Mission Statement

The Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities is a residential honors program for gifted and talented Texas high school-aged students who seek to develop their full potential as citizens and who show special interest and aptitude for study in the Humanities. TALH objectives are

1. to provide an enriched college academic environment for gifted and talented high school-aged students, and

2. to provide opportunities for leadership development through volunteerism, organizational participation, tutoring, and other forms of campus and community service.
IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS: LAMAR UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY NUMBER at (409) 880-8311. Non-emergencies, please contact TALH Security at (409) 880-8482. The TALH Security and Lamar University Police will handle your emergency immediately and contact the TALH administration.

TALH MAIN OFFICE ..................................................................................................................... (409) 839-2995
TALH FAX .................................................................................................................................... (409) 839-2991
TALH Security Office .................................................................................................................... (409) 880-8482
TALH email: texas.academy@lamar.edu
TALH website: .............................................................. www.texasacademy@lamar.edu
Lamar University website: ................................................................. www.lamar.edu

Dr. Ted H. Stuberfield, Director ...................................................................................................... (409) 839-2995
Email: ted.stuberfield@lamar.edu

Mr. Scott Stevenson, Assistant Director ...................................................................................... (409) 839-2990
Email: scott.stevenson@lamar.edu

Mr. Bruce Hodge, Student Services Coordinator ........................................................................ (409) 839-2993
Email: bruce.hodge@lamar.edu

Ms. Karen Corwin, Counselor ......................................................................................................... (409) 839-2992
Email: kcwestgate@lamar.edu

Mrs. Cindy Colichia, Administrative Coordinator .......................................................................... (409) 880-2377
Email: cindy.colichia@lamar.edu

LAMAR UNIVERSITY
Cardinal One Card Office .............................................................................................................. (409) 880-2236
Morris Hall Front Desk .................................................................................................................. (409) 880-7761
Gentry Hall Front Desk .................................................................................................................. (409) 880-8550
Career and Testing Center ........................................................................................................... (409) 880-8878
Cashier’s Office ............................................................................................................................ (409) 880-8390
Financial Aid ................................................................................................................................. (409) 880-8450
Health Center ................................................................................................................................. (409) 880-8466
Parking Office ................................................................................................................................... (409) 880-8696
Police Department (non-emergency) ............................................................................................. (409) 880-8305
Post Office ....................................................................................................................................... (409) 880-8485
Registrar .......................................................................................................................................... (409) 880-2113
Transcript (Lamar) ......................................................................................................................... (409) 880-8985

LAMAR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS SECURITY (Emergency Only) ....................................................... (409) 880-8311

- For increased student safety, Lamar University has installed emergency telephones in key points around the campus.
- To summon the police from the emergency telephone, lift the receiver and push the button on the telephone.
- The Lamar University Police Department operates a student shuttle for safety reasons.

Note: This Handbook covers the major points involved in successful enrollment, attendance, and graduation from the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities. However, since the Academy continues to grow and develop as its enrollment increases and students become more diversified, it is not possible to foresee every possibility. The administration is committed to maintaining a fair, consistent, and just environment while preserving the dignity of the individual within the common good of the community. The Director has the final authority on all matters.
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Leadership embodies a choice set of skills, some of which are gifts and others are talents. The individual who develops beyond their own giftedness embraces character that has deep, sustainable roots reaping positive outcomes in the midst of human limitations. Lead with character and the yield will be successful.

Ted H. Stuberfield

Dear Students:

Welcome to the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities (TALH)! This unique living-learning opportunity is designed to accelerate your education and personal growth. **TALH offers you more freedom and more responsibility than is offered in a traditional high school, but less freedom and more supervision than is offered to most college students.** At TALH, you will be presented with challenges and given support in facing those challenges. In the end, therefore, your TALH experience depends on you.

It is important, therefore, that you realize **your membership in the TALH community is a privilege, not a right.** This privilege was initially granted to you by the Administration Office on the basis of the selection committee’s judgment of your past performance and of your potential to benefit from and contribute to TALH. You must earn continued scholarship in the TALH community through your performance and behavior, both in and out of the classroom. **At the end of your first year, TALH will review both your academic performance and your contribution to student life and make a decision about whether or not to invite you for a second year.** Factors which will be considered include, but are not limited to, the following: your GPA, your individual course grades, your disciplinary record, and your contributions to the community.

As a TALH student, you are required to follow Lamar University, Texas State University System (TSUS), and TALH regulations as well as all local, state, and federal laws. In addition, students are subject to the rules and regulations stipulated in the Cardinal Village housing contract. All policies are applicable from August 18, 2015, until May 18, 2016 including off-campus day, overnight, weekend travel, and holiday periods.

It is your responsibility to become familiar with all of these policies and procedures outlined in the following documents:

- **Lamar University Rules and Regulations** - this information is published in the *Lamar University Student Handbook*, available online (http://students.lamar.edu/student-handbook.html).
- **University Calendar** - available online (http://events.lamar.edu/index.html)
- **Lease Agreement Provisions for Cardinal Village Apartments**
- **TALH Student Handbook** - A copy of the handbook has been emailed to parents and students.

These documents are intended to function as a guide for general information. Policies and procedures are established at the legislative, Lamar University, and TALH administrative levels. However, TALH is a dynamic organization, and because needs and expectations change, TALH policies and procedures may be subject to change. Any policy or procedural change is made with consideration of the goals of the program and the best interests of the TALH and Lamar University communities and as such is thoroughly reviewed by the appropriate administration. **You will be notified in writing of any policy changes and are responsible for being aware of and complying with those changes.**

A residential academic program for minors presents its own set of challenges. Every effort has been made to develop a reasonable and just system of regulations, policies, and procedures that promotes the positive growth of individual students while guaranteeing a respectful and secure learning and living environment for all students enrolled in the Academy. **Therefore, violations of any Lamar University, TSUS, and/or TALH regulations OR any local, state, or federal law will be grounds for disciplinary action.** Dismissal from the program is at the discretion of the Director.

**Before you can move into the hall and/or begin classes, you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the Agreement to Abide by Policies Form included at the end of this handbook.** We strongly recommend you read this handbook carefully before you sign the agreement.
Dear Parents,

As a TALH community member, your student is leaving the relative security of family and high school to take on the challenges offered by college course work and residence hall living. You cannot help but wonder how your student will fare.

TALH staff shares your concern for your student's well-being. We want to assist you in helping your student overcome any difficulties that may arise. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns. We protect the confidentiality of students and parents/guardians. We will keep you informed of your student's progress and of TALH events. It is not always possible, however, for us to be aware of what individual students are experiencing. We depend on you to communicate with us and to encourage your student to do the same.

We think the best possible relationship TALH staff and parents/guardians can have is a partnership – a shared relationship to help the student succeed academically and mature into a responsible, caring young adult. Please remember that you are welcome at TALH at any time. Your visits mean a great deal to your student. We look forward to getting to know you better in the coming year.

Sincerely,

TALH Staff

IMPORTANT NOTE

All academy programs and services are dependent on the level of funding from the Texas Legislature. The academy reserves the right to make adjustments to program components (including course offerings) to respond to changes in funding.
INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

History
The Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities was created by the Legislature of the State of Texas (S.B. 1554) in 1993 to offer intellectually advanced, mature high school-aged students in the state the opportunity to pursue the ideals of academic excellence, ethical leadership, and community service within the context of a rigorous university setting. All students admitted to the unique residential program receive full-tuition scholarships for 15 credit hours per semester from the State of Texas. TALH operates as an early college entrance program under the auspices of the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System. In its capacity as a special-purpose school district, the Academy has been authorized to confer its own diploma at graduation. While some TALH students remain at Lamar University after their graduation from TALH, others continue their college education elsewhere.

Philosophy
Education is similar to a sacred pursuit – an endeavor to understand who we are and who we have an obligation to become. The discovery of new knowledge and the engagement of the imagination promote the moral advancement of the individual and the civil society whose advancement human beings are charged to promote. At the foundation of the Texas Academy’s mission is a logical connection between education, service, and leadership. Central to the TALH philosophy is an understanding of the classical concept of humanitas – a Latin word with a range of meanings from “human nature” to “compassion” to “civilization” – an ideal championed by Renaissance thinkers wishing to incorporate the fullest sense of what it means to be human into a sweeping program for individual and societal reform. TALH embraces the ideal of the liberal arts education – the study of those arts and sciences, literally, “worthy of a free man.” Freedom, democracy, and the responsibilities of democratic citizens are guiding principles of life at the Academy. TALH affirms a fundamental relation between education – the study of the humanities, essentially including the experience of art – and moral growth, and thus the focus of the program is both the individual and the society.

Expectations
Because of the extraordinary opportunities offered them, TALH students are expected to be fully engaged in all aspects of the program. Failure to meet academic, behavior, attendance, and/or service learning components of the program is an indication that the student may not be ready for the advanced responsibilities required of a successful TALH student.

In determining a student’s place within the Academy, the administration will consider that student’s academic, behavior, and involvement within the program. Throughout the year and, particularly, at the end of a semester, the administration will review the status of students. Those students who are not functioning successfully within the expectations of the TALH community, may not thrive because of academic concerns or personal level of maturity, or may have a serious negative impact on others in the community. In each case, the administration will review the student’s situation and arrive at a determination of what is best for the student and the community. The administration reserves the right to ask a student to withdraw or not to extend an invitation for a second year when a student’s performance and/or behavior has demonstrated an inability or an unwillingness to function successfully and cooperatively with the academic, behavior, service learning, leadership training, and/or community expectations.
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Academic Integrity

TALH was created by the Texas Legislature to give academically advanced Texas students the opportunity to experience the rigors of a university classroom while pursuing a variety of extracurricular programs promoting leadership development. As a residential honors program under legislative auspices, TALH holds its students to the highest standards of excellence, intellectual and moral, in and outside the classroom. TALH exhorts its students to be exemplary on all counts.

Students are specifically warned against all forms of cheating and plagiarism. The Lamar University Student Handbook (http://students.lamar.edu/student-handbook.html) states:

“Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phrase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. . . . The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.”

One aspect of the handbook’s definition of cheating is “purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.” Plagiarism is defined as “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or ideas into one’s own offered for credit.”

Students seeking guidance to avoid plagiarism may consult with the course instructor, recent handbooks such The Little, Brown Handbook, and the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, consultants in the Writing Center, and websites such as http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php from the University of Texas or http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml from Indiana University. Faculty members in the Department of English and Modern Languages investigate all cases of suspected plagiarism.

The Texas State University System has established the following Disciplinary Procedures for Academic Dishonesty:

(1) Academic Process: All academic dishonesty cases may first be considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the department chair, the dean, and eventually, the Provost (whose decision shall be final) before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or the administrative decision, and opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case. After completion of the academic process, the academic officer making final disposition of the case shall refer the matter to the chief student affairs officer for any additional discipline that may be appropriate.

(2) Disciplinary Process. If the case of flagrant or repeated violations, the chief student affairs officer may take such additional disciplinary action as he/she deems appropriate. No disciplinary action shall become effective against the student until the student has received procedural due process under Subsection 5.6 and following except as provided under Subsection 5.15 of the Texas State University System Board of Regents Handbook.

Acts of academic dishonesty will remain on a student’s record for the duration of his/her enrollment at TALH.

Academic Probation

One of the main goals of the TALH experience is academic success. TALH academic probation is designed to focus effort on reaching this goal. A student may be placed on academic probation for one of the following reasons:

1. Failure to maintain a 3.0 semester GPA in any fall or spring semester;
2. Progress report(s) that indicate poor academic performance (less than a “C”);
3. Excessive absences (more than 3 unexcused per semester); or
4. “D” or “F” in any course regardless of overall GPA.
Parents will be notified when a student is placed on academic probation. NOTE: Mini sessions and summer sessions may not be used to eliminate TALH academic probation status.

While on TALH academic probation, a student:

- Must sign and abide by the TALH Academic Probation Contract;
- Must attend study hall Monday through Thursday at the designated time;
- Must meet weekly with the Counselor for an academic conference;
- May be removed from leadership office in TALH organizations at sponsor discretion;
- May be required to meet weekly with the Student Services Coordinator;
- May not participate in TALH-sponsored field trips at the discretion of the Director.

