

Undergraduate Student Handbook

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Literature and Languages

Welcome to what may very well become the most memorable chapter in your life's story. This is a time to explore new found freedoms, find your personal direction, and maybe lifelong friends. During this time, many changes will occur both in your own life and the world around you. Savor those changes and learn from the experiences you will encounter. These are the things that will mold you into the person to become. The process of college can be confusing and at times seem a daunting task.

TAMU-Commerce Literature and Languages undergraduate handbook is an invaluable asset. The handbook is designed to help you easily find information necessary to your first years of college as smoothly as possible. It will guide you to people and information that will help you navigate smoothly through the education process, answer questions and clear up otherwise misunderstood conceptions.

Explore the many websites offered throughout the handbook and take time to visit with the people listed. You will find that the Literature and Languages Department at TAMU-C is filled with friendly and helpful people who are truly interested and dedicated to making your experience at TAMU-C a great one. Remember your time in college is only what you make it.

Scholarship information can be found at:
<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/Scholarships.asp>

Why English?

Because insightful observation, clarity of expression, and effective communication are essential in so many professions, English majors find themselves poised for success in many fields and are especially appreciated by law schools and other graduate schools. Not only are English majors prepared for success in these specialized areas, they are also adequately prepared to enter the work force directly, not only in traditional occupations such as editing, free-lance writing, teaching, publishing, and journalism, but also in the less-traditional “English” areas of business and state and federal government. Here, English majors currently excel in marketing and management positions, informational positions, project development, and public relations, in addition to other areas. Many corporations find English majors to be promising employees because of their communication and organizational skills, their insightful analytical abilities, and their capacity to synthesize information.

America’s largest employer, the federal government, also hires college English graduates who have not yet received specialized training to fill some of the approximately 300,000 positions available each year. Many of these positions require the excellent language and communication skills that English majors possess.

Faculty

Take the time to find out who your instructors are and visit them. Find out their office hours and drop by for a visit. Let them know who you are. Advise them of any concerns you may have about the class. You'll find that your instructors are always willing to take time to explain details about the class and are genuinely excited about the classes they teach. Here is a link to the Department Staff where you will find other links to individual websites that post office hours and bios of the instructors and their specialties: <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/Faculty.asp>

Advising

Advising is an integral part of making your college experience run smoothly. Your advisor will help you with your degree plan and stream line your classes so that you are not taking unnecessary classes that may slow your time to graduation. Do not confuse academic advising with departmental advising. Academic advising is only designed to point you to the correct department and get you on your feet.

Departmental advising is necessary in that your advisor is within the department of your major and will be more aware of changes upcoming within the department. The advisor is also experienced in helping you devise a plan specific to your needs. Visit with your advisor regularly throughout your stay as they will have all the information you

need to make your leaving experience run smoothly. Visit the main office in the Hall of Languages to find out who your advisor is and to set appointments. For information on the new University Honors Program, click the link below:

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/honors/>

Writing Center

We can help. The Writing Center (WC), otherwise known as the Communication Skills Center, is located on the first floor of the Hall of Languages, room 106. The WC is open to all writers on campus, freshman through graduate students and even faculty, to meet one-on-one with a highly qualified and well-trained tutor to discuss any kind of writing project at any stage of the project. All majors, subjects and skill levels are welcome. Our trained peer tutors will work with you to generate topics, organize ideas, develop thesis statements and revise drafts. Although we will not correct spelling and grammar errors for you, we will help you spot and correct them yourself. You will find the Center an invaluable asset to your college experience. Follow the link below for further information:

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/WritingCenter/>

Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Tau Delta at Texas A&M University-Commerce is an honor society which is open to all English majors, English minors, or anyone interested in the study of English. Initiations are normally held twice per year. Check the Sigma Tau Delta kiosk in the Literature & Languages building between the Writing Center and the lobby for updated information.

Texas A&M University-Commerce holds the Upsilon Beta chapter of the international organization. The chapter is sponsored through the Department of Literature and Languages, Dr. Kathryn Jacobs as faculty advisor. Sigma Tau Delta has many awards and scholarships available for students, and is also an active part of many universities.

Membership in the local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta falls into two general categories: **Active** and **Associate**. **Active Membership** is open to all Texas A&M University-Commerce students who meet the above criteria and who are majoring or minoring in English. Active members may vote and hold office. **Associate Membership** is open to all Texas A&M University-Commerce students who are interested in the study of English. While Associate members may vote, they are not eligible to hold office. For more information, visit the site at:

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/Sigma.asp>

Rearview Mirror Society and Mayo Review

The Rearview Mirror Society is a Texas A&M University-Commerce organization involving students interested in writing and reading. One aspect of the

organization is the production of *The Mayo Review*, a magazine which publishes the textual and artistic work of students. Other aspects of the organization include sponsoring public readings of various texts, a science fiction reading group, and brown bag workshops for creative writing. Membership is open to all A&M Commerce students. Dr. Robin Reid supports the group as faculty advisor. More information is available at: <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/RearViewMirror.asp>

Philosophy

Why Study Philosophy? (<http://www.phil.unt.edu/philtalk.htm>)

The courses in philosophy introduce the student to some of the most enduring and challenging problems that we know and the attempts we have made to solve them. Students who take courses in philosophy enhance their ability to think critically and vigorously, analyze arguments, and express their views clearly and concisely, orally and in writing. Courses in philosophy are good preparation for students considering graduate studies, law, medicine, and work with government agencies and private corporations.

Detailed information at: <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/PhilosophyMinor.asp>

Spanish

The Undergraduate Spanish Program is dedicated to the study of languages and literatures of Latin America and Spain. The Department of Spanish offers a wide range and variety, including Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced courses in Spanish Language and Culture. Spanish 333 and Spanish 334 are offered for Heritage Speakers, students who are fluent in Spanish but need to brush up on their writing and grammar skills.

We have a strong academic program with personalized advising to attract a rapidly growing number of majors and minors. Spanish is a particularly popular choice of today's student. Many also work toward dual degrees, combining a major in Spanish with a minor in French or in a wide variety of fields.

Besides offering an array of languages, literature, and culture courses, the department hosts the Spanish Tertulia; open to all students, it promotes movies, dinners, and other opportunities to hear and speak Spanish.

Students who have had previous experience in Spanish are encouraged to take the Departmental Spanish Placement Test. You will information about the test and our

Spanish programs at:

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/flmlc/Spanish/underwel.asp?location=Undergrad>

French

Why Study French? (<http://www.fll.vt.edu/French/whyfrench.html>)

Students may minor in French for the bachelor's degree by completing eighteen hours of which nine semester hours advanced must be taken at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Required courses for minor in bachelor's degree (24 semester hours) [Fre 131](#), [132](#), [231](#), [232](#); 12 sh of [advanced courses](#)

Note: Oral proficiency is an integral component of language instruction at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Before credit or equivalency is given for a foreign language correspondence course, the student requesting such credit or equivalency must demonstrate satisfactory oral proficiency in the language as determined by the Literature and Languages Department.

For a listing of course offerings, follow the link:
<http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/UndergradFrench.htm>