

TAMUQ 101:

Navigating Your First Year



How is your semester going?

- Are your classes what you expected?
- Are you struggling with the adjustment, academically and/or socially?
- Are you attending ALL your classes?
- Are you managing your time and keeping up with your coursework?
- Have you met with your advisor to plan courses for the spring?
- Are you sleeping?
- These are very important questions! Answer them honestly, even if only to yourself.



Let's talk about advising...

- Academic advisors are here to help you plan your courses for the next semester, and answer any questions you may have about the courses you are taking this semester.
- Remember, you **MUST** meet with an academic advisor (Ms. Phylcia or Mr. Ryan) in order to be cleared to register for your spring classes. You will be **blocked** from registering until your advising is completed.
- Advisors can help keep you on track and taking the correct courses in the correct sequence for your major.
- Advisors are also here to answer any questions you may have, academic or otherwise!



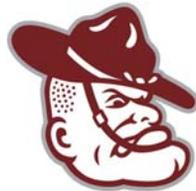
Let's talk about academic standing...

- Students at TAMUQ must meet specific grade requirements in order to continue to higher-level coursework and, ultimately, graduation.
- Most classes require a C or better to meet graduation requirements; see your catalog for specifics.
- A minimum GPA (Grade Point Average) of 2.0 is required to remain in good academic standing with TAMUQ.
- You must be in good academic standing to be able to participate in student organizations, sports teams, travel (field trips), etc.



Let's talk about academic probation...

- Students who earn less than a 2.0 cumulatively or for the term will be put on academic probation.
- If probation terms are not met during the next term, students can be suspended from the University.
- Students who are placed on academic probation are not eligible to travel, hold leadership positions in organizations, etc.
- Students must meet probation terms successfully in order to continue enrollment and return to good academic standing.



Let's talk about your GPA...

- Midterm grades are due on Thursday, 19 Oct. They are a good indication of how you are doing in the class so far, but they are not final. Don't panic.
- If your midterm grade is not what you want it to be, there are resources to help you bring it up!
- You should also **TALK TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR!** Let them know any issues you may be having, and ask for any study tips they may have. They don't bite.
- Depending on what your instructor has to say, you may want to consider Q-dropping a course.



How to calculate your GPA...

- It's a simple equation: Total Grade Points divided by Total Credit Hours (TGP/TCH)=GPA
- Each letter grade is assigned a point value:

A = 4 grade points	C = 2 grade points	D/F/U = 0 grade points
B = 3 grade points	D = 1 grade point	

- Multiply the point value of each grade by the number of credits a course is worth: for a B grade in a 3-credit course, you earn 9 points (3 points x 3 credits = 9 total grade points)
- Add all points for each class, then divide by the total number of credits for the semester to get your semester GPA.



How to calculate your GPA...

- SO, using this formula, a student enrolled in 16 credits would look something like this:

ENGR 111	B	3 pts x 2 cr = 6 gp	
MATH 151	C	2 pts x 4 cr = 8 gp	
PHYS 218	C	2 pts x 4 cr = 8 gp	
ENGL 104	A	4 pts x 3 cr = 12 gp	
HIST 105	B	3 pts x 3 cr = 9 gp	
		43 total grade points/ 16 total credits	43/16= 2.687



Let's talk about Q-Drops...

- OK, so your midterms grades were not what they needed to be. Remember, you have 4 chances to “Quit” a class in progress, or “Q-Drop.”
- Q-drop deadline is the 60th class day of the semester- for this semester it is 26 NOV.
- Q-dropping a course may help you to stay in good academic standing and keep your GPA above the 2.0 minimum requirement.
- If you Q-drop a course, you must repeat it; it can affect your spring courses (it may be a prerequisite) so make sure you consult with an advisor before you drop the course to make sure you take this into consideration.
- Q-drops should be used as a last resort, but they are there to help you.



Let's talk about Withdrawal...

- If you need to drop ALL your courses in a given semester, you will need to Withdraw from the University.
- The 60th class day is the Withdrawal deadline (same as Q-drop)- 26 NOV.
- Again, withdrawing can help you save your GPA and remain in good academic standing. Talk through your options with your advisor.
- 2-part process: Complete the online form in Howdy, and the paper form for Office of Records



Let's talk about prerequisites...