Students who do not maintain a cumulative or semester GPA of 3.0 risk dismissal from the program.

Academic Recognition
Students whose semester GPA is a minimum 3.50 are included on the Dean’s List of the College of Arts and Sciences. Students with a 4.0 GPA are included on the President’s List. Any student whose academic record includes an “I” (incomplete) is ineligible for Dean’s and/or President’s List consideration until the course requirements have been met and the grade officially recorded.

Adding and Dropping Courses
TALH students may not drop a required course. Any change in a student’s course load and schedule requires written approval of the TALH Director. Student must complete a TALH Student Drop Request form available from the Counselor, get written parental approval, and obtain written approval of the TALH Director. After approvals are obtained, the Counselor will complete a Lamar University drop form for the student to process. Students who drop a course may be required to pay all tuition and fees for the course. Students are responsible for the total costs of any repeated course. Students whose transcripts show dropped or repeated courses are at risk of being denied admission to prestigious universities or of being less competitive for academic scholarships. Students are responsible for knowing appropriate deadlines as published on the Lamar University website.

Lamar University, along with all other Texas public institutions of higher education (including two-year institutions), may not permit an undergraduate student to drop a total of more than six courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another public institution of higher education in Texas, unless the student can show good cause for dropping more than that number, including but not limited to a documented showing of the following:

a) a severe illness or other debilitating condition that affects the student’s ability to satisfactorily complete the course;
b) the student’s responsibility for the care of a sick, injured or needy person if the provision of that care affects the student’s ability to satisfactorily complete the course;
c) the death of a person who is considered to be a member of the student’s family or who is otherwise considered to have a sufficiently close relationship to the student that the person’s death is considered to be a showing of good cause;
d) the active duty service as a member of the Texas National Guard or the armed forces of the United States of either the student or a person who is considered to be a member of the student’s family or who is otherwise considered to have a sufficiently close relationship to the student that the person’s active military service is considered to be a showing of good cause;
e) the change of the student’s work schedule that is beyond the control of the student, and that affects the student’s ability to satisfactorily complete the course; or
f) other good cause as determined by the institution of higher education.

In accordance with Texas law (SB 1231, 80th Legislature), students will not be allowed to drop more than six courses. Forms for requesting a good cause exception to the six-drop rule are available from academic advisors or the Office of the Registrar.

Attendance
TALH is a Texas legislative program and TALH funding is contingent on demonstrated attendance. Although professors may have absentee policies, TALH requires students to attend all classes. Regular and punctual attendance is required of all TALH students, regardless of a course instructor’s specific attendance policy. Faculty
members are requested to submit monthly attendance reports to TALH administration. However, since this is a university and professors are not required to produce progress reports, TALH cannot guarantee 100% response. Students not attending classes risk disciplinary consequences, the loss of scholarships, and removal from the program. All absences must be reported in writing by the student to Mrs. Colichia within three (3) days of the absence. Absences not reported to Mrs. Colichia within 3 days will be recorded as UNEXCUSED.

In case of severe illness, all students are requested to report to the Health Center for treatment. If a student misses class because of severe illness, he/she must present a dated health center pass to Mrs. Colichia within three (3) days to avoid disciplinary action. Excessive and/or UNEXCUSED absences will be referred for disciplinary action and may result in dismissal from the program.

Calculation of TALH/Lamar GPA
Students receive a given number of points for each letter grade (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0). The grade point average is not weighted. The GPA is based on a 4.0 scale and is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total number of semester hours attempted. The TALH GPA is based on your Lamar GPA. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>SEMESTER GRADE</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
<th>GRADE POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology 1407</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History 1302</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 1301</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science 2301</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German 2312</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, 58 divided by 16 = 3.625 GPA (LU and TALH)

Counseling Services
The Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities offers a counseling program for enrolled students. The Counseling Office is responsible for a variety of functions, including academic advising, college counseling, and identifying student development issues. The Counselor informs students of academic and scholarship opportunities. Another important function of the Counselor is to provide crisis intervention as necessary and cooperatively develop a plan to avoid future crises of like kind.

- **Course Selection**
  Students must complete courses required for TALH graduation before choosing electives. Electives should be chosen from the remaining requirements of the Lamar University core curriculum. Political science and economics courses may only be taken during the fall and spring semesters of the final year. All courses, including electives, must be taken in standard format – that is, none can be taken online or by correspondence.

- **Student Development**
  First semester TALH students meet with the Counselor in regularly scheduled monthly meetings. This is important because students sometimes experience problems with homesickness and adjustment to college life. If a student’s problems require extra assistance, he/she is referred to Lamar University’s Student Health Center. In addition to working closely with the Counselor, TALH students are encouraged to attend a series of Academic Enhancement Workshops designed to ease their transition to Lamar University.

- **College Advising and Applications**
  Please refer to College Advising and Applications as follows in this section.

Disability Resource Center
The Disability Resource Center provides a variety of services to assist students with disabilities to become active members of the TALH and Lamar University community. Documentation of a disability from a professional in the field is required to receive services. The office is located in Communications Building, Room 105. (telephone number: 409-880-8347).

Electives
The Core Curriculum, along with a student’s TALH graduation course requirements, constitutes a student’s principal academic focus at TALH. Courses used to fulfill the elective requirement are selected from the Core Curriculum.
Grade Reports
Grade Reports are not mailed by Lamar University. Students and parents may check grades at www.lamar.edu. Click on myLamar located in the black bar near the top of the page. You will be re-directed to the LU Portal. Click Self-Service Banner. Enter your student identification number in the User ID field. This is the “L” number provided in your acceptance letter sent from the Lamar Admissions Office. Enter your PIN (personal identification number). Your initial PIN is your six-digit birth date (MMDDYY). The first time you login you are required to reset your PIN to a six-digit number of your choosing. Click Student. On next menu click Student Records.

Lamar University Honors College
Entering students who meet requirements may be eligible to apply for membership in the Reaud Honors College and, if accepted, may enroll in honors courses. Students with a semester GPA of 3.5 after their first semester at TALH are also eligible to apply for membership in the Reaud Honors College and, if accepted, may enroll in honors courses. Students who fail to maintain a 3.2 average risk dismissal from the Reaud Honors College.
Continuation is at the discretion of the Dean of the Reaud Honors College

Progress Reports
In order to ease the transition from high school to college, progress reports are solicited from professors at the end of every month. TALH will receive the first progress reports from faculty in early October. Since this is a university and professors are not required to produce progress reports, TALH cannot guarantee 100% response. We will notify parents immediately if we receive an unsatisfactory progress notice (excessive absences and/or grades lower than “C”). Parents are strongly encouraged to communicate regularly with their child regarding attendance and grades. Parents are also encouraged to access their student’s Blackboard account to view course progress and grades if the faculty member utilizes the Blackboard system. Blackboard is an integrated set of web-based tools for course management and delivery. It is accessible through MyLamar, https://luonline.blackboard.com/. Parents must obtain their student’s password in order to access the student’s Blackboard account.

Ranking
TALH does not rank its students. Since our student body is composed of high academic achievers from high schools all over the state of Texas, we feel that to rank them against one another would not give an accurate representation of how they would actually match up with their scholastic peers had they remained in their home high schools. The grade point average is a measure of the student’s overall academic performance and is used in the determination of academic standing, rank in class, eligibility for graduation, program eligibility and honors eligibility. TALH students are enrolled only in college courses and are, therefore, only ranked against freshmen and sophomores enrolled at Lamar University.

Registration and Course Schedule
TALH students take Lamar courses and are thus integrated into the academic life of the institution. This allows students a real-world experience of college that prepares them to exercise the freedom and accompanying responsibilities demanded of adult university students.

Lamar University’s General Education Core Curriculum satisfies the criteria for compliance with the mandates of the Texas State Senate and the rules, recommendations and statement of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board found in Chapter 4 B §4.28-4.31. The curriculum (see Appendix) spans the humanities and sciences and provides an interdisciplinary foundation to pursue intellectual inquiry, make critical evaluation of the findings, and communicate those findings in the classroom and the broader academic environment. The Academy uses core curriculum courses whenever possible to fulfill TALH graduation requirements. After the TALH Registrar evaluates student transcripts, the Counselor registers students for their first semester course load.

Students are integrally involved in the course selection process in subsequent semesters as a learning experience. Students are highly encouraged to take the Honors sections of courses for which they are eligible. After the first semester of attendance at the Academy, students are advised by the TALH administration before registering for classes. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their class options with their parents. Advising forms must be signed by the Director. After students complete the advising process, they will select their class times and the administration will complete the registration process. All courses, including electives, must be taken in standard format – that is, none can be taken online or by correspondence.
Registration for elective courses requires approval of the Director. Electives should first be chosen from the remaining requirements of the Lamar University core curriculum. See Appendix for Lamar University Core Curriculum.

**Retaking Courses**

TALH students may retake courses for credit with the approval of the TALH Director. All courses, including electives, must be taken in standard format – that is, none can be taken online or by correspondence. All costs of a repeated course will be the responsibility of the student. Lamar University’s Course Repetition/Grade Replacement Policy is in effect as follows:

- Students will have one chance to replace a grade for a course. If a student repeats a course, the official grade is the higher one, although all grades remain on the transcript. A grade, once earned and entered on a student’s transcript, cannot be removed;
- The repetition of a Lamar course at another institution will not replace a grade in the GPA calculation of the Lamar University course. Any further grades earned by repetition of the same course will be used in calculating Lamar University’s GPA. Eligibility for all Lamar University honors will be determined on the basis of a cumulative GPA that includes all grades earned at Lamar University;
- Any student who wishes to repeat a course must do so before completing a more advanced course in the same subject. The chair of the department offering the course will determine what constitutes a more advanced course. Before registering to repeat a course for grade replacement, a student must receive approval from the TALH Counselor and Director.

**Standards**

With permission from the Director, a student may take a minimum of twelve (12) hours and a maximum of eighteen (18) hours during the fall and spring semesters; exceptions may be granted to the maximum at the discretion of the Director. The State of Texas pays tuition costs for up to fifteen (15) credit hours per fall/spring semester. The student is responsible for the cost of additional hours.

No courses may be taken during mini-sessions and/or summer sessions without the written approval of the Director. If approved by the Director, TALH students may take up to a TOTAL of six (6) credit hours (8 if courses are lab sciences) during the summer; exceptions may be granted to the maximum at the discretion of the Director. While credit for summer courses taken at other universities and colleges may be accepted, the grades earned at those institutions are not figured into the student’s Lamar or TALH GPAs. TALH does not pay for summer or mini-sessions’ tuition, fees, or books.

All courses, including electives, mini-sessions, summer sessions or taken at other universities and colleges, must be taken in standard format – that is, none can be taken online or by correspondence.

Superior academic performance is expected of TALH students. TALH uses the Lamar University 4.0 grading scale and students must maintain a minimum 3.0 semester and cumulative grade point average (GPA) to avoid placement on TALH academic probation. Students who are placed on TALH academic probation and who fail to improve their GPA within the stipulated time may be dismissed from the Academy. Dismissal from the Academy is at the discretion of the Director.

**Study Hall**

All TALH students may attend study hall. Parents may request their student attend study hall. All first-semester TALH students are required to attend study hall until they earn a GPA of at least 3.0. Study hall is designed to help TALH students develop the habits they need to be successful in a university academic environment.

Any absence from scheduled study hall requires the approval of the Director or Student Services Coordinator. All requests to miss study hall must be submitted in writing 24 hours in advance by a parent; requests to miss study hall should be limited, and students will be required to make up the absence within 48 hours. Although students in study hall will be required to complete eight hours of supervised studying every week, it is important to remember that a student will likely need to spend additional time studying independently to be academically successful in his or her courses. Locations and specific times will be announced at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.

All tardiness and unexcused absences from study hall will be referred to the Student Services Coordinator for disciplinary action, which may include attendance at a study hall at 8:00 a.m. in the TALH office.
Textbooks
Students are responsible for purchasing or renting their textbooks. Textbooks may be purchased or rented at bookstores on or around campus and are available from online sites. Students should verify class number and section prior to purchase. Students are strongly encouraged to label their books.

