



F1RST Program students visit the outdoor classroom to discuss navigating midterms

Center for
Academic
Learning Support

March 2026

F1RST
Program



First-Gen Newsletter



As students complete midterm exams and assignments, this edition provides information on more ways students can become involved in the first-gen community on campus and receive support. Read on to learn about how first-gen Aggies are engaging with the TAMUG community this month.

Selfless Service

Students in the F1RST Year 3 class had the opportunity to volunteer at the new TAMUG garden. Volunteers assisted with lining the raised garden beds and preparing them for soil and planting. Students learned about the types of plants that will be grown and the impact of the garden on the TAMUG community.

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Inside the First-Gen Lounges

Students in the F1RST Year 1 and 2 classes visited the First-Gen Study and Media Lounges last month. Located on the second floor of Pacific Hall, these spaces offer a textbook library, study supplies, group meeting space, coffee, games, and more. These spaces are open to all students!



First-Gen Spotlight: Priscilla Taylor

Howdy, my name is Priscilla Taylor, a senior graduating in May. I am majoring in Marine Biology and minoring in English and Marine Fisheries.

My passion for marine biology was an innate love that was brought out during my time at the National Student Leadership Conference in San Diego, California where I learned just what it means to be a marine biologist. There was no turning back after that experience. As I progressed through my studies at TAMUG, I realized that understanding marine biology extends far beyond mastering scientific concepts, there is so much more to it.

With that in mind, I pursued a minor in English to strengthen my ability to communicate complex ideas to diverse audiences. This academic path led me to discover a strong interest in science communication, which further motivated me to complete a minor in Marine Fisheries.

I didn't stop there though, I continued to make steps to help build upon my professional growth. I work in the Writing Lab, serve as a First-Gen Peer Coach Lead, and had the opportunity to work at the very same conference that made me fall in love with what I do. Each of these experiences has contributed to the foundation of my development, shaping both my professional path and my commitment to the field.



A Risk Worth Taking

Even though being a first-generation student came with its own challenges, I firmly believe that is what makes it so rewarding. Risking a lot to attend a four-year university when I didn't know a single thing about it, to now graduating, is, to me, the biggest accomplishment.



Want to be a First-Gen Spotlight?

Students interested in being featured may submit a few short paragraphs about themselves, their achievements at TAMUG, and what being a first-generation student means to them.

If interested, submit photos and a bio to:
firstgen@tamug.edu



Coffee Connections

Coffee Connections continues its monthly event series which invites students to connect with a special guest over coffee. The March guest was Chief Vanicha McQueen. Our guest for April will be Professor Adam Haney. This event series is free and open to all!

April Coffee Connections:

Thursday, April 2nd

4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

Library Fishbowl (room 121A)

Refresh and Recharge: De-Stress Event

This event, hosted by the Center for Academic Learning Support and CMSMS Academic Advising provided students the chance to take a break from studying for midterms and learn about resources for support.

Students enjoyed games, refreshing drinks, and a wide range of information on study tools and tips. From interactive activities that encouraged friendly competition to helpful resources designed to strengthen academic success, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Contact Us

“First-Generation” refers to students who are the first in their families to attend college, meaning that neither parent has completed a bachelor’s degree. The Center for Academic Learning Support provides year-round support services to first-gen students, including professional and peer coaching, academic and social events, lounge spaces, and more. Support provided by the CALS office is open to any student located in Galveston. Students wishing to learn more or connect with the first-gen community are encouraged to reach out.

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