Are you looking for a place to live off campus next year? Housing Fair is an unique opportunity for off campus properties to directly present information about their property to students, faculty, and staff on the Texas A&M University campus.

This is the 26th annual Housing Fair and each year brings new possibilities for off campus housing to reach students with a fun, informative, and educational program. Come see what Bryan/College Station has to offer before signing a lease. Look around and find the place that is right for you. Housing Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 17, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center racquetball court area and courts 3 and 4 hallway.

If you have any questions, please contact Adult, Graduate & Off Campus Student Services at 979.845.1741.

Top 10% Scholarship Renewal Requirements

1. Complete 30 semester credit hours (SCH) in the previous year
2. Maintain an overall 3.25 GPA
3. Complete at least 75% of hours attempted in the previous year
4. Demonstrate financial need
5. Complete the FAFSA or TASFA by March 1, 2010

If you are currently living on campus, you need to participate in Housing Decision 2010.

Go to http://reslife.tamu.edu/ to complete your renewal or cancellation in late February or early March. Talk to your resident advisor or the Housing Assignments Office (979)845-4744 for more information.

When is Orientation?
August 23, 2010

Who can apply?
Everyone!

Why become and OC?
- Be a helping hand to freshmen of 2014
- Meet new people
- Gain leadership experience

Requirements:
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA
- Be committed

Applications Due to Casey Gros Pavilion 208 by Thursday, February 4, 2010

Applications will be available at the informational or by clicking on the Regents' Scholars Orientation Counselor link on the Regents' Review website: http://finaid.tamu.edu/regnetsreview/
By Kelci Lynn, About.com Guide

Valentine’s Day and college can make a fantastic -- or awkward -- mix. Make the most of your situation by enjoying yourself, enjoying the day, and -- if applicable -- enjoying the time with a significant other. Conversely, of course, you can find information on making the most of being single. Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to be a celebration only for those already coupled up!

**If You’re Single**

Being single on Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to mean being awkward or having a funky night. There are multiple ways to ensure you still have a great Valentine’s Day -- without a significant other.

### 5 Things to Do Off Campus If You’re Single on Valentine’s Day

1. **Go out to dinner with friends.** Everyone else in the restaurant may be having quiet, intimate conversations, but you and your friends may be screaming with laughter. Being single doesn’t have to mean you don’t get a fantastic dinner out of the night!
2. **Head to a club.** Some clubs may be having Valentine’s Day specials (no cover charge for women, for example), some may be having Anti-Valentine’s Day specials (singles only), some may not be having anything special at all. But why miss out on a great night with friends?
3. **Head to the movies.** You can bring your friends or head out by yourself to see that flick you’ve been meaning to catch. Treating yourself to a nice movie might be just the break your brain needs from all your academic work anyway. When’s the last time you let yourself check out for a few solid hours?
4. **Head to a sports game.** Lots of sports are in season in February. You can find information on a specific sport, or just buy tickets for a game. It won’t cost much and will allow you to get to know each other better while enjoying something new and fun.
5. **Volunteer.** It may not be the first thing that comes to mind for Valentine’s Day, but it just may be what you’re looking for. You’ll help out your community and leave with a fantastic feeling in your heart. And what’s not to like about that?

### 5 Things to Do On Campus If You’re Single on Valentine’s Day

1. **Plan a movie fest.** Invite some friends over and plan a movie marathon. You can spend the entire night eating funky snacks, watching great (or even horrible) movies, and catching up with friends. Why not let yourself relax and enjoy a night off? You don’t necessarily need a boyfriend or girlfriend to make it happen.
2. **Cook yourself a nice dinner.** You can use the kitchen in your residence hall, the kitchen at a friend’s house, or any kitchen that you have access to. After spending an hour or so putting together a nice meal for yourself or friends, it’s practically impossible not to feel good afterward.
3. **Throw an anti-Valentine’s Day party.** Chances are, you aren’t the only person on campus to not be thrilled about the holiday. Plan an Anti-Valentine’s Day Party -- for just a few friends or the entire campus -- that shows that those without boyfriends or girlfriends can have a good (if not better) time, too.
4. **Get yourself together.** It may sound strange, but when was the last time you woke up feeling totally put together? Instead of moping about being single, use the free time you have Valentine’s Day evening to get yourself organized. Clean up your calendar, catch up on laundry, plan ahead for major papers and midterms, and get a head start on those assignments you’ve been avoiding. It may sound lame (okay, totally lame) at first, but you might be surprised at how good you feel after you’re done. Who needs a date to go to bed feeling like a rock star?
5. **Set up an online dating profile.** Alright, you may be single, and you may be at peace with it -- but you may also be interested in changing that single status. Spend some time at your computer, setting up an online dating profile. Who knows what might happen?!