Tutorial Assistance
In order to facilitate a successful transition from high school to a more challenging Lamar University course load, TALH strongly recommends that students take full advantage of the support systems. Students should schedule regular meetings with their professors. In addition, the Student Advising and Retention Services (STARS) Department (409-880-7205) offers individual and small group tutoring for any student. Lamar University also offers a free writing lab, mathematics lab, and language lab to support academic success. Scheduling and payment of private tutors are the responsibility of the student. In the event that a student continues to have problems with a class, he/she should notify the TALH Counselor immediately for further assistance.

Valedictorian
For the graduating Class of 2016, TALH will recognize a valedictorian and salutatorian based on the Lamar University cumulative grade point average of the Fall 2014, Spring 2015, and Fall 2015 semesters only among those students eligible for consideration. Eligibility for valedictorian and salutatorian status will be determined by the number of Lamar University courses taken, with a minimum of 45 Lamar credit hours during the Fall 2014, Spring 2015, and Fall 2015 semesters only. Courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester before graduation with no class drops for consideration. Students must also have exemplary previous high school records to be eligible for consideration. Summer courses may not be used in calculating GPA and credit hours for valedictorian and salutatorian recognition. Any student who drops a course will not be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian recognition. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Director.

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted in the 2016-2017 TALH Student Handbook, requirements for the Class of 2017 will remain the same as for the Class of 2016. TALH reserves the right to amend the requirements for valedictorian and salutatorian recognition for the Class of 2017 if necessary.

Withdrawal
Students who withdraw from TALH may not enroll in Lamar University until they have graduated from high school. Students who withdraw from TALH may not attend TALH sponsored events unless approved by the Director.

NOTE: The TALH administration will review each student’s academic and disciplinary record at the end of each semester. We reserve the right to make decisions about whether a student continues at TALH, depending on individual circumstances.

COLLEGE ADVISING AND APPLICATIONS

Applications
The most competitive Texas universities recommend completed applications be submitted early in the fall semester of the year prior to requested admission. TALH students who plan to continue their education at Lamar University must submit a new application. Scholarship applications will not be considered until acceptance is received.

College Admissions Tests (PSAT, SAT and ACT)
The Class of 2017 is required to take the PSAT exam during their first semester at the Academy. The exam is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2015. This is the exam used to identify National Merit Semi-Finalists, essentially all of whom become National Merit Finalists which may qualify them for scholarships. PSAT preparation workshops will be held in early fall.

Although the SAT or the ACT is a requirement for admissions consideration at TALH, students are strongly urged to retake the exam in the spring of their first year in attendance and no later than the fall of their final year. Registration materials are available online (SAT: www.collegeboard.com or ACT: www.act.org). Students are advised to register for an ACT or SAT that is administered on the Lamar University campus, if available. Students are reminded to send a college admission test report to TALH and the college/university of their choice.
College Counseling
Because TALH students are among a select group of high school-aged students enrolled in an accelerated program, they are required to think early about their college majors and college choices. As early as their first semester, students must begin thinking about college majors and areas of interest. The Counselor can assist students in not only choosing colleges and universities that offer their program of interest, but also identifying scholarships and financial aid that might serve to assist students in funding their educations.

All state universities in Texas are required to accept transfer credits from Lamar’s core curriculum. Please note that enrollment in TALH is not a guarantee of acceptance; students must meet the admissions criteria (grades, service, etc.) of the institution of their choice. Given the selectivity and variety of competitive colleges in the United States, students and their parents interested in admissions to out-of-state or private institutions are strongly urged to begin the process of discussing college options and scholarship opportunities with the TALH Counselor at the earliest possible date after entering the Academy. The Class of 2016 is strongly encouraged to begin investigating their college choices and initiate their application process as soon as possible.

College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) Code
The CEEB is required when students register for standardized tests such as the ACT and SAT. The TALH CEEB code is 440533.

Courses
Coursework is evaluated for weight and content. Students whose transcripts show dropped or repeated courses are at risk of being denied admission to prestigious universities or of being less competitive for academic scholarships. More than the recommended course credits in mathematics, science, and languages will strengthen an applicant’s consideration.

Essays
Students are strongly urged to make their essays as polished as possible. This includes a well-developed, multi-paragraphed format. TALH students are strongly urged to write their application essays during the summer before their graduation year.

Letters of Recommendation
Letters of recommendation are integral to a student’s college application, especially at highly selective colleges and universities. Letters of recommendation are not automatic. Students are respectfully reminded to show their gratitude to the recommender. Students are advised to request recommendations from those Lamar University faculty and TALH administrators most familiar with their character, academic achievement, integrity of volunteer spirit, leadership skills, and those personal qualities that distinguish them as unique individuals. Students must provide for a minimum two-week response to their request. Students should personally ask the recommender BEFORE filling out the request forms. Forms for requesting letters from TALH administration are available in the forms section of the TALH website (www.lamar.edu/texasacademy) and must be accompanied by the student’s current résumé AND a self-addressed, stamped envelope for each request. Request forms are turned in to the recommender.

Résumé
A student’s application must include a formal, typed résumé. Résumés must include four (4) years of academics, honors, offices, and service activities. Since the résumé takes the place of a personal interview, students are strongly urged to make theirs as polished and comprehensive as possible. The Class of 2016 is required to submit their résumés to the TALH Director and Counselor no later than September 18 of the academic year. For information on the recommended format for a résumé, please see the Counselor.

Test Scores
All admissions test scores must be reported directly from the College Board or ACT.

Transcripts
A student’s official Lamar University academic transcript is required for transfer to another college and may be ordered in person (112 Wimberly), by mail to Transcript Production, P. O. Box 10010, Beaumont, TX 77710 or online at http://dept.lamar.edu/records/transcripts.htm. Students are allowed five (5) Lamar transcripts per long semester at no charge. Each Lamar transcript exceeding five (5) transcripts per long semester will cost $5 each. Processing time is 24 hours.
A student's official TALH transcript is additionally required for college transfer and is available through the TALH office. Processing time is 48 hours. TALH transcripts may be ordered by emailing texas.academy@lamar.edu with the following information:

1) Student Name  
2) Lamar Student Identification Number  
3) Date of Birth  
4) Name and complete mailing address where you would like the transcript mailed.  
5) Include any additional information such as a personal application ID number given to you by a school or an ApplyTexas ID.

Official TALH transcripts WILL NOT be given to students. Official TALH transcripts must be mailed by TALH office directly to institution. Unofficial copies of a student's Lamar University and TALH transcripts are also available.

TEXAS ACADEMY LEADERSHIP and HUMANITIES PROGRAMS

Community Service Program – Humanities and Ethics in Leadership Program (H.E.L.P)
H.E.L.P. is the program that coordinates all community service activities for TALH. Community service is a vital form of leadership, and is intended to take students from the world of ideas into the world of action – from their curricular and extracurricular experiences in the humanities into the community to practice their altruistic responsibilities as citizens of a free society. Students are required to perform a minimum of two hours of service a week. Students are required to submit the H.E.L.P. Service Performance Record form each Monday at the Community Meeting. The administration strongly urges students to undertake a community service project that helps the neediest community members, and with whose purpose and objectives they personally identify. A list of Beaumont metropolitan area and Lamar community service organizations with contact person and telephone numbers will be provided to every student. Students are required to begin their service commitment by a deadline to be announced during Fall Orientation. Beyond continued enrollment in TALH, documented community service is crucial in a student’s college application. Failure to report an accurate service hours record will be referred for disciplinary action. Students who do not fulfill the program's service learning component may face disciplinary action and any such failure may result in the withholding of an invitation to return for a second year at the Academy. Students are required to select a service project and submit information by August 26, 2015. Students who fail to do their service risk disciplinary action and this will be reflected in letters of recommendation. Community service begins August 31, 2015.

Ethical Issues/Futurism
The Ethical Issues and Futurism projects ask students to work collaboratively outside of their formal academic courses to consider the most pressing issues in our society today, and to propose solutions to those dilemmas. The Ethical Issues and Futurism programs are an integral part of the TALH experience, and provide students with the opportunity to learn and practice the skills of leadership.

Humanities at the Texas Academy
The Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities is a residential liberal arts program for advanced high school-aged students whose interests lean toward the traditional humanities. The liberal arts were originally those disciplines whose study was worthy of a free man; they included math and abstract science. Today, it might be more helpful to think of them as those disciplines whose study makes us free – liberates us for active participation in a democratic society and instructs us concerning our corollary altruistic responsibilities in that society. The humanities are those fields of study whose perspective and purpose involve human constructs. Traditionally, those fields include literature, music, philosophy, and history. TALH students attend the Humanities Seminar as scheduled. Attendance is mandatory.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Academy’s student services component endeavors to support the development and success of Academy students in four main directions: community, cultural/social development, residence life, and discipline.
Communication
TALH believes that open communication among the administration, faculty, students, and parents is integral to student success. TALH supports this philosophy with monthly newsletters, the TALH website, press releases, and other publications, and prompt access to all administrators. Parents are strongly encouraged to communicate with the administration on a regular basis.

Students are also strongly encouraged to take advantage of the accessibility of the TALH administration. This accessibility is one of the greatest assets of the program – the opportunity to benefit from individual attention from the entire administration. Students should observe general office etiquette and make an appointment for an extended meeting with an administrator.

Students are strongly encouraged to visit the office on a daily basis to review notices and announcements. Students are asked to check their email and telephone messages daily. Please inform Mrs. Colichia (cindy.colichia@lamar.edu) immediately of any address, email or telephone number changes.

Community
TALH considers itself a community based on its mission statement: to provide an enriched environment for its gifted and talented students and to provide opportunities for personal and leadership development through volunteerism, community service, and social skills.

Given the unique design of the program, certain policies and procedures have been instituted after approval by the TSUS Board of Regents. These policies and procedures are in place for the safety, security, and well-being of the minors in residence. Each student enrolled in TALH is considered a minor for the duration of his/her enrollment regardless of age.

The Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities has authority in loco parentis. Any violation of Lamar University or TALH policies will be reported to the Director and Student Services Coordinator for disciplinary review.

A TALH student shall conduct himself/herself at all times in a manner that shall reflect credibility and honor on the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities. Each student is expected to be fully acquainted with all published Academy and Lamar University policies, copies of which are available online. The Academy holds each student responsible for compliance with these published policies. Students are expected to comply with federal, state, and local laws; any student who violates any provision of those laws is subject to Academy and Lamar University sanctions notwithstanding any action taken by civil authorities because of the violation. This principle extends to conduct off campus, which is likely to have a serious, adverse effect on the Academy and Lamar University community.

TALH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Cultural/Social Development
As active participants in Lamar University’s intellectual life, TALH students enjoy access to the complete offerings of a major university – seminars, distinguished lecturers, forums in the fine arts and the humanities, research and lab facilities, professional societies, and mentors. Students also enjoy a full calendar of cultural and social events. These events include TALH dances, activities, and lectures as well as recitals, concerts, plays, and various other performances each year. The Academy’s focus on the humanities is diverse and designed to develop positive self-image, self-confidence, and beneficial social skills. Students are expected to dress and behave appropriately for the event. Failure to comply may result in suspension of privileges.

Lamar University Student Government Association
The TALH President is eligible to serve as a representative in the Lamar University Student Government Association (SGA). This representative serves for the fall and spring semesters. This representative is responsible for attending the SGA meetings and reporting all SGA activities in TALH Community Meetings.

Mentor Program
In order to support its students’ success, TALH facilitates a mentor program. The mentor program pairs an individual student with a Lamar University faculty mentor. The university faculty mentor cannot be a graduate student.
mentorship is regarded by the Academy as critically important to the achievement of the full mission of TALH. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their mentors regularly. What does a mentor do for you?

- Guides you with mutual trust and understanding;
- Develops the self-confidence needed for growth;
- Inspires you in difficult times;
- Helps you set realistic goals;
- Encourages responsible behavior;
- Motivates, encourages, and advises you for success;
- Helps you expand your horizons;
- Assists you during a crisis or turning point;
- Boosts your self-esteem;
- Broadens your contacts on campus and in the community;
- Supports your career and educational goals.

