

# VETERANS HANDBOOK

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## **DEAR SMU STUDENTS:**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the SMU community during a remarkable time in our history. The University is observing its Second Century Celebration, which commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SMU's founding in 1911 and opening in 1915.

SMU is committed to providing an educational environment that supports students in achieving their academic, professional and personal goals. This handbook contains information about the many campus resources that are here to help, such as the Altschuler Learning Enhancement Center, which offers tutoring, study skills training and writing assistance. I encourage students to visit the Hegi Family Career Development Center when they arrive on campus to begin planning for internships and preparing for professional success.

Students can develop leadership skill by being involved in campus life. SMU has hundreds of opportunities from which to choose, including student government, intramurals, social organizations, community service and religious activities. SMU also offers unique programs such as Engaged Learning and Undergraduate Research Assistantships that provide educational experiences beyond the classroom, as well as professional development.

Two important sections in this handbook that I urge you to review address the topics of substance abuse and sexual misconduct, which are serious issues of concern on campuses nationwide. More information is available online at [smu.edu/LiveResponsibly](http://smu.edu/LiveResponsibly). All students are expected to uphold high standards of behavior and to respect all members of our community.

Thank you for choosing SMU as your university home. Our enrollment includes more than 150 military veterans representing all branches of service. We thank you for your service and the experiences you bring to the classroom.

Feel free to contact SMU's coordinator of veterans support services Deanie Kepler at 214-768-4797, or visit SMU's home page for additional information on resources, programs and activities. Welcome to the Hilltop!

R. Gerald Turner  
President

# DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

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**Vice President for Student Affairs: 214-768-2821**  
**203 Perkins Administration**  
**Mailing Address: PO Box 750471, Dallas TX 75275-0471**  
[www.smu.edu/studentaffairs](http://www.smu.edu/studentaffairs)

## MISSION

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The mission of the Division of Student Affairs is to develop, with others in the University, opportunities for students to become productive citizens through the creation of challenging environments that contribute to students' intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, cultural, moral and emotional growth, and, in so doing, engage them with the widest range of persons within the University and beyond.

## STAFFING

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Throughout the Division of Student Affairs, your students will encounter caring professionals who are trained and skilled in their own specialties and are professional educators dedicated to assisting students in developing to their full potential. The focus of student affairs is one of education and guidance, not merely problem solving. The role of the staff is, along with the faculty, to assist the student in reaching true maturity and to prepare the student to take a useful place in society.

## OVERVIEW OF THE DIVISION

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Concern for and realization of the full development of each student in and out of the classroom constitutes one of the major goals of the University. Consequently, SMU's student affairs programs are designed to support and supplement SMU's formal academic work. The Division of Student Affairs encompasses a broad range of programs and services including:

- Dean of Student Life Office
- Student Transitions & Orientation
- Residence Life and Student Housing (RLSH)
- Health Center
- Counseling Services
- Hegi Family Career Center
- Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports
- Religious Life/Chaplain's Office
- Multicultural Student Affairs
- Mustang Band and Spirit
- Veterans Support and Services
- Women & LGBT Center
- Community Engagement and Leadership
- Student Conduct & Community Standards
- Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Parent and Family Programs
- Student Senate
- Student Activities
- Caring Community Connection
- Violence Prevention and Support Services

The entire division welcomes you to SMU, and we look forward to your student's years on the Hilltop!

# OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE

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Dean of Student Life

**214-768-4564**

**302 Hughes-Trigg Student Center**

**Mailing Address: PO Box 750355, Dallas TX 75275-0355**

## **MISSION**

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Dean of Student Life and Well-Being Departments educate students and the larger SMU community by providing purposeful opportunities for learning, growth, values clarification and skill development that promote responsible citizenship and well-being. The Office of the Dean of Student Life carries out this mission by:

- Working to provide a welcoming environment that includes support, advice, and assistance.
- Acting as a resource and referral when students are unsure about which SMU office to contact or how to handle a specific problem.
- Assisting parents and families with their questions and concerns.
- Advocating for students and parents within the University-at-large.
- Serving the University through the operation of the Crisis Management Team. Caring Community

Connections Program The SMU experience is a time of growth, challenge and excitement. Some facets of college life can be stressful for students, and students may find that they require assistance to navigate these challenges. The Caring Community Connections (CCC) program serves as a resource for any member of the SMU community, including parents, to refer students who are experiencing challenges to the Office of the Dean of Student Life. Office staff will then reach out to students and help find appropriate resources to address concerns. Student concerns are normally submitted via an online submission form at [smu.edu/deanofstudentsCCC](http://smu.edu/deanofstudentsCCC). The link is also found on the Dean of Student Life homepage, as well as the Student Affairs home page. When completing the form, give as much information about the concern as possible to assist staff in identifying next steps. Staff frequently work with various members of the SMU community through the CCC program, and any information provided is useful in helping the student. Additionally, in the event that you are unsure about completing the form and want to consult about your student's concern, you are welcome to contact the Dean of Student Life Office directly.