Maroon Out

Maroon Out began in 1998 as a way to build unity among the Aggie community. It has become a highly anticipated tradition each year in which everyone shows his or her Aggie Spirit by wearing a maroon to the chosen football game.

Maroon Out was founded by Class of 2000 Junior President, Kyle Valentine in the summer of 1998. He was concerned about Texas A&M having to play the University of Nebraska at home during the Fall semester. Nebraska was a top ranked football program that year and their ardent fans showed up to every game wearing red in an effort to intimidate the other team. Kyle wanted to give the Aggies an extra boost of spirit by matching Nebraska’s sea of red with an even bigger sea of maroon.

Maroon Out shirt sales have begun. Shirts will be sold on:
- Game weeks Tuesday through Friday from 10am-3pm in front of Koldus
- Game days beginning four (4) hours prior to kick-off in front of Koldus

Words of Wisdom

“We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort.”

~ Jesse Owens

Continuing Student Scholarship

Application is Up!

https://scholarships.tamu.edu

Below is a listing of all the dept/colleges that participate with our one application:

- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
  - Department of Agricultural Economics
  - Department of Entomology
  - Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
- College of Education & Human Development
- College of Engineering
  - Department of Aerospace Engineering
- Department of Chemical Engineering
- Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Department of Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution
- Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Engineering Study Abroad
- College of Geosciences
- College of Science
- Mays Business School
- Department of Biomedical Sciences
- Department of English
- International Student Services
- Study Abroad Programs Office
- Texas A&M Foundation
Career Center Spotlight: What if I want to go to Graduate School?

If you are considering law, medicine, dentistry, health-related or other graduate programs, another excellent resource on campus is the Office of Professional School Advising (OPSA).

What exactly is graduate school?

Graduate school encompasses master’s degrees, Ed.D’s, and Ph.D's. Master’s degrees typically lead more directly to a career outside the university. The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) primarily prepares you to do research and teach at the university level, but in some fields, such as the life sciences, more and more opportunities are opening up in industry. The Doctor of Education (Ed. D.) prepares you for administrative or specialized positions in education, but is less common than the Ph.D.

How long does graduate school take?

The time required to complete an advanced degree can vary considerably. Most Master’s programs can be completed in 2-3 years. Because the earned doctorate is a specialized professional degree, often requiring original research, it can take 5-7 years.

Do you want to go to graduate school?

- It may be necessary for a career you’re interested in. If you’re not sure, ask people in that career—use the Aggie Network, talk to your professors about their graduate school experience or visit a Career Coordinator.

- It should not be a “fall-back” plan that you follow because you think you have no viable options without it. Graduate school is a very intense experience—and costly, in terms of money, personal time and emotional fortitude.

- You may need 2-4 years of related experience in your field to be admitted, depending on the graduate degree sought. For example, a Master’s of Business Administration often encourages or requires at least 2 years of business experience after the undergraduate degree before you can be admitted to a graduate program. Education doctoral programs may require that you have 3 or more years of teaching experience for admission.

How can I prepare myself for graduate school?

- Get excellent to stellar grades. Highly competitive doctoral programs may look for GPA’s of 3.8 to 3.9. Less competitive, but still demanding, programs will seek GPA’s in the range of 3.5 to 3.7. More applied master’s degrees will seek anything from a 3.0 to a 3.7. While it is possible to get into graduate school with less than a 3.0, it is not typical. Your best guide is to ask the advisor for the programs you are considering what the average incoming GPA was for their current class. Extenuating circumstances and related work or internship experience may help offset a lower GPA.

- Get to know your professors. You will need 2-3 letters of recommendation. Talk to your professors during office hours—ask for their advice. Let them know you are considering graduate school. Volunteer to help on research. Take an independent study course. The better you know your professors and they know your capabilities, the better your letters will be.

- Keep a file of written research or term papers. Some programs will ask for a copy of your best written work. Make any corrections noted by your professors, then submit the new, improved version. If you have not written a term-length paper (10-15 pp.), ask a professor to guide you through an independent study, with a paper suitable for graduate school applications. Ask your professors if a written work is usually asked for in your chosen area of study.

- Prepare for the entrance exam you’ll be taking—GRE, GMAT, etc. You can find out which one you will need by checking with the programs you wish to apply to. The weight given to test scores varies widely from program to program—ask what the incoming class’s average score is. Less-than-desired grades can be balanced by an outstanding test score. At the same time, a less-than-outstanding test score can be balanced by excellent grades. Independent companies offer test preparation classes, and there are self-help books and CD’s available in your library or any large bookstore chain.

- Formulate your personal statement. You need to tell the programs why you want to go to graduate school, how you have prepared yourself, and what you want to do with the degree. This is the time to explain extenuating circumstances that may help the admissions committee evaluate your file—difficult first year in college, better grades later on, family issues, illness, first-generation in college, etc. Writing this 1-2 page statement always takes longer than you think it will—start early!