Mentors will remain paired with the same student(s) for the two-year TALH program.

**Student Leadership**

In order to support effective leadership and provide opportunity for leadership and social skills development, TALH students are strongly encouraged to commit to only one major leadership position per academic year.

**TALH Community Meeting**

The TALH Community Meeting is the weekly student forum for presentation of information regarding TALH activities, discussion of events and issues, and small group meetings for planning purposes. A time is designated for the weekly TALH Community Meeting at the beginning of each term and attendance is required for all students. The TALH Student Government President presides over the weekly meeting. The President will distribute an agenda identifying all administrative and TALH community issues for consideration to all TALH members at the beginning of the meeting. Following consideration of all administrative agenda items, the president will lead TALH students in a discussion of agenda items as needed. The TALH Student Government Secretary calls roll. Attendance is mandatory and absent students will be referred for disciplinary review.

**TALH Student Government**

In keeping with the mission statement of the program, TALH offers leadership training through active student government. TALH Student Government offices are President, Vice President, and Secretary. Elections and responsibilities of each office are delineated in the approved TALH student constitution. All members of the student government must be in good standing and maintain a 3.0 GPA. The Student Services Coordinator serves as advisor and must be present for all official meetings. Ideas for new events are always welcome by this organization in order to meet the needs of the students.

The TALH Student Government serves as a model for leadership training and a key element in community building. Active student government is strongly supported by the Academy and students may propose activities to the Director through the President and advisor.

**Other TALH Organizations**

The Academy is cognizant of the importance of extracurricular involvement because educational research reveals that students who are involved inside and outside of the classroom are more likely to attain their educational goals. To support the development of its students, TALH offers a variety of extracurricular activities designed to fulfill current students’ interests and goals. All officers in TALH organizations must be in good standing and earn and maintain a 3.0 GPA. TALH students also have the opportunity to further their leadership skills by organizing and operating their own special interest clubs and organizations. Students wishing to begin a new club should schedule an appointment with the Student Services Coordinator to review Lamar University and Academy requirements regarding proposed purpose and activities. Student clubs must have the approval of the Director, have an Academy advisor and hold their meetings as scheduled. First year students are strongly encouraged to meet their first semester academic goals before proposing a new club or organization. All activities must follow Lamar University rules and be approved by the Director.
TALH RESIDENCE LIFE AND CODE OF BEHAVIOR

TALH and Lamar University are communities of individuals from diverse geographical, cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. Members of the TALH community are individually and collectively responsible for their behavior and accountable for their actions. Each individual must take the initiative and responsibility for his/her own learning and awareness of the differences, which exist within the community, avoiding actions that diminish others. This concept is termed, “Responsible Freedom.” Our community will not tolerate verbal or written abuse, threats, intimidation, violence, disrespect, intolerance, or other forms of harassment against its members (see Hazing/Bullying on pg. 26). We cannot accept ignorance, stress, or anger as an excuse, reason, or rationale for such behavior.

Because TALH is comprised of a unique population of minors residing away from home, extra precautions have been established to facilitate the transition from high school to Lamar University and to provide a more secure living environment. Any interference with the security measures in place for students’ safety is considered behavior unbecoming a TALH student and may result in suspension or dismissal from the program. Any repair costs are assigned to the responsible student or hall.

Appropriate Hygiene and Appearance
TALH students’ appearance should reflect an awareness of their privileged status as recipients of State of Texas legislative scholarships. Students are expected to maintain a neat appearance and conservative hairstyle at all times and to dress appropriately for any specific occasion.

Standard hygiene, health, and appearance are defined as what any reasonable adult would find appropriate and inoffensive. Students are expected to demonstrate maturity and good judgment, even in matters of appearance and self-expressions.

For clarification, the following general guidelines apply:

- Students must follow accepted rules of hygiene including cleanliness and grooming.
- Ripped, frayed, ragged, revealing, or immodest clothing is not appropriate.
- Slogans and graphics on clothing should not be offensive to any social, gender, economic, religious, political, or ethnic groups. This includes written, pictured, or implied obscene or distasteful slogans or promotions for tobacco, alcohol, or violence.
- Students should observe current standards of polite behavior, including the removal of hats/caps indoors.
- Footwear should be worn at all times. Bedroom slippers are not to be worn outside the residence hall.
- Jewelry and accessories should be tasteful and non-distracting.
- Hairstyles and hair color should not be disruptive.
- Body ornamentation (tattoos, body piercing/studs) should not be visible, except for pierced ear lobes.

TALH administration reserves the right to serve as the final arbiter for what is considered appropriate appearance. Students and parents are reminded that the special privilege of being a TALH student is accompanied by special responsibilities.

Automobiles and Other Motor Vehicles
TALH students are allowed to have an automobile while enrolled in the program. A parking registration tag must be purchased from the Parking Office (Carl Parker Bldg., Room 109). Students are required to follow all parking regulations, including display of parking tag and use of designated parking lots. All TALH students must register their vehicles in the TALH office. Students are not allowed to park in the reserved parking spaces next to the TALH office.

Bicycles, Skateboards, and Roller Blades
Students are allowed to have a bicycle, skateboard, and roller blades while enrolled in the program. Students are encouraged to register their bicycle with the Lamar University Police Department. The use of bicycles, skateboards, and roller blades is not allowed in any Lamar University building or prohibited areas of Cardinal Village.
Cell Phone Communications
Although cell phones are allowed to be used by our students, it is prohibitive in cost for TALH administration to call long distance cell phone numbers of our students. The TALH administration uses email as our primary method of communication. TALH students are required to inform the TALH staff of the email address they will check daily.

Cleaning
TALH expects and requires students to maintain their rooms free of garbage or debris that is unsightly, unsanitary, or malodorous; determination of these conditions is at the discretion of TALH staff. Cardinal Village (CV) management suggests that the residents spray the tub and shower area once a week with a solution of bleach and water to facilitate cleaning. Vacuum cleaners are available to residents through the CV office.

Further, TALH students are expected to maintain their room in an orderly manner so as not to disrupt free movement in the room. Disregard of these requirements constitutes a potential public health threat, and students in violation of this policy risk disciplinary action if they fail to observe the noted standards within 24 hours of a warning by TALH or Cardinal Village community assistant staff. Community leaders and/or TALH staff conduct weekly health and safety inspections of student rooms. TALH staff, on occasion, may conduct unannounced room inspections. Apartment garbage and debris must be disposed of as directed in the lease agreement.

Closed Weekends
TALH recognizes the benefits of positive family involvement in a student’s academic and personal success. TALH has a “closed weekend” policy to support the close and beneficial relationship between students and their families.

On a closed weekend, students must vacate the residence hall by 4:00 p.m. Friday afternoon. The Student Services Coordinator will confirm closed weekend plans with parents. Students may not return to the residence hall until after 2:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

Community Damages
All damages, responsibility for which cannot be assigned to individual residents, will be prorated in accordance with Cardinal Village management’s determination of the student population involved. Damages will be categorized by room, floor, hall, and building. Students are strongly urged to report any violation involving Cardinal Village damages to the CL staff, with the names of those responsible; TALH and Cardinal Village maintain the confidentiality of students who report an incident.

Community Leaders (CLs)
Community Leaders are TALH staff members whose responsibilities include supporting and assisting students in the residence hall, as well as enforcing all TALH and Lamar University policies pertaining to residential life in the Morris Hall complex.

Community Responsibilities
Students admitted to TALH present records of academic achievement, along with demonstrated maturity and a capacity to accept and exercise responsibility that distinguishes them from their peers. As TALH students, in all aspects of their life, they are held to these standards. Unique and significant responsibilities are required of students in residential academic programs like TALH. The student body constitutes a special community that does not end at the final class of the academic day. Indeed, the program has an identity beyond the classroom that is in some ways more important than its identity as an exclusively academic institution. TALH students are accordingly charged to uphold the ideals of the program as an academic and a residential program.

The reputation that develops from TALH students’ attitude and behavior ultimately enhances the value of the individual student’s TALH experience. For this reason, each member of the TALH community should be motivated to hold one another accountable to the standards that have been set. Working to develop personal integrity and responding to other students’ development will aid not only in individual success at TALH, but personal growth as well. Altruism and civility are among the principal concepts that inform the TALH mission and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct in the residence hall, classroom, campus, and the wider community.

Computers
Computers can be valuable tools in the educational process and TALH expects students to use computers in a manner that is consistent with the ideals of the program and the educational mission of Lamar University. Parents
are responsible for the installation of safeguards against access to inappropriate sites. Students are asked to use computers – their own or anyone else’s – responsibly and ethically.

- Students should be aware that any kind of cyber posting, texting, display, storage, etc. of obscene material may subject the person to criminal prosecution.
- In cases where software is copyrighted or otherwise legally protected, students who copy or distribute such software without proper authorization may be subject to criminal prosecution.
- Students are not allowed to gain or attempt to gain unauthorized access to another person’s account.
- Students are not allowed to send electronic mail using another person’s account.
- Students are not allowed to perform acts which are wasteful of computer resources or which unfairly monopolize those resources (e.g., sending mass mailings or creating unnecessary network traffic).
- Students are not allowed to post/send obscene, discriminatory, threatening, offensive, “hate crime” and/or material that may be classified as “hazing/bullying.”

**Connect ED**

Lamar University has contracted with Connect-ED to provide a state-of-the-art, web-based emergency notification system. The system allows Lamar University to contact faculty, staff, and students quickly with news and information in the event of an emergency. The system is capable of contacting individuals on cellular, home or office phones, PDAs, voice mail, and by text message, email and TTY/TTD. The Connect-ED system will call two phone numbers and send messages to two e-mail addresses from what is posted in the student information systems. Students are required to add parents’ cell phone numbers as well as their own cell phone numbers to the system. Students should also add parents’ email addresses as well as their own personal email address to the system. Students are encouraged to verify their telephone and email information in the Lamar University system. More information may be found at [http://dept.lamar.edu/connected/](http://dept.lamar.edu/connected/)

**Contacting TALH Administration**

The TALH administration supports our community with an open door policy. If you have concerns, please contact them during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. AND 1:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. M-F) at the numbers listed at the first of this handbook. TALH administrators are not available during the lunch hour (noon – 1:00 p.m.). In case of an emergency after hours, please call the TALH Security Office (409) 880-8482 or the Lamar University Police Department at (409) 880-8311 (EMERGENCY ONLY). The offices will contact the TALH administration.

**Courtesy Hours**

TALH students are expected to uphold and practice the ideals of civility and courtesy. Students are expected to be especially attentive to these ideals while living in the close quarters of the residence hall community. To promote consideration for the rights of others, Courtesy Hours are in effect twenty-four (24) hours a day. Students are required to comply promptly and politely with any request to observe Courtesy Hours – that is, accommodation whenever a student is asked to lower his/her stereo, voice, etc.

**Curfew**

TALH supports strong academic performance and student safety through the establishment of a curfew that corresponds to the City of Beaumont minor curfew ordinance. Students are required to be in their apartment with the front door closed at curfew. After curfew (Sunday-Thursday), student activity in the halls or outside the building will be referred for disciplinary action. Students may not leave their apartment/building after curfew without written permission and/or accompaniment of the TALH staff. Students are strongly urged to complete group study/projects prior to curfew. Curfew extends to the use of laundry facilities and food delivery.

Curfew hours are 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Students may visit other same-gender TALH student apartments (never independents’ rooms or halls) before curfew. Students are strongly cautioned that to stand in the open doorway of an apartment belonging to a TALH student of the opposite gender is not allowed and may result in disciplinary action.

On Friday and Saturday nights, students are expected to be in their apartment for curfew check. After the CL completes curfew check, a student may visit a same gender TALH student apartment on another floor. The student must check out by informing the TALH security office (409-880-8482) when going to another TALH student
apartment after curfew and then check back in with the TALH security office no later than 2:00 a.m. when returning to his/her room.

For privacy and security, visitation to a TALH student’s room is carefully protected. For specific details, please refer to “Visitation” in this section of the Handbook.

