Welcome to the Hilltop

We are pleased that you and your student are joining the SMU community during a special time in our history. The University is observing its Second Century Celebration, which commemorates the 100th anniversary of SMU’s founding in 1911 and opening in 1915. In 2014, we are celebrating the Year of the Faculty to honor the contributions of our esteemed faculty as researchers, teachers and citizens.

SMU is a community of world changers. We are preparing students for real-world success, and they, along with our faculty and alumni, are making a meaningful impact around the globe. As the University’s national profile continues to rise, your student will benefit even more from your family’s investment in an SMU education.

We are committed to providing an educational environment and resources that support students in achieving their goals. The Class of 2018 will experience the launch of SMU’s new Residential Commons initiative, which will allow students to live on campus during their first two years within residential communities of support. Engaged Learning and other campus programs offer unique opportunities for experiential learning, professional development and community involvement. Other important resources include the Alshuler Learning Enhancement Center, Hegi Family Career Development Center, Chaplain’s Office and Health Center.

I ask parents to be partners in urging students to live responsibly. Please discuss health and safety issues with your students, including substance abuse and sexual misconduct, which are serious issues at universities nationwide. Resources and information are available at smu.edu/LiveResponsibly. All students are expected to uphold high standards of behavior and to respect all members of our community.

With this calendar, you can stay up-to-date with events and resources that support your student. I look forward to seeing you on campus during Family Weekend, October 24-26, and at events throughout the year.

Congratulations on your choice of SMU, and welcome to the Hilltop.

Sincerely,

R. Gerald Turner, President
Welcome, Mustang Parents

A new academic year presents a great new beginning for you and your student. It is my hope that your student will fully experience this time — with all of its possibilities — and treasure it for a lifetime.

Your students will find their place and feel at home here as they explore new paths. Higher education research shows that students who get involved in the campus community are the most successful. Encourage your student to take advantage of SMU’s resources:

- Get to know faculty, classmates and staff members across campus.
- Participate in SMU’s myriad student organizations, programs and activities.
- Explore learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom.
- Identify interests, values and skills in their personal, academic and professional lives.

Parents can stay connected to campus by visiting SMU’s home page, smu.edu, and the website for parents, smu.edu/parents. There you’ll find helpful information about campus news, academic calendars and campus resources to support students’ well-being.

We ask parents to remain active partners in encouraging personal responsibility and healthy life habits among their students. On SMU’s Health and Safety website, smu.edu/LiveResponsibly, you’ll find helpful information, including the University’s sexual misconduct policies and information about substance abuse education and prevention. The site also highlights campus and community resources available to support students.

Academic advisers, resident assistants, faculty and staff members are here to help students begin charting a successful course. Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Lori S. White, Vice President for Student Affairs
## August 2014

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<td>First Sunday Worship</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
<td>ALEC Workshop: Time Management</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
<td>ALEC Welcome Luncheon for Military Veterans</td>
<td>Last day to enroll, drop/add without penalty</td>
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<td>Katunda Processional Opening Convocation</td>
<td>ALEC Workshop: Sexual Assault Awareness program</td>
<td>Aug. 25-28 Intramural registration</td>
<td>ALEC Workshop: The Big Squeeze Engaged Learning Expo</td>
<td>ALEC Workshops: Transfer Student Perspective and Time Management</td>
<td>Last day to waive mandatory health insurance</td>
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### GET INVOLVED

Research shows that students who get involved in at least one student organization during the first six weeks of class do better academically than students who do not get involved. Discuss activities that may interest your student.

**Student Activities** advises 180 student groups.  
[smu.edu/studentactivities](smu.edu/studentactivities)

**Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life** sponsors more than 30 religious life groups.  
[smu.edu/chaplain](smu.edu/chaplain)

**Recreational Sports** sponsors intramural activities throughout the year.  
[smu.edu/recsports](smu.edu/recsports)

**The Community Engagement and Leadership Center** provides opportunities for service and leadership training.  
[smu.edu/cel](smu.edu/cel)

Fall events on campus include the Tate Distinguished Lecture Series, a Goya exhibit at the Meadows Museum and an Oscar de la Renta retrospective at the George W. Bush Presidential Center.  
[smu.edu](smu.edu)

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[smu.edu/parents](smu.edu/parents)
University Distinguished Professor of History Edward F. Countryman with students
### THE FIRST WEEKS

New freedoms, new responsibilities, laundry, classes, friends – the first weeks are filled with ups and downs. Students may feel exhilarated, exhausted and overwhelmed all in the course of one phone call home.

