the Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination requirement. Students who fail to submit their proof of vaccination on time may not be allowed to attend classes at A&M-Commerce.

Health Insurance Requirement for All International Students: All international students are required to be enrolled in the Texas A&M University System Student Health Insurance Plan (SSHIP). The insurance premium is a separate charge from your tuition and fees. Students are only allowed a waiver from this mandatory enrollment in the SSHIP for the exceptions listed here. ***PLEASE NOTE THAT NON-SSHIP HEALTH INSURANCE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE STUDENT MEETS ONE OF THE A&M SYSTEM ALLOWED EXCEPTIONS.***

IX. Transfer Students

A transfer student is a student who is currently in the U.S. as an F-1 student who is either studying at another Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) approved school or who is on approved Optional Practical Training (OPT) under another school's I-20. Transfer students who wish to study at Texas A&M University-Commerce will need to have their SEVIS record transferred to A&M-Commerce (School Code DAL214F00099000). To transfer your SEVIS record:

- Complete the student section of the Transfer Release Form
- Provide the Transfer Release Form to your current school's international advisor to complete and email or fax to the ISSO.

- Most schools will also require a copy of an acceptance/admission letter before they will transfer a SEVIS record. Your A&M-Commerce acceptance/admission letter is emailed to your university/myLEO email by the admission office.
- Report to the International Student Services Office (ISSO) within 15 days of the start of your first semester at A&M-Commerce.

For more information about the transfer process including deadlines after students have complete OPT or graduated click here.

X. MyLEO

MyLEO is a full-time service portal that students may use to access admissions, registration, financial aid, student accounts, eCollege, and their university email (LeoMail). For more information click here. Many of you may have already accessed myLEO to monitor your admissions status so you may be familiar with the portal. The ISSO has developed some handouts to help student know the basic steps to update their information, register for classes, view or pay their tuition bill, or set-up payment plan for tuition and fees. To access the handouts click here.

XI. Undergraduate Academic Advising

Undergraduate Student Academic Advising:
Undergraduate international students will go through academic advising or receive instructions for advising during the New Student Orientation. For more information go to www.tamuc.edu/universitycollege or email SuccessCoaches@tamuc.edu or call 903-886-5878.

XII. Graduate Academic Advising

College of Business and Entrepreneurship (CBE) Majors (ACCT, FIN, MKT, MBA, MGMT):
Graduate CBE majors may contact the CBE Advising Center (Graduate Advising) by emailing CBE@tamuc.edu or call 903-886-3197 or toll free within the U.S. at 1-866-622-3899. The CBE Advising Center will provide a degree plan via email and their office will be available for academic advising during scheduled times after international student orientation.

Computer Science and Computational Science:
All graduate majors in the Computer Science department will be required to attend a department orientation and take a placement quiz before they may register for classes. You may contact Sang.Suh@tamuc.edu, Jinoh.Kim@tamuc.edu, Unal.Sakoglu@tamuc.edu, or email 903-886-5409.

Science Programs (Chemistry, Biology, Physics):
For graduate ***Chemistry*** majors once you arrive on-campus and complete orientation and check-in you will need to report to the Chemistry department in Science Building room 318. You may also email Ben.Jang@tamuc.edu with any questions or concerns.

For graduate ***Biology*** majors once you arrive on-campus and complete orientation and check-in you will need to report to the Biology department in Science building Room 260. You may also email Jeff.Kopachena@tamuc.edu.

For graduate ***Physics*** majors once you arrive on-campus and complete orientation and check-in you will need to report to the Physics department in Science Building room B34 on the 1st floor or email universe@tamuc.edu.

Other Graduate Programs
Many of our graduate international students study in the CBE or Computer Science programs so these departments develop orientations or

advising times since they have a large number of students. Most of our other graduate level programs advise students as they arrive on campus. For students in other graduate level programs you may contact your academic department directly to discuss your first semester courses and any requirements. Click here for more information.

XIII. Enrollment Requirements for International Students

F-1 international students are required to enroll in a full course of study each fall and spring semester. Students are not required to study during the summer unless it is their first semester in their academic program at A&M-Commerce. A full course of study is:

- Minimum of 12 credit hours for an undergraduate student (fall and spring semesters)
- Minimum of 9 credit hours for a graduate student (fall and spring semesters)
- Minimum of 6 credit hours for undergraduate and graduate for summer semester if first semester in academic program at A&M-Commerce
- For F-1 students no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per semester may be counted toward the full course of study requirement

Please note that there are limited exceptions to the full course of study requirements for international students. New international students will need to be prepared to enroll in the minimum number of required courses. ***A class is normally considered 3 credit hours for students. For example…9 credit hours would be 3 classes.***

XIV. Funding Your Education

On-campus Employment: All international students are eligible for on-campus employment up to 30 days prior to the start date of their I-20. Students may find open on-campus employment positions by clicking here. Permission from the ISSO or SEVP is not required before you may begin your employment. To learn more click here.