**Curfew Checks and Procedures**

TALH Community Leaders (CLs) conduct curfew check beginning at 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 12:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. **Students must be in their own room for room check and are required to remain in their rooms until the CL has completed his/her rounds.** This procedure typically takes 15-30 minutes, as room checks also allow CAs to visit and communicate with students. CAs are required to make visible contact with each student. Students are expected to be appropriately dressed for curfew check.

Students must remain in their rooms following room checks Sunday through Thursday nights. Students may visit on same gender floors/rooms on Friday and Saturday nights.

TALH CAs and TALH administration will conduct a health and safety check every week.

TALH has *in loco parentis* authority and any violation of curfew constitutes a serious disciplinary infraction that will be reported to the Director, Assistant Director, and Student Services Coordinator.

Students who arrive late and thus violate curfew are expected to report to the TALH Security Office and notify TALH staff immediately. In case of emergency, students expecting to arrive late should call the TALH Security Office or a TALH Community Assistant to report their location and anticipated time of arrival.

If a student is absent from his/her residence hall room 30 minutes after curfew, TALH administration is called. TALH administration then calls the student’s parents to notify them. If the parents are unable to explain the student’s absence, TALH administration notifies the Lamar University Police Department.

**Day Trips**

For safety reasons, TALH students are required to request permission to leave Jefferson County for day trips, even if they plan on returning to Morris Hall, Building 9 before curfew (this includes students who live in Hardin County and Orange County). Students from Hardin County and Orange County may request blanket permission from the Student Services Coordinator or Director to travel to and from home on a daily basis. Day trip requests should be submitted to the Student Services Coordinator at least two days prior to the travel date. The Student Services Coordinator will confirm travel plans with the student’s parents/guardians. In case of emergency, the student should notify the TALH Office as quickly as possible to arrange for approved travel.

**Email**

Lamar University will provide all students with an email account. Instructions are available at [www.lamar.edu](http://www.lamar.edu). Click on *myLamar* located in the black bar near the top of the page. You will be re-directed to the LU Portal. Scroll down to “LU Email,” click and follow the directions. TALH students may use this account alone or in conjunction with another email account. **However, students are required to activate and check daily their Lamar email account or forward the emails to their personal non-Lamar email accounts.** All Lamar University communication (including financial aid, housing and EMERGENCY ALERTS) will be sent to the students’ Lamar email addresses. Students are required to inform the TALH staff of the email address they will check regularly. Email is our primary method of communication with students. Students are reminded to inform TALH staff immediately of email address changes. **Deadline: September 11, 2015.**

**Employment**

Student jobs are not expressly prohibited for TALH students, however, we strongly discourage students from holding any job that jeopardizes their discharge of both academic and extracurricular responsibilities of the program. All student employment must be approved in advance by the Director. Students may not work any shifts that will make them late to or absent from mandatory meetings, classes, curfew, or other required TALH events. Students are specifically prohibited from working in any establishment expressly noted under heading “Alcohol and Illegal Drugs.” Students will lose the privilege of working if their semester GPA falls below 3.0.
End of Term
TALH students are required to vacate their apartment within 24 hours of their last final exam. Students are strongly encouraged to check the Lamar University calendar and their course syllabi to plan for their end of term departure. A Lamar University calendar is available at the back of this handbook. Additionally, students are expected to notify the TALH Office of their date of departure. Students are strongly urged to take their valuables with them when they leave the dorm for end of term or extended holidays. Students are required to comply with specific checkout procedures as established.

Hurricane Evacuation
In case of a hurricane evacuation, TALH staff will inform students and parents of evacuation plans via email. Students and parents are reminded to inform the TALH staff immediately of any email changes. Parents without email access must give the TALH administration current and viable telephone numbers for immediate contact. (See Connect-ED)

In the Event of an Emergency
TALH is in full compliance with Lamar University's evacuation plan as approved by Emergency Management, local, state, and federal agencies. (See Connect-ED)

Music Practice
Students are not allowed to play any loud musical instruments in their TALH apartment. Practice rooms are available in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

Off-Limits and Restricted Areas
Certain areas on and near campus have been designated as restricted in order to ensure the safety and security of students. Students are:

- Not allowed to be in an area west of University Drive, north of Lavaca, east of Rolfe Christopher, or south of Florida after 8:00 p.m. TALH urges students to behave responsibly at all times and strongly recommends that students leave this area before dusk (even if this is prior to 8:00 p.m.);
- Not allowed in restricted areas in the residence hall (e.g. an empty student apartment, custodial closet, roof, closed stairwell, etc.);
- Not allowed in independents’ rooms or apartments (on or off-campus);
- Not allowed in opposite sex halls, rooms, and/or apartments in the Cardinal Village complex
- Not allowed in other residence halls on campus;
- Not allowed in any public area of the Cardinal Village complex during hours when they are not open. Any public areas are off limits after TALH curfew. Any public areas may be placed temporarily off limits at any time at the discretion of TALH;
- Not allowed in off-campus residences.

Overnight Absence from Campus and Weekend Travel
All students are required to be in the residence hall Sunday through Thursday night from 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m., but TALH permits students to leave the campus for weekend travel with sufficient prior notice and signature on file from a parent/guardian.

TALH considers student safety a critical responsibility and strictly enforces its weekend travel policy. Parental cooperation is crucial to support this goal. A Weekend Travel Request form must be submitted to the TALH office no later than 4:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon prior to the requested absence. TALH accepts parent/guardian signed requests via conventional mail, fax, and email. The Student Services Coordinator or other designated TALH staff member will confirm each student departure with a parent by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to requested absence. Parents who do not receive confirmation from TALH by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday should call to confirm that student is on travel list. If we do not receive a verbal confirmation by this deadline, the weekend travel pass is considered void and the student is expected to remain on campus. A final travel report identifying students leaving campus is prepared for the TALH administration on Thursday afternoon. All departing students must sign out on the weekend travel sheet in the front office. Students who are checked out on an overnight/weekend pass are not allowed to return to the dorm until the term of the pass expires. TALH considers failure to comply with this rule a serious safety risk and this infraction will be treated as a major infraction.
**Overnight Guests Procedures**

TALH students are allowed to host one guest of the same gender per resident for one night only. Guest nights are limited to weekends or holidays. Guests should be no younger than 13 years of age or older than 18 years of age. “Trading” hosts in an attempt to extend the guest’s stay is not permitted. Due to privacy issues, parents are not allowed to stay in rooms overnight.

Students must submit both the TALH Overnight Guest form and Cardinal Village Overnight Guest Registration form (available on the TALH website) for an overnight guest no later than one week in advance of the arrival of their guest. A copy of the visitor driver’s license or school-issued photo ID must accompany this request. The requesting student’s parents, roommate, and roommate’s parents must approve of the overnight visitation. Approved visitors must comply with all rules and regulations. Students should submit the TALH Overnight Guest form to Mrs. Colichia or Mr. Hodge and the Cardinal Village Guest Registration form to the Morris Hall front desk.

Guests are required to register at the TALH Office and must be accompanied by their host when in Morris Hall. If at any time a guest fails to observe TALH policies, the host student should notify TALH staff immediately to avert personal disciplinary action; the host student failing to provide immediate notification may incur disciplinary action.

**Posting Signs**

Students are required to obtain approval from the TALH and Morris Hall staffs before posting signs in Cardinal Village public areas (e.g., lobby, stairwells, etc.). Students must obtain permission from Morris Hall prior to posting any flyer, etc. in the halls. Other signs must be approved by TALH and the Setzer Center before posting on campus.

**Quiet Hours**

Study and sleep are essential to success in TALH. Any noise which disrupts the sleep or study of others is not considerate and inconsistent with that standard of civility that govern TALH’s educational mission. Students are expected to strive to establish and maintain a residential environment conducive to the program’s mission.

Quiet hours are from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., Sunday through Friday, and from 11:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday. Voices, radios, stereos, TVs, etc. must not be audible from two doors away from a student’s room during Quiet Hours. See “Rules and Regulations,” Cardinal Village Apartment Contract. Students must comply with TALH/Lamar University/Cardinal Village staff or student request to observe Quiet Hours.

**Residence Hall**

TALH students will be issued apartment keys upon check in. TALH administration requires students to take their keys and Cardinal Village Residence Hall cards with them whenever they leave their rooms and to lock their room and apartment doors when in or out of their residence. NOTE: Apartment doors lock automatically. Cardinal Village will assess a charge to reopen your room.

Cardinal Village Residence Hall cards allow students to enter the gates of Cardinal Village between 6:00 a.m. and curfew. In the event of card loss or theft, the student must contact the Cardinal Village office immediately.

Because TALH students are minors, security is increased in Morris Hall, Building 9.

TALH students are subject to the rules and policies outlined in the lease insofar as they do not supercede TALH/TSUS policy governing the residence of minors on the Lamar University campus. (For further clarification, please refer to your lease.) These include, but are not limited to:

**Prohibited Items and Materials**

- Pets;
- Extension cords (does not include surge protectors);
- Construction or use of fasteners on structures;
- Combustible materials including but not limited to candles and incense;
- Decals or stickers;
- Stolen property, including traffic signs;
- Dart boards, projectile instruments, liquid-filled furniture;
- Dangerous substances and chemicals and certain scientific equipment;
• Firearms, fireworks, and weapons including **but not limited to**: pistols, rifles, BB guns, paint pellet guns, handbillies, nunchucks, switchblades, knives, explosives and dangerous chemicals;
• Major appliances;
• Aerials, masts, or other short wave radio equipment;
• Live-cut Christmas trees;
• Drug paraphernalia for use or display;
• Vehicles with internal combustion engines;
• Appliances whose size exceeds four cubic feet and microwaves that exceed 600 watts. Space heaters, halogen lamps, and other heating devices are also prohibited.

**Prohibited Behaviors**
• Solicitation of any kind, without prior consent of the Landlord;
• Excessive noise from radios, televisions, computers, and/or stereos;
• Use of percussive or electronically amplified musical instruments unless sanctioned by management;
• Use of incense or other odor producing items;
• ANY obstruction of hallways, driveways, stairways, and entry passages, including bicycles. Bicycles must be parked/stored in specified areas only;
• Construction of lofts, waterbeds, or partitions;
• Obstruction of windows and doors;
• Removal of furniture from residential and public areas;
• Changes or additions to the locks. Keys and electronic access cards may not be given or lent to anyone other than the designated tenant;
• Tampering with locking devices;
• Recreational or sporting games in buildings, breezeway, balconies, and parking lots;
• Smoking in tenants' rooms and public areas, e.g. hallways, lounges, laundry rooms, etc.;
• Babysitting;
• Use, sale, or distribution of illicit drugs;
• Gambling;
• Hazing/Bullying ("Hazing/Bullying" is defined as "any act that injures, degrades, disgraces any fellow student or person by any club, group, organization, or individual.");
• Unauthorized posting of signs, posters, or other items;
• Use of laundry facilities by non-residents;
• Throwing, dropping, hanging any and all objects (including but not limited to Frisbees, balls, paper gliders, etc.) from windows or balconies;
• Non-compliance with QUIET HOURS AND COURTESY HOURS as posted. This includes, but is not limited to, the swimming pool, spa, barbeque grill area, sun deck, and volleyball court;
• Parties without prior approval;
• Parking in non-designated areas;
• Non-compliance with federal, state, and local laws regarding the distribution, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

**Other**
• It is essential that tenants observe good taste and common sense in decorating their apartment. No articles may be displayed in the window or public areas e.g. liquor, tobacco products, etc.

