General University offers freshman seminar classes: UNIV 1101 and 1102, and Developmental Studies courses in mathematics, reading, and writing. Additionally, this department coordinates the learning community offerings for freshman students' first year to insure a smooth transition from high school to university.

**Developmental Studies-Met Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Standards - passed class or TSI exam**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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</tbody>
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- 2006-2007: n = 70 in Reading, n = 139 in Math, n = 56 in Writing
- 2007-2008: n = 63 Reading, n = 144 in Math, n = 55 in Writing
- 2008-2009: n = 51 in Reading, n = 103 in Math, n = 68 in Writing

**Mission Statement**

University College provides first year students with their "roots and wings" - roots that are strengthened and deepened by strong academic support and wings that allow them to experience academic success and turn their career dreams into reality. University College accomplishes this by providing a full array of academic support services: 1) UNIV 1101 and 1102 freshmen seminars connected to learning communities and the *Reading the Globe* freshman common read, 2) peer mentoring and academic advising through the Advising and Mentoring Center, 3) tutoring services through the University Learning Center and the Writing Center, 4) student support services through the TRIO grant program, 5) testing services offered through the Testing Center, and 6) developmental coursework in mathematics, reading and writing.
The objective of the University Learning Center (ULC) is to provide comprehensive academic support to Texas A&M International University students to further the academic mission of the University. Central to our mission is to create an academically focused, student-centered, supportive environment that encourages the development of the students' maximum academic potential.

**ULC Services:**
- Drop-in tutoring
- Group tutoring
- Supervised Group Study
- TRIO/SSS Student Tutoring
- Computer Resources
- THEA Workshops
- Supplemental Instruction
- Academic Advising

**ULC Visits**

ULC student activity increased 69.09% from 11,266 in fiscal year 2007 to 19,050 in fiscal year 2009. The number of Tutoring sessions at the ULC increased 32.55% from 7,161 in fiscal year 2007 to 9,492 in fiscal year 2009.

The TAMIU Writing Center develops increasingly independent writers and supports the instructional goals of the faculty by providing individual and small-group tutoring, writing workshops and presentations, writing resources, and online, helpline, and fax line requests.

**Writing Center - Program Result: 3 Year Comparison**

Writing Center student visits increased 14% from 10,945 in 2008 to 12,529 in 2009. Additionally, Writing Center assistance in the "Other" category, which includes Writing Center sponsored events, presentations, workshops, substitutions, help line, fax line, and online submission requests increased 334% from 693 in 2008 to 3,153 in 2009. The National Day on Writing Field Day and high demand from faculty for classroom support contributed to this dramatic increase.
TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) is a federally funded program that has been serving students at TAMIU since Fall 2001. The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. SSS offers tutoring in academic areas, personal and academic counseling, and the opportunity to attend cultural activities outside the University.

### 2008-09 Program Results

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<tr>
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<th>TRIO SSS</th>
<th>TAMIU</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retention</td>
<td>76.67</td>
<td>62.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation within 6 Years</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>66.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA above 2.0</td>
<td>92.86</td>
<td>37.2</td>
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</table>

Our mission is to operate a Testing Center with a quiet, secure, and professional environment suitable for testing and to provide a variety of examinations in an effort to meet the testing needs of TAMIU students and test takers from the community.

### Total Exams Administered

- **2006**: 9748
- **2008**: 10577
- **2009**: 10236

We also serve as a test proctoring center for distance education classes.
Our job is to help each freshman prepare for a successful college career. Here are some comments from our students on our Progress: “Keep up the great work because I feel that without the help I would have been lost in my first year of college” “She not only felt like a mentor, she felt like a friend and a counselor” “Thank you for listening to me when I needed advice! You were thoughtful and caring” “She helped me to see things in different ways”

These are just a few of the comments the mentors received at the end of the Fall semester. The First Year Success Program (FYSP) as the component of the Advising and Mentoring Center works with all 700+ freshmen in the University Seminar classes. The FYSP is a resource specifically designed to help new students adjust to academic life at TAMIU, whatever form that may take for each student. The mentoring is individual and the mentors are exceptional TAMIU Junior, Senior or Graduate students who have gone through similar situations and are willing to share their experiences. They are prepared to assist each new student to find his or her best path through college and to be successful!

Our sophomore advising department is relatively new, beginning in the fall of 2008. We now have four full-time advisors to assist sophomore students with the development of degree plans, course selection and referrals for career services. One of our advisors works specifically in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, for those students who are actively pursuing a career in one of these areas, or would like additional information about these degrees.

Another member of the Advising and Mentoring Center is the Athletics Academic Coordinator. She provides academic advising to all of our University student athletes, regardless of undergraduate level. We also have added a Retention Specialist to our staff to enable the faculty to refer students who are having difficulties academically.

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