How do I pick a graduate program?

- Pick based on what you want to study, not the university. Out-of-the-Way State University may have the #1 program in the country for nuclear physics. On the other hand, Historic Elite University may not have a good program in finance.

- Back to your professors—ask them who has the best reputation and who are the up-and-coming departments in the country?

- Popular business magazines often rank graduate programs, but the rankings may not validly measure a number of variables. These rankings are typically based on a very limited amount of information about the programs. That said, they do provide one more means to evaluate a program.

- Petersons.com and Gradschools.com offer additional information on graduate programs in an easily searchable interface. Here you can find information on schools, financial aid, tests and more.

- Books in the Career Center and Evans library.

(article continued on next page)
What is the timeline for applying?

1. As a general rule, you will apply one year before entering graduate school. If you plan to start the fall after graduation, you will go through the application process during the fall of your senior year. Some programs will admit for the spring semester, but most start graduate students only in the fall.

2. Start the process early in the semester that your applications are due.

3. First, find application information online for the programs you’re applying to. Check their deadlines. Deadlines may run from November to May for the following fall.

4. Second, polish and update your resume and start working on the personal statement. Your references may want a copy of both to help them write strong letters.

5. Ask references if they are willing to write a letter, at least a month in advance. Hopefully, you have established a scholarly relationship with them previous to this time. Give them all the information for each application, including addressed, stamped envelopes if they are to send the letter directly to the graduate program.

How do I pay for graduate school?

Usually, you pay for graduate school through a combination of fellowships (scholarships), assistantships and loans. Fellowships are usually not tied to employment, but to your own research. Assistantships are employment offered by universities (usually 20 hours/week) as research or teaching assistants. Assistantships sometimes come with tuition waivers. Many programs offer tuition waivers, but this varies by state, university and program. You can also get student loans to finance a good deal of graduate education, but cost can be minimized if you live very frugally.

Retrieved and adapted from http://careercenter.tamu.edu

BOSSES FACEBOOK TOO: KEEPING YOUR ONLINE PERSONA EMPLOYABLE

Have you ever Googled yourself, just to see what would come up? Well, you might not be the only one.

A few months ago I read an article about how a Live Journal blog kept one student from being admitted to Reed College in Portland. I looked a little further into it, and found out that over the past year articles about Facebook and MySpace profiles affecting students’ ability to graduate and find jobs after high school have popped up in the Washington Post, U.S. News, and the New York Times. In fact, supervisors often Google potential employees before hiring!

Protecting Yourself

With potential employers and colleges able to gain access to MySpace, Facebook, personal blogs, and lots of other information online, you need to rethink the “anonymity” of the internet. Here are a couple ideas that may help you protect your privacy online:

1. **Limit Access.** Facebook and MySpace both offer options that limit who can view your profile; they also have options that allow people to view only the portions of your profile that you specify. Most blogs have this option, too.

2. **Google Yourself.** Seriously. Run a Google search on your name, and see what comes up. Try the other popular search engines, too. If there is anything questionable, try to get it taken down!

3. **Guard Your Words.** If you have something to say that could possibly taken the wrong way by a potential boss or admissions officer (or anything that is too personal for them to know), you’re better off NOT posting it in a public place. Instead, keep personal comments safer by writing them in more private correspondence like emails or IMs. And if someone else leaves a questionable comment on your page, better make it private or delete it just to be safe. Oh, and if you don’t like your current job or boss, you might want to leave that tidbit out of your profile. Just in case.

Promoting Yourself

The use of Facebook by college committees and employers doesn’t have to slow you down; in fact if you play your cards right, it could even be a good thing. Why waste the opportunity to promote yourself if they’re looking anyway?

Think of your social networking sites as dual-purpose; not just as a place to connect with friends, but also as a sort of virtual résumé. It’s totally fine to have appropriate personal info & photos up to share with friends, but don’t neglect to point out your strong points, and even past work experience (if you feel comfortable sharing that).

You can also use sites like Facebook, MySpace, or a personal blog as a portfolio. If you’re an artist or a writer, for example, consider posting some of your pieces for viewing (unless they’re copyrighted by someone else, like work you may have done for a previous employer). It’s an easy way to offer access to your body of work.

Retrieved and adapted from http://www.survivingcollegelife.com/2008/02/14/bosses-facebook-too-keeping-your-online-persona-employable/.
Howdy!

I hope not everyone has had such stressful days like I did; too much reading, tests and papers. I was sleepy all the time and couldn’t concentrate in classes. Only when I reflected on what was causing me to feel that way did I realize I needed to change something. Below is part of a list of life lessons that I would like to share with everyone so read on, my fellow colleagues.