**TALH Supplemental Policy**
• Smoking, having any open flame, or burning incense;
• Possession of any flammable or potentially explosive materials;
• Tampering with windows, smoke detectors, fire pull stations, etc.;
• Engaging in "rough housing";
• Any other behavior as listed under “Unauthorized Behavior” in Discipline Section of the TALH Handbook;
• Using “emergency” exits unless there is an emergency or official fire or tornado drill;
Using an emergency door for non-emergency purposes is a misdemeanor, subject to a fine and TALH disciplinary action;
• Propping open a fire door. This is a serious violation and will be referred for disciplinary action;
• Opening, entering, or exiting from Morris Hall, Building 9 through any opening other than designated doors is strictly prohibited and will be referred for TALH disciplinary action;
• Failure to lock the bedroom and corridor door when exiting the premises;
• Possession of tobacco products, drugs, alcoholic or any other controlled substances or other inappropriate material or paraphernalia (such as bottles, ashtrays, indecent or violent publications) or materials that promote such inappropriate behavior is prohibited;
• Posters/pictures containing obscene or offensive subject matter are prohibited. (Offensive subject matter is defined as that which would cause a reasonable person discomfort or distress);
• It is the responsibility of the tenant to clean and maintain his/her apartment in a timely, safe, and sanitary condition;
• Appropriate attire/dress must be worn at all times. Logos on hats and clothing, which promote drugs, violence, sex, etc. are not acceptable attire;
• Students must keep their apartment door locked at all times and are required to lock both their bedroom and apartment when they leave;
• All trash and refuse must be placed in the designated dumpsters and not left in the apartments, common areas, or litter receptacles located around the grounds.

Residence Life
Education at TALH extends beyond the classroom. With its diverse student body – drawn from all geographic, ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds – Academy students come to value differences. The vibrant individuals who make up the community each contribute their unique perspectives to the whole; they become a community of learners inside and outside of the classroom.

It is the Academy’s identity as a residential honors program that most broadly fulfills its focus on the humanities. In order to engage in meaningful discussions in and outside of seminars and classrooms, it is important that students know and respect each other. Living in community forges friendship, encourages reciprocal respect, and teaches social skills. In residence hall living, students are given limited freedoms and measured responsibilities to prepare them for the full range of freedoms and responsibilities that will be theirs as adult citizens in a free society.

Students live on campus in the gated Cardinal Village residence complex which offers two bedroom/single bath suites. MORRIS HALL, Building 9 is fully secured for the safety of the students with additional sets of alarmed hall gates and separate locks on individual bedroom doors. In addition, each floor is equipped with a security camera system. The residence hall is staffed with the lowest student/advisor ratio on campus and the Academy also employs specially trained security officers. Each room is equipped with smoke detectors, fire alarms, cable, and ethernet connections. Health and safety rules are firmly enforced. Failure to comply with policies and procedures will be referred for disciplinary action and may result in removal from the program. The Director and Student Services Coordinator are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Room Changes
Room change requests are typically requests for a roommate change, and this option should only be considered a last resort after conflict resolution, consultation with a CL and mediation by TALH administrators have been fully exhausted as possible solutions. Room changes are authorized only at semester end.

Room Entry
Lamar University, TALH, and Morris Hall reserve the right to enter rooms for inspection, cleaning, or maintenance at reasonable times. Cardinal Village and TALH staff routinely enter student rooms during Thanksgiving, semester, and spring breaks to ensure compliance with maintenance and safety standards (e.g., heat/air must be
appropriately regulated and refrigerators must be defrosted or unplugged). Access to student rooms is not independently granted to friends, relatives, or other students by Cardinal Village or TALH staff.

In emergencies, the supervisory entities (Lamar University, TALH, and Morris Hall) reserve the right to enter rooms without notice when an imminent danger to life, safety, health, or property is reasonably determined. With approval by the Director, his/her designee, or the Lamar University Police Department, a room may be entered when there is reasonable cause to believe a violation of Lamar University/TALH rules and regulations has occurred or is taking place.

**Room Furnishings**

Each apartment in Cardinal Village is equipped with sitting room furniture, microwave oven, dorm refrigerator, telephone access, and cable access. Morris Hall apartments have been equipped with new furniture this year. Furnishings should remain in the same condition in which it was received. Each bedroom is equipped with individual cable, ethernet access, bed, desk, and chest of drawers. Apartment units are designed for double occupancy.

TALH considers the following items essential:

- REQUIRED: Cell phone
- Alarm clock (and a 2nd alarm clock with battery backup)
- Desk or floor lamp (non-halogen)
- Backpack
- Warm coat, sweater, etc.
- Raincoat and umbrella
- School supplies
- Dress clothes
- Sheets, blankets, pillow, bedspread, towels, shower curtain, bathmat, etc.
- Toiletries
- Laundry supplies
- Graphing calculator, dictionary, and thesaurus

The following items can be useful:

- Personal computer, printer, flashdrives
- Power strip with surge protector
- Bicycle

**Room Searches**

Lamar University, TALH, and Cardinal Village may conduct the search of a room in the residence hall to determine compliance with Lamar University rules and regulations and federal, state, and local laws, and may obtain evidence during the search, when there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of such rules, regulations, or laws have occurred. This evidence may be used by law enforcement personnel in the prosecution of criminal or civil crimes.

- The TALH Director, the Sr. Associate Vice President, Residence Life, or his/her designee will determine the existence of reasonable cause.
- The designated administrator must give authorization “verbal or written” before a search can be conducted. The search will include the designated administrators and other University officials as appropriate; it will occur no later than 48 hours after the designated administrator has determined reasonable cause.

In extraordinary circumstances outside law enforcement agencies acting under a legal warrant are empowered to conduct room searches.

**Roommate**

TALH seriously endeavors to pair students with complementary and compatible roommates. Sharing an apartment with another student can provide a uniquely enriching education that promotes both mutual growth and enjoyment. Living with a new roommate in close quarters is a new experience for most students. Both students should be
guided by several important principles: mutual respect, consideration, tolerance, and an ongoing commitment to civil, open communication.

TALH suggests that students answer the following questions with their roommates:

- When do I prefer to go to bed?
- At what times do I prefer to study?
- What, if anything, may I borrow and what would you prefer be left alone?
- When may I have guests in our room?
- How will I know if I've done something to upset you?
- What are any concerns you have about me as your roommate?

Roommate Rights
Each student possesses the following rights as a roommate. Similarly, every TALH student should diligently work to be the type of roommate whose attitude and conduct effectively ensure these rights.

- The right to have personal privacy.
- The right to study free from undue interference.
- The right to sleep with as little disturbance as possible.
- The right to live in a clean, orderly living space.
- The right to refuse a request without feeling guilty or selfish.
- The right to expect that roommates will respect each other’s personal belongings.
- The right to host guests provided they respect the rights of the roommate.
- The right to be free of physical, sexual, and emotional harassment.
- The right to have one’s race, gender, religion, sexual orientation given the same respect anyone would desire.
- The right to speak openly, but courteously.
- The right to be treated with consideration and kindness.
- The right to enter the apartment whenever desired, unless other provisions are mutually decided.
- The right to expect that the roommate will not violate Lamar University, TALH, or Cardinal Village policies in the room.
- The right to expect that any and all disagreements will be discussed in an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect, and that it is acceptable, when any roommate feels it is necessary, to involve a TALH administrator or staff member in such a discussion.

The noted rights constitute a suggestion by Lamar University/TALH to assist students in creating and maintaining a congenial living environment. TALH expects each student in the program to respect the rights of his/her roommate, but Lamar University and TALH are not responsible for a student’s noncompliance.

Sanitation
TALH students share the responsibility of maintaining clean and safe public areas with other students in the residence hall. Students must dispose of trash in the designated Cardinal Village dumpster. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action and a referral to Cardinal Village for fines and penalties.

Stairwell and Walkways
Loitering in stairwells and walkways is prohibited.

Telephone (Cell Phone) Messages
Students are required to activate their cell phone voicemail and check their messages several times a day in order to support Academy communication.

Vacation Periods
When Lamar University closes for Thanksgiving, semester, and spring breaks, students are required beforehand to complete certain tasks in their room for safety and sanitary reasons. Students are required to accomplish the required tasks and formally checkout with their CL; students failing to do this are subject to fines and/or
disciplinary action. Students must vacate their apartments in accordance with established vacation periods. Students are not permitted in the residence hall during vacation periods.

For some long weekends (Thanksgiving and Easter) all TALH students must vacate the residence hall for the entire long weekend. Students are required to vacate the residence hall by 4:00 p.m. the day the weekend begins (ex. Thursday afternoon for a Friday holiday) and may return to the residence hall after 2:00 p.m. the day before classes resume. Long weekends will take the place of closed weekends during applicable months. See Academic Calendar, Appendix for closed weekend dates.

Visitation
Security for students is central to TALH residence life. Because the students are minors and often living away from home for the first time, extra precautionary measures have been established for the students' safety and privacy. No one of the opposite sex may be in a TALH student’s room or apartment.

- A TALH student’s family, including siblings, may visit his/her room only when accompanied by a parent/guardian and the TALH student. In order to protect the rights and privacy of roommate, family members must first check in with the Student Services Coordinator in the TALH office before visiting the TALH student in his/her room.
- No independent may enter a TALH’s student’s room, apartment, or hallway.
- Before entering a student’s room or hallway, all visitors must first provide driver’s license with a photograph to the Cardinal Village Front Desk. Cardinal Village staff will return the ID when the visitor leaves the complex.
- No visitors are allowed during Quiet Hours or after curfew.
- Parents are not allowed to stay overnight in the student’s room.

In the event that enrollment in TALH necessitates a “mixed floor” of female and male students, every precaution will be taken to protect the privacy of the residents of that floor.

While it may occasionally be necessary for TALH or Lamar University staff to speak with students in their rooms, TALH appreciates the potential sensitivity of any meeting between a student and administrator/faculty member in the context of a student’s private room. Accordingly, such visitations are limited to official TALH business. Students are strongly urged to report any impropriety or appearance of impropriety on the part of an administrator/faculty member to the Director of TALH.

In order to promote a positive community environment, TALH students may visit the homes of Lamar University personnel in groups only. Special circumstances must be approved in advance by the TALH Director.

TALH students are:
- Not allowed in independents’ rooms or apartments (on or off-campus);
- Not allowed in other residence halls on campus;
- Not allowed in any public area of the Cardinal Village complex during hours when they are not open; Any public areas are off limits after TALH curfew. Any public areas may be placed temporarily off limits at any time at the discretion of TALH;
- Not allowed in off-campus residences without parental permission on file with the administration;
- Not allowed in Community Leaders’ rooms.

Withdrawal
In the event that a student is withdrawn or dismissed from the Academy for academic or disciplinary reasons, the student’s parent/guardian may be responsible for the remaining balance due on the residence hall and meal plan contracts.
CAMPUS LIFE

Emergency
In the event of a health emergency, 911 should be called (409-880-8311 on campus). Morris Hall Front Desk and TALH staff should be contacted if possible. For any non-emergency, students should call the Lamar University Police Department at 409-880-8307 (on campus).

Family Emergency
Parents and students should contact the TALH administration in the case of the death or serious injury of an immediate family member (i.e., parent/guardian, sibling, or grandparent). TALH will notify all appropriate faculty members of the emergency. A Weekend Travel Request form, available at the TALH office, must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian before a student is permitted to leave campus.

Health Insurance
All TALH students are required to have health insurance for the duration of their enrollment. Proof of insurance must be provided prior to arrival at TALH. Lamar University offers an academic health plan (approximately $2,318/annually). For more information and/or to apply, please visit [http://lamar.myahpcare.com/](http://lamar.myahpcare.com/) or call the Lamar University Student Health Center at (409) 880-8466. The Student Health Center ([http://lamar.orgsync.com/org/studenthealthcenter67959](http://lamar.orgsync.com/org/studenthealthcenter67959)) currently accepts medical insurance for clinical and counseling services. A $5 fee is charged to the student account for each visit, with the remaining balance being submitted to the insurance company. If you are not covered by insurance, then all charges will be sent to the student account.

Lamar University Identification Card/Meal Card (Cardinal OneCard)
New students are requested to return to the Lamar University campus to take the photo for the Cardinal OneCard (ID card) during the summer prior to entry into the TALH program. Students will receive the card in the mail in approximately 2-3 weeks after taking photo. Students must have the Cardinal OneCard in order to use their meal plan on campus. Students are required to carry the card with them at all times while on campus and to present the card to Lamar University and TALH officials upon request. Students are not allowed to loan their ID cards or borrow another student's ID card. The Cardinal OneCard is the University ID Card, Meal Plan, and Debit Card for OneAccount. This card is used to receive financial aid and any Lamar University refunds. **Students must activate their Lamar University email account and check it regularly in order to receive Lamar University financial information from CardinalOne and the Lamar University Financial Aid Office.** Lost CardinalOne cards must be replaced immediately. Replacement cards are issued for a fee in the Wimberly Student Services Building, Room 116.