Roommate challenges are college students’ most common complaint. Be sympathetic, but encourage your student to work things out. Residence Life staff members can help.

Discuss healthy choices and personal responsibility with your student, and review SMU policies regarding sexual misconduct and substance abuse. Find information and resources on SMU’s Health and Safety website.

September is National Preparedness Month, when the SMU community will be reviewing what to do in case of emergency. In the event of an emergency, parents can find information at smu.edu and on twitter.com/SMU.

**THE FIRST WEEKS**

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<td>Labor Day: No classes</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Textbook Study Reading</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Taking and Using Notes</td>
<td>Residential Commons Olympics</td>
<td>SMU at North Texas</td>
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<td>National Preparedness Month</td>
<td>ALEC Workshop: Organization</td>
<td>SMU Abroad Welcome Back Reunion</td>
<td>SMUmba Extravaganza</td>
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Mid-term exams often bring stress and anxiety. Some students perform below their expectations; others gain self-confidence as they do well. Empathize and encourage. Remind students to:

- Meet with their professors.
- Check the course syllabus or professors’ websites for office hours.
- Visit the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC) for free tutoring sessions, one-on-one study skills help and test-taking workshops. Students also can make appointments to review rough drafts of papers with English faculty members in the Writing Center.
- Consider enrolling in the Oracle study skills class HDEV 1110 for the spring term to acquire advanced reading and learning skills. Make appointments with academic advisers to plan for the spring term.

Meet with their professors. Check the course syllabus or professors’ websites for office hours.

Visit the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC) for free tutoring sessions, one-on-one study skills help and test-taking workshops. Students also can make appointments to review rough drafts of papers with English faculty members in the Writing Center.

Consider enrolling in the Oracle study skills class HDEV 1110 for the spring term to acquire advanced reading and learning skills. Make appointments with academic advisers to plan for the spring term.
Lyle School of Engineering students participate in tallest-toy competition
YOU’LL BE HOME WHEN?

Don’t be surprised if students have days and nights reversed when they come home for Thanksgiving. They may be on “Hawaii Time,” heading out about the time you are getting ready for bed.

Time for a wellness check. Did your student get a flu shot at the SMU Health Center? Remind your student to pay attention to SMU health alert e-mails. Be aware of signs of depression and eating disorders.

Counseling and Psychiatric Services can help identify, assess and resolve issues that may interfere with academic and emotional development.

The SMU Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention provides student awareness programs, assessments, counseling, interventions and referrals.

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<td>Outdoor Adventures Canoeing 35th annual Diwali</td>
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<td>Nov. 10-15 Homecoming Week</td>
<td>Veterans Day: Honoring SMU veterans Tate Student Forum and Lecture: David Brooks</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
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<td>SMU MBB vs. Lamar (non-conference) SMU WBB vs. Northern Colorado (non-conference)</td>
<td>SMU at Tulsa Stampede of Service Day</td>
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<td>Homecoming Worship Service SMU WBB vs. UTEP (non-conference)</td>
<td>Nov. 17-21 International Education Week</td>
<td>Summer Abroad Programs fair</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
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<td>Enrollment ends for spring 2015</td>
<td>SMU at UCF Outdoor Adventures Rock Climbing SMU MBB and SMU WBB vs. Eastern Washington (non-conference)</td>
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<td>Nov. 26-28 Thanksgiving Break: No classes SMU MBB vs. Texas Southern (non-conference)</td>
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<td>SMU vs. Houston Tailgate on the Boulevard SMU WBB vs. Florida A&amp;M (non-conference)</td>
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<td>SMU MBB vs. Monmouth (non-conference) SMU MBB vs. Arkansas (non-conference)</td>
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<td>SMU WBB vs. Sam Houston State/USC (non-conference)</td>
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## FINALs AHeAd

Late nights and too much pizza may begin to take their toll as students hunker down for final exams. Encourage your student to stay healthy by choosing nutritious meals and taking study breaks at the Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports.

