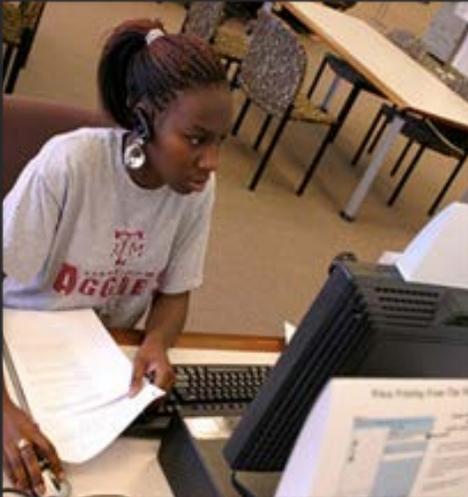# TEXAS A&M ESSENTIALS

provost.tamu.edu

July 2011

The Computer Access/ Instructional Technology Fee supports data centers, equipment, software, and services for student access to computing, networking, instructional technology, student administrative computing, and emergency notification.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Computer Access / Instructional Technology Fee

The Computer Access/Instructional Technology (CA/IT) fee supports student computing and campus instructional technology to enhance teaching and learning. Students can use many computing resources including Internet access, campus wireless, computing labs, personal web pages, email, discounted software, software training, supercomputing resources, emergency notification, and 24-hour IT support. Faculty can use classroom technology and instructional technology support to enhance teaching and learning. To learn more about Texas A&M's Information Technology resources, visit http://IT.tamu.edu.

- **COMPUTING ACCESS:** On-campus residents receive Ethernet connections in the dorms or ADSL modem service in the University Apartments. Off-campus students obtain access through private Internet service providers or the university's modem bank. Users securely access campus resources from home using the Virtual Private Network (VPN). TAMULink wireless is available in classrooms, libraries, dining facilities, and many residence halls. Students use computers (PC and Mac), software, printers, and peripherals at Open Access Labs (OALs) across campus. Labs are available up to 24 hours a day, and students have remote access anytime using the Virtual Open Access Lab. Students have one gigabyte of space to store information and host a personal web page.

- **ACCOUNTS:** The Howdy web portal gives students quick and easy access to their records, email, classes, news, and other important information—all with one login. From Howdy, faculty can access their class rosters, enter grades, and send email messages to their classes. Each student receives a Texas A&M Email account, accessible online from any computer or smart phone.

- **SOFTWARE AND SHORT COURSES:** Students can purchase many software products at discounted prices or at no charge. Short courses are available for students to learn new computing skills, including website design, statistical analysis, and more.

- **CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY:** Technology-enhanced classrooms provide computers, projectors, Sympodiums (an interactive presentation display tool), and other equipment. Many classrooms are automated, allowing faculty to control equipment through simple options on the computer screen.

- **HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING:** The Supercomputing Facility assists faculty members and students involved in large-scale research computation. The facility provides two IBM supercomputers.

- **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION:** The Code Maroon system communicates health and safety emergency information quickly by text message, TAMU Email, KAMU-FM radio, campus cable television, emergency broadcast system radios, classroom loudspeakers, Twitter, and RSS.

- **GETTING HELP:** Help Desk Central answers computing questions any time, day or night, 365 days a year. Help Desk Repair provides hardware and connectivity services.

The CA/IT fee is assessed per semester credit hour. The Vice President and Associate Provost for Information Technology recommends changes in the fee allocation, subject to approval by the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President. When considering changes, the following are consulted as appropriate: the Student Body President, the Graduate Student Council President, the Speaker of the Faculty Senate, the Deans of the Colleges, and the Academic Leadership Team.