Mail Delivery
All TALH students are strongly encouraged to rent a post office box at the beginning of the year.

- No U.S. mail can be delivered to TALH students at Cardinal Village or through the TALH address.
- **United Parcel Service (UPS) and Federal Express packages may be sent to TALH students with Lamar Post Office box addresses.** UPS and Federal Express packages should be addressed as follows:
  
  Student Name  
  211 Redbird Lane  
  Box number ________  
  Beaumont, TX 77710

- TALH students are encouraged to share their addresses with friends and relatives and ask them to write often.
- Subscribe to favorite magazines or have hometown newspapers or church bulletins delivered.

Meal Plan
The Cardinal OneCard also serves as a student's meal card and it must be presented in order to eat in the Dining Hall. Students are required to purchase a Lamar University Food Services meal plan. The choice of meal plan
option is up to the student and his/her parents/guardians. Good nutrition is key to success, in academics as well as physical and emotional health. Students and parents/guardians are strongly urged to review the meal plan options carefully before selecting one.

**Medical Leave of Absence**

Students with medical problems requiring an extended absence from the residence hall may request a medical leave of absence from TALH. This request requires the written authorization of a parent/guardian and the approval of the Director of TALH prior to departure from the residence hall. In an emergency, parents/guardians may request a medical leave on a student's behalf.

**Student Health Center**

Students who become ill or are injured during the day, excluding emergencies, may independently visit the Lamar University Health (http://lamar.orgsync.com/org/studenthealthcenter67959) (phone: 409-880-8466). The Health Center hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8:00 - 2:00 p.m., Friday. If a health problem occurs when the Health Center is closed, the student should contact the Student Services Coordinator.

Students and their parents are expected to immediately report any medical conditions and/or medications as they are diagnosed and/or prescribed in order to update the student's medical information.

The Student Health Center currently accepts medical insurance for clinical and counseling services. A $5 co-pay is charged to the student account for each visit, with the remaining balance being submitted to the insurance company. If you are not covered by insurance, then all charges will be sent to the student account.

**OFFICE CONDUCT**

**Courtesy**

Key to successful leadership is the development of certain interpersonal skills that affirm each individual. The TALH administration is committed to modeling these types of courteous behaviors and TALH students are expected to conduct themselves in a like manner. Rudeness, discourtesy, and disrespect are not acceptable.

**Meeting with Administrators**

Administrators are available for appointments during regular office hours. While the administrators’ first priority is always the welfare of TALH students, professional priorities may mandate that a student will have to wait to speak to a particular administrator. Students are requested to respect the schedules of others and inquire if a specific administrator is available. Making an appointment is the most efficient way to arrange a meeting.

At times, professional development may mandate that some/all administrators are absent from the offices. The offices will be closed.

**Office Procedures**

- Students are not allowed to use the TALH copy machine. Unfortunately, the Academy does not have a budget that permits multiple copies. Student copies may be made at the Library and Setzer Student Center.
- Please do not go behind the administrators’ desks in the TALH offices or use any of their equipment, materials, and supplies.
- The office telephones (including the FAX) are not to be used by students. There are pay phones available in the Setzer Student Center and the first floor stairway of the Library (for on-campus calls).
- Meetings are held in the administrators’ offices or the TALH Lounge (Rm 101). Please keep the noise level down in the offices.
GENERAL BEHAVIOR

Alcoholic Beverages and Illegal Drugs
TALH promotes and endeavors to ensure an alcohol-free, drug-free community. Possession and use of alcohol are prohibited; nor are students permitted to be in possession of empty alcohol containers. The purchase, possession, distribution or use of controlled drugs or drug paraphernalia is prohibited. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not allow for even an impression or suspicion of such inappropriate behavior. The abuse of any other chemical substance is prohibited.

TALH’s interpretation of “possession” is broad: A student in the same room or car or other similar place in which alcohol, empty alcohol containers, illegal drugs, or drug paraphernalia have been found is considered to be in “possession,” whether or not he/she is using alcohol or drugs. Students are not permitted to be in any establishment in which alcohol is the primary form of refreshment or entertainment (e.g., a bar), an establishment in which the sale or distribution of alcohol is the primary business (e.g., a liquor store), or an establishment in which the sale of drug paraphernalia is the primary business (e.g., a “head shop”).

TALH students and parents should understand that TALH/Lamar University has a zero tolerance policy on illegal substance use and will not compromise on this issue. It is strongly urged that students/parents carefully consider this issue prior to enrolling in the program. Students and parents are strongly urged to consult the Lamar University Student Handbook for further details.

Events
Only TALH students are permitted to attend TALH functions. Dances are the only exception; students are limited to one guest with the permission of the Student Services Coordinator or Director.

Field Trips
In keeping with its mission, TALH endeavors to provide a wide range of cultural, artistic, and social opportunities to enrich the students’ academic experience. Upcoming field trips are posted on the monthly calendars and announced at weekly TALH Community Meetings. Sign-up sheets will be posted by the Student Services Coordinator. Unless otherwise stated, any associated costs of field trips are the responsibility of the participating students. Students on probation or with disciplinary issues may not be allowed to participate in field trips.

Parents/Guardians are required to sign a “Waiver of Liability” form before a student will be permitted to participate in field trips. In addition, parents/guardians must complete emergency contact and “Medical Information” forms.

These forms remain on file in the TALH office. Academy administrators carry a copy of these documents during field trips.

Field Trip Conduct
TALH students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Lamar University’s mission as an educational institution. As listed in the Lamar University Student Handbook, conduct prohibited includes but is not limited to the following:

- Campus disruptive activities or disorderly conduct on Lamar University-owned or controlled property or at a Lamar University-sponsored or supervised function that inhibit or interfere with the educational responsibility of the Lamar University community or the Lamar University’s social-educational activities shall include but not be limited to: using abusive, indecent, profane or vulgar language; making offensive gestures or displays that tend to incite a breach of the peace; perpetrating fights, assaults, acts of sexual violence, abuse, or threats; or evincing some obviously offensive manner or committing an act that causes a person to feel threatened or the reputation of TALH is jeopardized or impugned. Such prohibition includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or related classroom activities.
Free Time
For many students, the transition from high school to college includes more free time than they are accustomed. The Academy strongly urges students to use that time prudently: in study, meaningful service, exercise and enrichment events and activities. The administration recognizes the vital importance of developing good people/social skills; activities to promote respectful and confident interaction with others are regularly scheduled.

Harassment
Lamar University and TALH endeavor to create and maintain an environment conducive to the ideals that govern the institution’s educational mission. Students are expected to accept diversity, to affirm the dignity of every human being, and to promote an intellectual and social environment that encourages the free and civil discovery and dissemination of knowledge. Fundamental responsibilities speak to an individual’s basic right to freedom of speech, and any expression of sexism, racism, hatred, intimidation, and prejudice is inconsistent with Lamar University’s ideals and objectives. Accordingly, discriminatory actions or comments that refer to an individual’s gender, age, race, color, national origin, native language, religious affiliation of belief, physical disability, sexual orientation, or lifestyles are prohibited. See Lamar University Rules and Regulations.

Hazing/Bullying
Hazing or bullying in any form is illegal. “Hazing/Bullying” is defined as “any act that injures, degrades, disgraces any fellow student or person by a club, group, organization, or individual.” Acts of hazing include but are not limited to performing or requiring another person to perform or witness any demeaning or humiliating action.

Language
TALH students are expected to exemplify the highest standards of courtesy and respect for the Lamar University community. Use of obscene, vulgar, abusive, indecent, discriminatory, and/or disrespectful language/comments by TALH students toward any member of faculty, staff or fellow student is prohibited. See “Non-Compliance” in this handbook, Lamar University Rules and Regulations, and the Food Service Contract.

Non-Compliance
Students are expected to cooperate with TALH and Lamar University staff who are acting in the performance of their duties. Students risk disciplinary action should they:

- Fail to heed an official summons or comply with instructions or requests from a TALH or Lamar University official, including all residence hall staff, acting in the performance of his/her duties;
- Fail to schedule or appear for a disciplinary appointment with a TALH or Lamar University staff member, after being so notified;
- Be uncooperative or use offensive language when interacting with a TALH or Lamar University staff member;
- Attempt to evade a TALH or Lamar University staff member who is trying to contact him/her; or
- Fail to follow proper procedures as defined in the TALH and Lamar University Handbooks.

Public Displays of Affection (PDA)
TALH expects students to conduct themselves in a manner that reasonable adults would find appropriate and inoffensive (e.g., hand-holding, a brief kiss, or a friendly hug is acceptable). Students are expected to be respectful of others at all times and to comply promptly with any person’s request to cease a public display of affection.

Required Attendance
While TALH offers a number of discretionary events and activities, there are also events and activities that are central to the growth of the community. Attendance is mandatory. These include, but are not limited to:

- Weekly Community Meetings
- Futurism
- Humanities
- Ethical Issues
- Think Tanks
- Retreats
Graduation
Other meetings as deemed mandatory by the Administration

Students are reminded that enrollment in TALH allows students more “out of class” time than is traditionally available to high school-aged students and therefore extracurricular meetings should not pose a hardship.

TALH Student Lounge
The TALH Student Lounge is a privilege for current TALH students only.
- Students should be mindful of PDA (Public Display of Affection) rules when socializing in the lounge.
- Students are encouraged to use the TALH Lounge for study and quiet socialization.
- Messages and signs addressed to the TALH community should demonstrate respect for the full community.
- Sleeping in the Lounge is not permitted.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- The TALH Student Lounge may be closed at times for meetings and/or classes.

It is the responsibility of the students to maintain the Lounge in neat and sanitary conditions. Failure to dispose of trash and/or food may result in suspension of use. TALH students are asked to visit the TALH Office once a day to check for announcements.

Theft
Theft is prohibited by federal, state, and local law, and students are referred to the Lamar University Student Handbook for additional information.

TALH recommends that parents of students obtain personal property insurance and that students not bring valuables to campus, that they lock their room at all times.

Tobacco Products
Texas State Law prohibits the possession or use of tobacco products by minors and Lamar University is a smoke-free, tobacco-free, and electronic cigarette-free campus. TALH further prohibits the possession or use of tobacco products for TALH students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Vandalism
Vandalism is prohibited. Vandalism is the willful, malicious, or careless actions which result in damage or defacement of student possessions, rooms, furniture, any part of the residence hall, or property of any kind belonging to or located on the Lamar University campus.

Violations of Law
Any acts, which constitute a violation of federal, state, civil or criminal laws or city ordinances, except for minor traffic violations, will result in TALH disciplinary action. TALH disciplinary action is not contingent upon, and may precede, legal action.

Violations of TALH/University Policy
Acts which constitute a violation of Lamar University policy include but are not limited to the following:
- Furnishing false information to any Lamar University office or official, faculty or staff member acting in an official capacity, or giving false testimony or other falsified evidence at any campus disciplinary proceeding;
- Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any Lamar University document, record, or instrument of identification;
- Tampering with the election of any Lamar University-recognized student organization;
- Attempted or actual theft of property or damage to property of the Lamar University, or of a member of the Lamar University community, or a campus visitor;
- Theft, unauthorized access or other abuse of computer systems or computer time relating to the Lamar University endeavors or from Lamar University property or premises;
- Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, or other Lamar University activities, including public service functions or other authorized activities on or off Lamar University premises;
- Conduct which is disorderly, obscene, or indecent; breach of peace; aiding, abetting, or procuring another person to breach the peace on Lamar University premises or at functions sponsored by, or participated in by the Lamar University; and
- Conspiring, planning, or attempting to achieve any of the above acts.

**DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM**

Parents/Guardians will be contacted when students are written up for infractions of policy. Parents/Guardians will be kept informed of any judicial proceedings or sanctions as they occur.

**Discipline Philosophy**

TALH endeavors to develop a positive personal discipline in each student and, at the same time, foster the ideals of community responsibility. The rules set forth in this handbook were established by the governing board of the Academy to support academic success, personal development, leadership training, and safety. They are intended to serve as a guideline rather than an inclusive listing. TALH students are expected to demonstrate maturity and responsibility during their enrollment in the Academy and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with that privilege. Those students who find the rules do not support their personal goals are strongly urged to seek educational opportunities elsewhere.