At the Dedman Center, students can swim laps, scale the climbing wall or work out in the 15,000-square-foot fitness area.

Fondren Library, open around the clock during finals and much of the academic year, provides a quiet place for study.

Students can call Giddy-Up, 214-768-1111, the campus security escort service, for a free ride to the library or anywhere else on campus between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

Assess the term with your student. What went right and what didn’t? What are changes to consider for next term?

### December 2014

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<td>Celebration of Lights</td>
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<td>SMU MBB vs. Wyoming (non-conference)</td>
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<td>Last day of classes SMU MBB vs. UC Santa Barbara (non-conference)</td>
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<td>Tate Student Forum and Lecture: Platon</td>
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<td>Last day of classes SMU MBB vs. UC Santa Barbara (non-conference)</td>
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<td>Dec. 9-10 Reading days SMU WBB vs. Texas A&amp;M (non-conference)</td>
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<td>Examinations</td>
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smu.edu/parents

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smu.edu/recsports

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smu.edu/libraries

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smu.edu/parknpony

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smu.edu/parents
Dallas skyline lights up for SMU Basketball
Many SMU programs allow students to apply what they’re learning to real-world experiences on campus and beyond. Encourage your student to get involved.

Through SMU’s Office of Engaged Learning, students can design their own in-depth project in research, civic engagement, internships and creative work, and receive funding and recognition on their transcripts. smu.edu/engagedlearning

Additional research opportunities for undergraduates include the Undergraduate Research Assistantships, Big Ideas and the Hamilton Undergraduate Research Scholars program. smu.edu/undergradresearch

A weather note: It’s that time of the year, when weather conditions may warrant closing the University. Students will be notified of class cancellations by e-mail and at smu.edu, and can watch for updates on Twitter. com/SMU.

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<td>Residence halls open (date may be subject to change)</td>
<td>Jan. 5-14 J Term at SMU-in-Plano and SMU-in-Taos</td>
<td>Jan. 5-14 Alternative Winter Break 2</td>
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<td>First day of classes Jan. 16-22</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No classes</td>
<td>MLK Day of Service</td>
<td>SMU Dream Week</td>
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<td>Tate Student Forum and Lecture: Robin Roberts Jan. 27-30</td>
<td>Engaged Learning Week</td>
<td>Undergraduate in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Time Management and Organization</td>
<td>SMU Abroad reunion Join the Club</td>
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smu.edu/parents
WANTED: A MAJOR

Most college students consider changing their major at least once. Encourage your student to tap into SMU resources to explore majors, careers and internships.

At the University Advising Center for SMU pre-majors, advisers are trained to help students with long-term major and minor planning.

smu.edu/dedman/student resources/universityadvising center

Career counselors at the Hegi Family Career Development Center administer interest and personality-based assessments, then meet one-on-one with students to help them explore internships and careers.

smu.edu/career

At the Chaplain’s Office, no appointment is necessary for students looking for conversation and support regarding life goals. Chaplains are trained and experienced pastoral counselors.

smu.edu/chaplain

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<td>Black History Month</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Time Management</td>
<td>Last day to declare pass/fail</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Textbook Study Reading</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Taking and Using Notes</td>
<td>Feb. 6-7 Crain All-University Leadership Conference</td>
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<td>A-LEC Workshop: Research and Research Papers</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Multiple Choice Tests</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Worship Service</td>
<td>Career and Internship Fair</td>
<td>Strong Man Competition</td>
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<td>Tate Student Forum and Lecture: Doris Kearns Goodwin</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
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Many students study abroad during their years at SMU or take courses at SMU’s campus in Taos, N.M. Spring break also offers opportunities for service trips and academic pilgrimages around the country.

**SMU Abroad** offers nearly 150 programs in 50 countries, with opportunities for research, internships and service. Note: Applications for spring programs are due October 1; summer programs are due February 1; and fall programs are due March 1.