Below are the different types of on-campus employment positions:

- Student workers are employed up to 19 hours a week while classes are in session and may be employed up to 40 hours during semester breaks. Benefits include salary (usually minimum wage).
- Graduate assistants are employed up to 20 hours a week while classes are in session and may be employed up to 40 hours during semester breaks. . Benefits include a higher salary and in-state tuition waiver. A very limited number of GA's include tuition remission.
- Work study positions are identified by the posting "work permit required." Work study positions are only available to U.S. citizens.

Off-campus Employment: International students will not be eligible for off-campus employment until they have been enrolled in courses at A&M-Commerce for an academic year (fall and spring). Unauthorized off-campus employment is a serious violation of the F-1 visa status.

Scholarships: Students are offered scholarships automatically based on academic achievement or by completing the general scholarship application. All students are encouraged to apply for scholarships using our General Scholarship Application. All correspondence about scholarships will be sent to a student's

university/myLEO email. The Student Loan Network provides a Free Online Scholarship Guide and eBook which can help you find more scholarships through the Internet. Below are some helpful tips:

- Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible
- Pay attention to deadlines!
- Read and follow instructions for the scholarship application carefully
- Complete the entire application
- Proofread the application and/or essay
- If the application requires an essay, be personal, specific, and provide details
- Be honest on your application
- Be sure to make copies of everything you submit

Career Development: The Career Development Office is located in the Student Access and Success building (One Stop Shop) and provides many career planning or preparation services for students. The student service fee that all students pay covers the services offered through the Career Development Office. Be sure to visit their office before you apply for any on-campus jobs.

Social Security Number: International students will not be eligible for a social security number (SSN) until they have found employment. ***Students will only be eligible for on campus employment their first academic year (fall, spring) of enrollment.*** Off campus employment is restricted due to the F visa rules. While it is beneficial to have an SSN it is not required unless a student intends to apply for off-campus employment later in their academic program or after they graduate.

XV. Cell Phones in the U.S.

Most cell phone providers in the U.S. require either a Social Security Number (SSN) or a high security deposit for setting up a contract for your cell phone service. These contracts usually last from one to two years and you are required to stay with the provider or you will have to pay a fee to cancel your contract. Many providers also have a pre-paid options in which you pay on a monthly basis for the service. There is no contract and you may cancel service or switch to another provider at any time. Below are more details about each type of service:

Contracts

- Most cell phone companies charge for all calls, outgoing AND incoming, though many have free calling within their network.
- Some plans give you a set number of minutes per month. Overage minutes are charged at a much higher rate. Check your plan to see if weekend and nighttime minutes are free.
- If you don't have a US Social Security Number, expect to pay a deposit (the deposit should be returned at the end of the contract). Some providers have become more friendly toward international customers recently.
- Text messaging (SMS) typically carries an additional charge if not included in a plan. Ask about adding texting to your plan if not included.
- For most companies, you must have a compatible phone. Ask specifically if you want to use one you currently have.

PLEASE NOTE: Once a contract has been signed, you will be obligated to pay the entire contract period. If you decide to break the contract providers will usually charge a high fee to cancel the contract. Contracts generally last from one to two years.

Pre-Paid

- If you intend to make calls to your home country, ensure this is possible with your specific plan.
- May be month-to-month subscriptions or "add minutes as you go."
- No deposit required.
- Cheaper phones– generally basic features such as SMS and calling.
- Cost ranges from minimal to comparable to contract services.

Local Providers

1. AT&T
   - 1611 State Highway 50 # A, Commerce, TX inside Shell Gas Station
   - Wesley Street, Greenville, TX (local authorized AT&T retailer)

2. Sprint
   - 3130 Interstate Hwy 30 West Suite B, Greenville, TX
   - 151 Industrial Drive E #300. Sulphur Springs, TX

3. Verizon
   - 380 Shannon Road E, Sulphur Springs, TX

4. T-Mobile, Metro PCS, AT&T, Sprint, Verizon
   - 2701 State Highway 50, Commerce, TX (inside Walmart)
   - 1710 Live Oak Street, Commerce, TX (Metro PCS and other providers)

XVI. Banking in the U.S.

The city of Commerce has a few different banking facilities and some provide more services for our international students and scholars than others. You may review the local Yellow Pages to find the banks in the area and/or consult other international students and scholars.