**If You Have a Date**

Have a date for Valentine’s? Thought that was the difficult part ... until you tried to plan something? Check out these easy (and affordable) date ideas to help make sure your night is all you want it to be.

### 5 Inexpensive College Date Ideas

1. **Head to a small, family-owned restaurant instead of a large chain.** Ask around campus to see if people know of smaller, delicious, and often cheaper places than some of the larger chain restaurants in town. The dinner will most likely be quieter, more intimate, and much more friendly.
2. **Find something fun (and free) in the community.** Is there a poetry slam this weekend? A reading by an author you both like? A band performing in a park? Check to see what’s available that won’t cost much and will allow you to get to know each other better while enjoying something new and fun.
3. **Do something outside.** Buy sandwiches at a local deli, go for a hike, and have a picnic somewhere nice.
4. **Visit a cultural center.** Many museums, art galleries, cultural centers, and libraries have reduced (if not free) admission for college students. Go see an exhibit and enjoy the time off campus.
5. **Meet for coffee in the afternoon or drinks in the evening.** You can have an equally nice time without having to spend as much money.
If You’re in a Long-Distance Relationship

Being in a long-distance relationship can be hard enough without things like Valentine’s Day reminding you of the distance between you and your significant other. Learn more about how to make the distance a little easier.

1. Use Technology to Your Advantage. There are countless ways to use technology to keep in touch with someone, which you were no doubt using before you arrived on campus. Text messaging, IM-ing, sending cell phone pictures, talking on the phone, sending emails, and using your videocam are only some of the ways you can help stay (and feel!) connected to your far-away partner. Make times with each other to meet up online, and view it like a date. Don’t be late, don’t forget, and try not to cancel.

2. Try to Send Old-Fashioned Mail. As simple as it may seem, getting a card, gift, or care package in the mail always brightens someone’s day. For partners who are separated by long distances, these little gestures and mementos can provide a physical connection of sorts. And besides, who doesn’t like getting a cute card or cookies in the mail?!

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4. Pay Attention to the Details. You may not want to spend the limited time you have with your partner talking about the details of your life, but these are often the most important things. Hearing about your weird Biology lab partner, the English professor you love, and how you can’t get enough of the dining hall waffles are the things that make you you. Your partner will want to hear all about the details of your new life. So settle in for a long conversation about the things that seem most ridiculous, but that may just end up being the things that keep you together during your time away at school.


Career Planning 101

Jeannine Kantz, Former Assistant Director, Career Center

You may think that planning your future doesn’t begin until your senior year, but in today’s competitive job market, you need to plan ahead to give yourself every advantage in your search for a career. This is also true if you plan to go to professional or graduate school. Career planning can help you focus on exactly what you want to do or don’t want to do after graduation by trying out different fields through internships, co-ops, part-time jobs, and/or other opportunities.

You may have already done some career exploration by planning an internship, co-op, summer research experience, or an independent study project. This is part of career planning, which you can do in four phases—exploration, research, planning, and commitment.

Explore (freshman):

- Get to know your professors and advisors.
- Join a club or organization.
- Develop interpersonal and leadership skills.
- Meet with your Career Center advisor and plan for a part-time job or summer internship.
- Participate in a one-day volunteer experience or externship.
- Take a career awareness class or visit Student Counseling Services to learn more about your particular interests and values.
- Attend a career portfolio workshop and learn how to start tracking your accomplishments.
- Attend class and study. Many of your future opportunities will hinge on GPR. Many employers set minimum GPRs of 3.0 for recent graduates and most graduate and professional schools will require at least that.
- Look for classes that help you develop skills in communication, critical thinking and teamwork.