**SMU-in-Taos** at historic Fort Burgwin offers classes during the January, May, June and August terms. Courses include biology, history and archaeology, smu.edu/taos

**Alternative Break trips** during fall, winter and spring breaks take students and faculty to communities in need to perform service, including to build trails and work with disadvantaged children. smu.edu/cel

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<td>Women's History Month</td>
<td>Fall SMU Abroad applications due</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
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<td>March 8-14 Alternative Spring Break</td>
<td>March 9-15 Spring Break: No classes</td>
<td>15-19 Intramural softball, ultimate Frisbee registration</td>
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<td>March 16-19</td>
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<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
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<td>A-LEC Workshop: GPA 101 Survival Skills</td>
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smu.edu/parents
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<td><strong>SMU Outdoor Adventures</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 2-9 Intramural sand volleyball, golf scramble, dodgeball registration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Good Friday: No classes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Outdoors Adventures Skydiving</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SMU Outdoor Adventures offers camping, canoeing and backpacking trips for students in Texas and around the country.</strong></td>
<td><strong>smu.edu/recsports/adventure</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Enrollment starts for summer and fall 2015</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 6-9 A-LEC Workshop: Plan a Successful Finish</strong></td>
<td><strong>Last day to drop a course</strong></td>
<td><strong>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Students should visit the undergraduate catalog online and meet with their academic advisers.</strong></td>
<td><strong>smu.edu/catalogs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11-12 Outdoor Adventures Canoeing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Honors Convocation and Awards Extravaganza</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11-12 Outdoor Adventures Canoeing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11-12 Outdoor Adventures Canoeing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>At the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC), many prelaw, premed and engineering students rely on tutoring for challenging classes.</strong></td>
<td><strong>smu.edu/alec</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11-12 Outdoor Adventures Canoeing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Engaged Learning Meet Up</strong></td>
<td><strong>Enrollment ends for summer and fall 2015</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11-12 Outdoor Adventures Canoeing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>April 27-28 A-LEC Workshop: Prepare for Finals</strong></td>
<td><strong>Engaged Learning Meet Up</strong></td>
<td><strong>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11-12 Outdoor Adventures Canoeing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Good Friday: No classes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Outdoors Adventures Skydiving</strong></td>
<td><strong>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11-12 Outdoor Adventures Canoeing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Students can enjoy Texas spring weather with an Outdoor Adventures outing and then focus on preparing for finals.</strong></td>
<td><strong>smu.edu/recsports/adventure</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11-12 Outdoor Adventures Canoeing</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11-12 Outdoor Adventures Canoeing</strong></td>
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Before students head home for the summer, remind them to forward their mail to their summer address, pay fines for overdue books or parking tickets, and clean their residence hall room or apartment to avoid penalty fees.

Take a minute to say thank-you to professors, resident advisers, academic advisers, fitness class instructors and student organization advisers.

And parents, give yourselves a pat on the back for:

- Attending AARO or Family Weekend, even if your student said you didn’t need to come.
- Encouraging your student to meet with his or her professors.
- Reminding your students to visit the A-LEC.
- Making sure your student takes responsibility for his or her decisions.

**May 2015 Calendar**

**Sunday**

- Senior Sunday Worship Service

**Monday**

- Last day of classes

**Tuesday**

- Reading Day

**Wednesday**

- Tate Student Forum and Lecture: Nate Silver

**Thursday**

- May 6-12 Examinations

**Friday**

- Asian American Heritage Month

**Saturday**

- Asian American Heritage Month

**10**

- First day of May Term on the Dallas Campus and SMU-in-Taos

**11**

- Residence halls close

**12**

- May Term on the Dallas Campus: Last day of classes

**13**

- SMU-in-Taos: May Term examinations

**14**

- Commencement

**15**

- Dorothy Amman Awards Rotunda Recessional Baccalaureate

**16**

- May Term on the Dallas Campus: Last day of classes

**17**

- SMU-in-Taos: May Term examinations

**18**

- Memorial Day: No classes
Learning goes on throughout the summer, with some students continuing courses on the main campus and at SMU-in-Taos. Others pursue service opportunities and internships.