There are different kinds of banks accounts to choose from. The three most common are:

- **Savings Accounts**- This type of account allows your money to earn interest over time. Some savings accounts charge a fee for frequent withdrawals and keeping a balance below a designated amount. This type of account is best if you need to deposit money for safekeeping over an extended period of time.
- **Checking Accounts**- This type of account is designed to hold your money but also allows you to access it whenever needed through checks and check cards. Some of these accounts earn interest and some have restrictions on the number of checks you can write. Most have minimum balances and penalties for going below the minimum balance.
- **Certificate of Deposits (CD's)-** These are savings certificates that earn higher interest rates than savings and checking accounts. They also require you to keep money in the CD for a specific length of time.

University Option for Refunds and Banking: A&M-Commerce utilizes a third party company called Higher One. Refunds for tuition and fees are processed through Higher One using the Pride Choice Card. Students may also open a full-service checking account through Higher One and account choices include OneAccount, OneAccountEdge, and One AccountPremier. For more information click here.

XVII. Tuition and Fee Payment

Payment for tuition and fees is handled through the university Student Accounts department. For a list of frequent asked questions for tuition, fees, and other questions click here.

The exact amount of tuition and fees a student will pay their first semester will not be known until after they have register for classes. Students may find the schedule for tuition and fees by credit hour (a course is usually 3 credit hours) by clicking here.

Students will need to be sure to submit the Financial Responsibility Agreement through their myLEO before the start of their first semester.

Students who will pay their tuition and fees by wire transfer may contact the ISSO for instructions or email Sarah.Baker@tamuc.edu.

XVIII. Driver's License and Texas State ID Card

A Texas Driver's License is not only a document demonstrating permission to drive but it is also a nationally accepted form of identification. The Texas state ID card is only used as an identification card. Driver's license and state ID's are issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). Any international student and their dependent may apply for a driver's license or state ID.

For information on how to apply for a Texas state driver's license click here. For a list of acceptable documents click here. A social security number (SSN) is not required to apply for a driver's license. The written driver's test may be taken online and you may contact DPS or the ISSO for more information.

XIX. Lion Identification Card (Student ID Card)

The Mane Card Office produces the official identification card for Texas A&M University-Commerce. The card is referred to as a Lion Card and the account associated with the card is called Lion Cash. All students are required to obtain and carry their Lion Card with them at all times. The cost for the first Lion Card is included with your tuition and fee expenses. The Lion Card provides students with the ability to utilize campus food services, and gives card holders Lion Cash spending options. It is also used to gain admission to certain events sponsored by the university or student organizations and to academic resources such as James Gee Library and Campus Recreation Center. The Lion Card program establishes security for the card holder as there is only one valid card per person. Participating off campus merchants accept Lion Cash which can be used to purchase food, gas and other merchandise. Students may apply for their Lion Card once they arrive in campus before they register for classes. Click here for more information.

XX. Campus Safety and Parking Permits

Texas A&M University - Commerce has a safe campus surrounded by a residential community within the town of Commerce located in North East Texas. We understand many parents and students are concerned about safety on college/university campuses. We acknowledge that concern and accept our responsibility to enforce security policies and practices.

The University Police Department (UPD) is responsible for law enforcement on the campus of A&M-Commerce and provide daily patrols across campus to ensure the safety of the university community. UPD offers a number of services to the university community including vehicle assistance, delivering emergency messages, lost and found, weather monitoring, crime prevention programs, and much more.

The Pride Alert Warning System (PAWS) is a campus wide system that is used to communicate many types of serious incidents. PAWS utilizing text messaging and emails to communicate important information including campus closures, severe weather, and campus emergencies. Students may sign up for PAWS through their myLEO.

Parking permits are required to park your vehicle on campus at the main Commerce campus. Permits may be purchased at the Cashier's Office in the McDowell Administration (BA) building 1st floor lobby or through your my LEO. The estimated cost is $40 for whole year (fall-summer), $32 for spring and summer, or $24 for summer only. For more information click here. Visitor or temporary parking permits may be requested online by clicking here.

The ISSO has a number of different ways that you may contact us with any questions or concerns. Also, included in your I-20 packet is a list of the international student groups at A&M-Commerce and their contact information:

- Facebook search International Student Services at Texas A&M University-Commerce for the ISSO and search Texas A&M University Commerce-International Students for the student page.
- Skype to TAMUCISSO
- On Twitter you may follow @ISSOTAMUC
- In Google Hangouts you may search International Student Services at Texas A&M University-Commerce
- Email intl.stu@tamuc.edu or phone 903-886-5097
- The ISSO is located in Halladay Student Services building Room 104 (building B17 on campus map).

Our office is open year around Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm Central Standard Time U.S. ***The ISSO and the university will close on Wednesday, December 24 for the Christmas and New Year holidays and will reopen on Monday, January 5 at 8am.***

Please remember that the International Student Services Office (ISSO) is here to assist you as you prepare for your studies at A&M-Commerce, during your studies, and if you go out on post-graduation employment after graduation. Feel free to contact us anytime with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

John Mark Jones, Director

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COMMERCE

A Member of The Texas A&M University System