- Most TAMUQ courses have specific prerequisites that **MUST** be completed before you can enroll in the next course.
- Prerequisites ensure you know the foundational material the next course will build on.
- Prerequisites **ARE** strictly enforced. No prereq = no progression in course sequence.
- Student rule 10.20 says you must successfully complete a course before you can move to the next-level course in the sequence. **SO:** If you make a D in MATH 151, because the course requires a C to meet your degree requirements, you **MUST** retake the course before you can move on to MATH 152.
- Major requirements (C or better) trump catalog prerequisites.



Let's talk about resources...

Academic Success Collaborative

- The ASC provides academic support to students at TAMUQ, ranging from peer tutoring to writing consultations and academic coaching. All services are provided to students FREE of charge, just schedule an appointment.
- Peer Tutoring for MATH, SCIENCE, and some MAJOR courses is available.
- Writing consultations for writing assignments
- Digital media consultations for presentations, media projects, etc.
- Academic Coaching for an extra edge... coaching for better time management, study habits, learning methods, etc.



Let's talk about resources...

Counseling Services

- Dr. Steve Wilson is happy to chat with you, and can provide counseling in the following areas:
 - *Personal (adjusting to college life, relationship difficulties, roommate differences, etc.)*
 - *Career (what do you want to be when you grow up?)*
 - *Stress management (anxiety, anger, communication, depression, grief, etc.)*
- Dr. Wilson is available Sunday-Thursday, 7:30-3:30. To schedule an appointment, you can email him at steve.wilson@qatar.tamu.edu



Let's talk about resources...

Academic Services

- Academic Advising: course planning, academic guidance, registration, degree planning, academic support
 - *Ms. Phylicia and Mr. Ryan are happy to answer any questions you have, and help you plan your time here.*
- Study Abroad: we love you, but GO AWAY! Broaden your education and your horizons by taking advantage of our international experience opportunities, either on our Main Campus or another area.
 - *Mr. Colby, Program Coordinator for Study Abroad, can help you choose the experience that's right for you.*



Let's talk about registration...

- Step 1: See your advisor to plan courses for the next semester.
- Step 2: See your faculty advisor (if required) to have your course plan approved; once it's approved, return it to the advising office to have your hold lifted.
- Step 3: Advisors will register you for your MATH, SCIENCE, and MAJOR courses before the registration period begins. You will have these courses assigned to you and added to your schedule in November.
- Step 4: Log into Howdy, and add any planned Liberal Arts elective courses (ENGL, COMM, HIST, POLS, INST, etc.) We recommend you DO NOT change any of the courses you are already registered for- changing these can cause major problems!



Let's talk about registration...

- Cap=Maximum # of students in class
- Act=How many students are currently in class
- Rem=# of students that can still register for class- this number should be 1 or more!

CRN	Roster	Subj	Crse	Sec	Cmp	Cred	Title	Days	Time	Cap	Act	Rem	Instructor	Date	Location
	View												<small>Click name to see CV</small>	(MM/DD)	
50006	View	ENGL	104	501	QT	3	Composition and Rhetoric	TRU	09:05 am-10:00 am	15	15	0	Hugh H. Hughes (P)	09/06-12/20	QENG 211



Let's talk about anything you want...

- This is your chance to ask any questions you have about life here at TAMUQ!
- The only dumb question is the one you DON'T ASK! (And most likely, someone else has the same question you do!)
- We have been doing this job a while, so we've heard all sorts of crazy questions. Just ask us!
- We are also Aggies (Ms. Amanda is Class of '00 and Mr. Ryan is Class of '06) so we can answer questions about Aggie Life, Aggie Traditions, and other stuff too!



Let's talk about anything you want...

- If you don't want to ask us now, please make sure you email us or come by our office to chat! You can also check the FAQ area on the Academic Services website, under Academic Advising.
- Ms. Amanda: 148D, amanda.mather@qatar.tamu.edu
- Mr. Ryan: 148E, ryan.scheffler@qatar.tamu.edu
- Ms. Phylcia, 148F, phylcia.french@qatar.tamu.edu
- THANKS FOR COMING!