**Summer School**, including MayTerm on the Dallas campus, is a great time for students to work on a second degree or minor, or catch up on a difficult subject. Financial aid, campus housing and meal plans are available.

smu.edu/summer

The **Summer Business Institute** for non-business majors, a monthlong certificate program in June at the Cox School of Business, provides instruction in accounting, marketing, finance and more.

exed.cox.smu.edu/sbi

The **Hegi Family Career Development Center** provides access to hundreds of internships on its online MustangTrak. Students can meet one-on-one with counselors to develop a career plan.

smu.edu/career

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**June 2015**

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<td><strong>Last day to declare pass/fail for full summer session</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Last day to drop first summer session course</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Last day of first summer session classes</strong></td>
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Summer is a good time for parents and students to look back and evaluate how the year went and to set goals for the coming year.

The Academic Calendar can help families plan ahead, including for finals, holidays and campus events such as Family Weekend.

SMU’s Common Reading Program is a Hilltop tradition and an opportunity for students to keep their minds engaged during the summer. As part of the program, the campus community selects a meaningful book to discuss with incoming students.

Discuss opportunities to engage in campus life beyond the classroom. SMU offers programs in which students can research answers to big questions, get involved in the community and hone their leadership skills.
Important SMU phone numbers and websites

SMU
214-768-2000
smu.edu

Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC)
214-768-3648
smu.edu/alec

Writing Center 214-768-3648
Learning Disabilities Specialist
214-768-1470
smu.edu/alec

Athletics 214-768-4263
smumustangs.com

Bookstore
214-768-2435
smu.bkstore.com

Bursar
214-768-3417
smu.edu/bursar

Calendar
calendar.smu.edu

Career Center - Hegi Family Career Development Center
214-768-2266
smu.edu/career

Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention
214-768-4021
smu.edu/StudentAffairs/HealthCenter/AlcoholDrugPrevention/

Chaplain's Office and Religious Life
214-768-4502
smu.edu/chaplain

Community Engagement and Leadership
214-768-4403
smu.edu/cel

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)
214-768-2277
smu.edu/healthcenter/counseling

Dean of Student Life
214-768-4564
smu.edu/studentlife

Dining Services
214-768-2367
smudining.com

Emergency Preparedness Parent Info Line
214-768-PARENTS
smu.edu/emergency

Enrollment Services
214-768-3417
smu.edu/enrollment_services

Financial Aid
214-768-3417
smu.edu/financial_aid

Giddy-Up (free campus rides)
214-768-1111
smu.edu/parknpony

Health Center
214-768-2141
smu.edu/healthcenter

Health and Safety resources
smu.edu/liveresponsibly

International Center
214-768-4475
smu.edu/international

Libraries
Reference 214-768-2326
Circulation 214-768-2329
smu.edu/cul

Mothers' and Dads' Clubs
214-768-4797
smu.edu/momsanddads

Multicultural Student Affairs
214-768-4580
smu.edu/multicultural

Parent Leadership Council
214-768-4746
smu.edu/plc

Parking
214-768-7669
smu.edu/parknpony

Registrar
214-768-3417
smu.edu/registrar

Residence Life and Student Housing (RLSH)
214-768-2407
smu.edu/housing

SMU Abroad
214-768-2338
smu.edu/studyabroad

SMU Police
Emergency 214-768-3333
Nonemergency 214-768-3388
smu.edu/pd
Anonymous tip line 214-768-2TIP
smu.edu/2tip
For emergency in progress, call 911

SMU Summer Studies
214-768-3417
smu.edu/summer

SMU-in-Plano
972-473-3400
smu.edu/plano

SMU-in-Taos
214-768-3657
smu.edu/taos

Title IX Coordinator
Office of Institutional Access and Equity
214-768-3601
smu.edu/iac

University Advising Center
214-768-2291
smu.edu/dedman/studentresources/universityadvisingcenter

SMU will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.
SMU’s commitment to equal opportunity includes nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

For more information, contact Director of Parent and Family Programs Deanie Kepler
at 214-768-4797 or gkepler@smu.edu,
or Director of Parent Giving Christi Contreras at 214-768-4746 or cshelton@smu.edu.
Find campus news and resources online at smu.edu/parents.
Follow SMU on Twitter at Twitter.com/SMU and on Facebook at Facebook.com/SMUDallas.

World Changers Shaped Here

SMU