Life lesson #259: Don’t let stress bully you around

I’m applying for graduate school and it’s a pain in the neck—literally. I stare at the screen so long my neck starts hurting and then I don’t get enough sleep at night; then at school, I become drowsy and in order to wake up, I eat too much candy, which gives me a sugar rush, which leads to a stressful day where I can’t concentrate on studying. Sound familiar? That happened a couple times but then I realized that I have to change something; my ways weren’t working. I consulted my mom and she told me to stare at the screen only as long as I could think straight. Taking that to another level, I thought straight on other subjects: spinach or Cheetos? Facebook or textbook? Office hours or hours of The Office? Part of the reason I made bad decisions was because I didn’t talk to anyone about the tyrant called Stress so I had no way of knowing I had something slowly brainwashing me to negativity. Once I spoke with my mom, she gave me the advice I needed and helped me make healthy decisions to deal with stress.

Life lesson #36: Take chances! Make mistakes! Get messy! –The Friz

In the TV show Parks and Recreation, Leslie’s department will be shut down if she doesn’t make the Harvest Festival the best it can be. Instead of quitting, she asks her co-workers for help and along the way builds stronger friendships with those who believe in her vision. Though she hits a road bump with the festival being cursed, she overcomes that too. Likewise, we should take chances on ourselves. Don’t believe in yourself? Surround yourself with those who do. Afraid to make mistakes? Well don’t be because you have to in order to learn from them. Instead of beating yourself up about mistakes, do what I do and ask yourself, “What did I learn?”

Life lesson #107: Information + Application = Transformation

If the notes you’re taking aren’t helping you with the test, then realize that you aren’t learning and change the way you take notes; this will result in better test results. Recently (many Aggie Pals can relate), I have been sending emails that were not clear because it stated the wrong due date or the instructions were contradictory. I even forgot a couple attachments. At first, I thought they were reading my emails incorrectly, but then I realized that I’m the only one who thought I was right. Clearly, I had to enhance my email-sending abilities, which included writing it in advance and asking others to read them. Since I knew I had a problem and that it could be fixed with a simple step-by-step master plan (information), I implemented it (application) and got results (transformation)! No emails about me being wrong, which I consider quite a success.

Life lesson #85: Compliment yourself

I laugh at my jokes all the time. You can ask the people who know me—I constantly say, “I’m so funny!” to calm myself down after a good pun. Sometimes when I dress up for special occasions or when my skin looks clearer than usual, I say to myself, “Lookin’ good.” Keeping a positive atmosphere is good for your well-being because it gives you the confidence to improve your talents and skills. A bird doesn’t fly just because it has wings; it flies because it has the talent and confidence to fly.

I hope these life lessons help you like they have helped me. Good luck with midterms, finals and life!

Asiya Bhura
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Clothesline Project</td>
<td>The Clothesline Project</td>
<td>Diwali- Hindu Summer Study Abroad Scholarship Opens</td>
<td>7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Student Senate Volleyball vs. Texas Tech</td>
<td>Away Game Yell Practice</td>
<td>Last Day to Change Kines 198/199 grade type Last day to officially withdraw from the A&amp;M 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM 6th Annual Immersive Visualization Competition</td>
<td>Eid al-Adha - Islamic Equestrian vs. Oklahoma State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Student Senate</td>
<td>Volleyball vs. Texas Tech</td>
<td>Away Game Yell Practice</td>
<td>Last Day to Change Kines 198/199 grade type Last day to officially withdraw from the A&amp;M 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM 6th Annual Immersive Visualization Competition</td>
<td>Eid al-Adha - Islamic Equestrian vs. Oklahoma State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Study Abroad Informational - Student Panel</td>
<td>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Money Talks 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Student Senate Women’s Basketball vs. Louisville</td>
<td>Rudder From Leader to Legend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dussehra- Hindu Eid al-Adha - Islamic</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM FLO Bowl Men’s Basketball vs. Southern</td>
<td>5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Study Abroad Informational - Student Panel</td>
<td>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Money Talks 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Student Senate Women’s Basketball vs. Louisville</td>
<td>Birth of Bahaullah- Bahai 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM 11/11 Day 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM Veterans Day Ceremony</td>
<td>Volleyball vs. Missouri Football vs. Kansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Transgender Day of Remembrance 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Wind Symphony/Symphonic Winds Women’s Basketball vs. Mississippi State</td>
<td>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Money Talks 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Student Senate Women’s Basketball vs. Louisville</td>
<td>Rudder From Leader to Legend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM Elephant Walk</td>
<td>Volleyball vs. Texas</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Maroon Out Game Football vs. Texas</td>
<td>Al-Hijra (Muharram)- Islamic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Student Senate</td>
<td>Men’s Basketball vs. Alcorn State</td>
<td>World AIDS Day</td>
<td>World AIDS Day</td>
<td>Men’s Basketball vs. Texas A&amp;M- Corpus Christi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advent (Christian)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM Elephant Walk</td>
<td>Volleyball vs. Texas</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Maroon Out Game Football vs. Texas</td>
<td>Al-Hijra (Muharram)- Islamic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>