Research (sophomore):

- Take interesting electives or consider a minor.
- Incorporate professional or personal interests into class assignments.
- Research the Study Abroad program for your junior year.
- Visit the Career Center and learn more about career options for your major.
- Meet with your Career Center advisor and plan for co-op, internship, or summer research experiences.
- Visit the Office of Professional School Advising to learn about opportunities that support your interests if you plan to attend professional school following graduation.
- Continue to study, attend classes and update your career portfolio.

(article continued on next page)
Plan (junior):

- Attend Career Center workshops to learn about résumé writing, cover letters, networking, interviewing, mock interviews and other job search resources.
- Complete your internship, co-op, or summer research experience to develop references for the future.
- Learn about employment trends, salaries, and expectations for different jobs in your field in the Career Center Library.
- Use the Aggie Network to learn where others with your major are working and what they do.
- Attend career fairs and talk to employers.
- Join the student professional organization for your field and get involved.
- Meet with your Career Center advisor and start planning your job search campaign.
- If you want to go to graduate or professional school, start planning early for the tests, applications and other necessary admissions requirements.
- Meet with a Career Center advisor to review your career portfolio and get it ready to show employers.

Commit (senior):

- Start early and commit to a thorough job search.
- Update your career portfolio and learn how to organize interview portfolios around important knowledge and skills.
- Discuss career opportunities with everyone—faculty, advisors, friends, family, network contacts, etc.
- Identify the companies and organizations that are actively recruiting candidates in your major.
- Begin early to learn how to use the Career Center resources and technologies to access on-campus interviews and employers.
- Keep a log of your contacts, interviews, and applications submitted. Keep complete contact information for any position to which you’ve applied.
- Attend Career Center workshops on salary negotiation, business etiquette and other relevant topics.
- Study hard! Don’t let your grades slip just because you are almost finished.

Career Development Resources at Texas A&M University:

- Student Learning Center 118 Hotard, (979) 845-2724, http://slc.tamu.edu/
- Department of Student Activities, 125 Koldus, (979) 845-1133, http://studentactivities.tamu.edu/
- Department of Multicultural Services, 227 Koldus, (979) 862-2000, http://aggieculture.tamu.edu/
- Study Abroad Office, 1st Floor, Bizzell Hall West, (979) 845-0544, http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/
- Student Counseling Services, Cain Hall, (979) 845-4427, http://scs.tamu.edu/
- University Honors Program, 114 Henderson Hall, (979) 845-1957, http://honors.tamu.edu/
- University Writing Center, Evans Library 1.214, (979) 458-1455, http://uwc.tamu.edu/
- Your academic and/or co-op advisor in your department.
In order for you to continue receiving financial aid, including the Regents’ Scholarship, during the 2010-2011 academic year, you must complete the Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1, 2010. Scholarships & Financial Aid encourages students to submit the FAFSA form by March 31, 2010.

In order to complete the FAFSA, you will need:
- Student and parent social security numbers
- W-2 Forms & any other records of money earned for both the student and parents
- Student’s 2009 federal income tax return
- Parents’ 2009 federal income tax return
- If filing electronically, PIN for both the student and the parents

In order to expedite this process for you, Scholarships & Financial Aid will be hosting several Renewal FAFSA/TASFA workshops for Regents’ Scholars during the Spring semester. These events will be held in room 236 of the Pavilion and are scheduled for:
- February 22, 2010 9:00AM-10:00AM
- February 24, 2010 1:30PM-2:30PM
- February 25, 2010 10:30AM-12:30PM
- February 26, 2010 1:30PM-2:30PM

Registration is required. To register, students should visit http://financialaid.tamu.edu/workshops.


### February 2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Groundhog Day</td>
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<td>Filing for Spring Elections (8-12)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Women’s Basketball vs. Baylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>1:30 PM - 2:30 PM FAFSA/TASFA Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Purim (Jewish) begins at sundown the day before</td>
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<td>Texas A&amp;M Women’s Basketball vs. Missouri</td>
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<td>Simply Sinatra</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday (Christian)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Study Abroad: Travel Wise</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM FAFSA/TASFA Workshop</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Men’s Basketball vs. Kansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM FAFSA/TASFA Workshop</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Conference on Student Government Associations</td>
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