TALH believes that a person is responsible for his/her own behavior – not society, not the environment, not the past – but each person now. We support this concept of personal responsibility as it leads to personal welfare and the common good of the community. TALH believes in pro-active rather than reactive discipline. The goal is not to punish but to reinforce that the student is responsible for his/her own behavior and that those actions frequently impact a wider community.

In some instances, infractions within the TALH Code of Behavior intersect with Lamar University’s Code of Behavior. In those instances, the discipline becomes a joint action by both the Academy and Lamar University, with Lamar University taking priority.

All discipline issues are overseen by the Student Services Coordinator and Assistant Director under the direction of the Director.

Students selected for the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities are expected to practice self-discipline and to assume a shared responsibility for ensuring the development of a safe, comfortable, and harmonious living-learning community in Cardinal Village. We make every effort to assist students in managing their behavior by educating them about policies, addressing them about policy violations, and issuing consequences for violations. TALH staff members strive to encourage and support positive behavior. **Those students who repeatedly violate minor policies or violate Level III, IV or zero-tolerance policies are viewed as not being ready for the TALH experience and may be dismissed.** Throughout the disciplinary process, TALH staff takes great care to ensure that students receive due process.

Any member of the University may file a written complaint of alleged violation to the TALH Student Services Coordinator (or designee, i.e. Community Leaders). Depending on the circumstances relative to the situation, alleged violations will be addressed through an informal discipline meeting, a formal discipline meeting, or referral to the Academy’s Director.

**Sanctions**

The Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities seeks to develop future leaders from today’s gifted and talented students. Central to leadership is the recognition that a harmonious and civil society is created through rules and policy that serve both the individual and common good. The Academy supports a proactive disciplinary system, which may include:

- **Conduct Warning**: A formal notice that a student’s actions are not acceptable and that subsequent infractions will result in more severe action.
- **Conduct Probation**: A formal contract that a student’s actions are of such seriousness that any further repeat may result in removal from the program.
Demerits: TALH uses four successive levels of infractions, ranging from minor to dismissable actions. The demerits’ value follows the section.

Restitution: Student will make reparation for damages he/she caused if necessary.

Penalty/Fine: Student will be responsible for paying charges set for offense if applicable.

Counseling: Student will report to administrator or Counselor as specified in disciplinary contract.

Restriction of Access: Student is limited in his/her access to specified areas of campus for a given period.

Educational Projects: Assignment of a task which is proactive in nature and appropriate for the infraction (i.e. a letter of apology for offensive behavior). Failure to complete the assigned task as specified may result in further disciplinary action.

Community Service: Student will complete some type of service useful to TALH or the Lamar University. Failure to complete the assigned task as specified may result in further disciplinary action.

Interim Suspension: In the event that personal safety or the continued security of the TALH community is in question due to a student’s behavior, that student will be turned over to the parents/guardians until a formal hearing is held.

Suspension or Dismissal: In the event of a serious violation that jeopardizes the safety/security of a student or the community or in the case of violation of the “Zero Tolerance” policy, a student may be suspended or dismissed from the program. The student then has 48 hours for checkout from the residence hall.” The TALH Director is the only administrator who can make this decision.

* In the case of the need to protect the health, safety, life, or property of the members of the TALH community or to prevent the disruption of the educational process, the Academy reserves the right to ask the student to move out of Cardinal Village immediately, and/or to withdraw the student from classes. The student may be “trespassed,” which means he/she is not allowed to enter Cardinal Village, the TALH Office/Lounge, or to attend any TALH functions. Police are called if a dismissed student violates trespass.

Confidentiality
All student disciplinary action is considered confidential by TALH Administration. Attempts to discover another student’s sanctions or repetitive speculation regarding another student’s disciplinary status is disrespectful toward the student and detrimental to the TALH community

Filing and Disposition of Complaints
Step I:
Any resident of the halls, any student or any university faculty or staff member may file a complaint against a TALH student for an alleged violation. The complaint may be submitted by a formal letter. The complaint shall set forth the following:

- The name of the student(s) in violation;
- The address of the student(s) in violation;
- The date, time, and location of the complaint;
- The date of the alleged violation;
- A concise statement of the regulation violated;
- A concise statement of the underlying facts which constitute the violation;
- The name and address of the complaining individual;
- The names and addresses of all witnesses.

When the complaint is complete, it shall be presented to the TALH administrator, who will note the date the complaint was filed.

Step II
After a complaint is filed, a TALH administrator shall examine the complaint to determine if the complaint fails to state a sufficient basis of violation of the regulation set forth in the complaint. If it does not state a sufficient basis, it shall be referred back to the complainant for more information or shall be dismissed. If there is a sufficient basis of violation, the TALH administration will proceed to Step III.
Step III
The TALH administrator shall determine if the violation:
- Is a minor infraction (Level I, II, or other minor violations). See italicized violations under Unauthorized Behavior or
- Is a major infraction (Level III or IV)

Step IV
Upon receipt of the complaint, the TALH administrator shall notify the following:
- The Director of TALH by written memo within one (1) working day of receipt of the complaint. Written notification will follow within (5) working days which shall included copies of the incident report or complaint letter and a copy of the “Notice of Hearing” form of “Notice of Infraction” form.
- The Senior Associate Provost/Interim Vice President, Student Engagement, through office contact or by telephone if the infraction is a violation of residence hall/Lamar University policy.

Step V
In the case of a Level I or II complaint, the TALH administrator shall notify the student charged by completing a “Notification of Infraction” form. This form shall contain the following information:
- The name and residence of the student who allegedly violated a TALH or Lamar University regulation.
- The specific rules or regulations violated and the date, time, and location of the alleged infraction.
- The specific sanction(s) for the offense, including demerits.
- Instructions on how to request a hearing if the student feels that they were not responsible for the violation.
- The signature of the TALH administrator and date.

These decisions may not be appealed.

In the case of a Level III or IV complaint, the designated TALH administrator shall notify the student charged by completing the “Notice of Hearing” form. This form shall contain the following information:
- Name and residence of the students who has allegedly violated a TALH or Lamar University regulation.
- The specific rules or regulations violated.
- The date of the hearing, which shall occur within five-ten working days after the official complaint. This date of hearing shall be delivered to the student charged and/or summons to appear to all witnesses named, as soon as possible.
- A list of the student’s rights.
- A list of authorized sanctions.
- The signature of the designate TALH administrator and the date.

Step VI
A formal discipline hearing shall be held to determine if the student is responsible, not responsible or responsible with extenuating circumstances. The following hearing procedures are required of all hearing officers:
- The designated TALH administrator will determine that all individuals who have been summoned are present. Students may bring their legal counsel and parents to the hearing. Legal counsel or parents may only advise the student.
- The student is informed of his/her rights which include the right to:
  1. Bring witnesses and submit evidence;
  2. Have counsel present to provide advice;
  3. Have an open hearing (must contact the designated TALH administrator at least 48 hours before the hearing with this request in writing including names of attendees);
  4. Appeal the results of the hearing.
- The student is asked if he/she has any questions about his/her rights.
- The charge is read aloud.
• The student is informed of the minimum and maximum sanctions for each charge.

• The student enters a plea of:
  1. **Not Responsible**: If the student pleads not responsible, the questioning will commence. The designated TALH administrator shall listen to or read pertinent material and testimony from witnesses or evidence pertaining to the alleged violation. The student charged shall then be allowed to present to the designated TALH Administrator any pertinent material, evidence, or testimony relevant to his/her case. Each of the parties shall then be allowed the opportunity for rebuttal and summarization with the student charged having the final statement.
  2. **Responsible**: If the student pleads responsible both the student charged and the complainant will be provided with an opportunity to make a statement.
  3. **Responsible with extenuating circumstances**: If the student charged pleads responsible with extenuating circumstances, he/she will be provided the opportunity to present evidence of mitigating circumstances. If the student charged wishes to present witnesses, this is the time. Other students charged, if any, may appear, one at a time. The complainant is also allowed to make a statement.

• The designated TALH administrator will then reconvene the hearing, read his/her decision, and impose sanctions if appropriate.

• If the student is found in violation, the Hearing Officer may impose one or a combination of the following sanctions: warning, demerits, educational tasks, service project, fine, restitution, and/or behavioral probation. In cases of Level III, IV or zero tolerance/contract violations that constitute threats to the safety and welfare of the student/community, the Hearing Officer may recommend suspension or dismissal from the program. **This recommendation is referred to the TALH Director.**

• The student is informed of his/her right to appeal.

• The designated TALH administrator shall prepare a record of the hearing including date, brief summary of the incident, and any appropriate sanctions imposed.

**Step VII**
The designated TALH administrator shall file appropriate documentation in the student’s disciplinary file and permanent file in the TALH office.

**Step VIII**
A copy of “The Hearing Record” form will be sent to the Director of TALH for filing and/or review.

**JUDICIAL APPEALS**

**Appeal Procedure and Due Process**
Any student found in violation of a Level III, IV, or zero tolerance violations by the TALH administrator shall be advised at the conclusion of the hearing of the right to appeal the decision. Appeals of the TALH administrator’s decision will be made to the TALH Director.

**Filing an Appeal**
The student must initiate the appeal to the Director of the TALH program. The appeal must include the student’s position on why he/she is filing an appeal. The appeal must be filed in writing within five (5) working days after receiving notice of the decision from the designated TALH administrator/hearing officer. Appeal forms are available at the TALH Office.

**Grounds for Appeal**
When a sanction has been imposed for conduct that is a Level III, IV, or zero tolerance violation of TALH or Lamar University rules and regulations, an appeal may be considered if it is based upon one or more of the following conditions.

• The student charged did not receive a fair hearing: A fair hearing includes notice of the alleged misconduct prior to the time of the hearing, notice of the sanctions which may be imposed for the misconduct, and an opportunity for the student charged to present evidence.

• The sanctions levied are arbitrary and/or capricious: disciplining students using Lamar’s procedures and lower standards of proof, Lamar University must be careful not to act arbitrarily (not done
appealing, or capriciously (unpredictable or impulsive subject to whim). Fundamental fairness is all the law requires of us.

- The sanction is unduly severe or disproportionately harsh.
- The finding of wrongful conduct is not supported by the evidence and testimony. There is an introduction of new evidence, which was not available at the time of the hearing.

**Appeal Procedures**

Upon receiving a Notice of Appeal from a student, the Director of TALH (or his/her designee) shall secure all records, information and findings pertaining to the proceedings against the student if they have not been filed prior to the request. The Director of TALH shall turn over all records to the Senior Associate Provost and the Chair of the TALH Board of Appeals.

The Board shall meet within 5 working days of the receipt of the appeal. If the Board finds sufficient grounds for appeal, it shall set a time and date for a hearing of the appeal and notify all the parties concerned. The Board of Appeals may determine that the appeal is invalid for failure to comply with the procedures listed in this section (Grounds for Appeal) and return the records to the Director of TALH with a written explanation of their decision not to consider the appeal. In cases of insufficient grounds for appeal, the student’s appeal is denied and the initial sanction(s) stand. There are no further appeals in these cases.

After hearing an appeal, the TALH Board of Appeals shall render a written recommendation to the Director of TALH. Upon the receipt of the recommendation, the Director of TALH shall consider the recommendation and make a final decision regarding the student’s appeal and inform the student of the said decision. The TALH Director shall set forth whether the initial decision is affirmed, reversed, increased in severity, or remanded with instruction. Adequate records of the appeal shall be kept on file in the office of the Director of TALH. **The institutional decision by the Director is final and may not be appealed.**

**TALH Board of Appeals**

The Board of Appeals is made up of three individuals from the Lamar University faculty and/or staff. Board members are appointed by the Provost for a one-year term.

**DEMERIT SYSTEM**

**100 Point System**

TALH uses a 100 point system as part of the Disciplinary System. Points are assigned for policy violations. The number of points assigned is based on the nature of the violation. (See “Unauthorized Behaviors.”) TALH Administration reserves the right to determine the level and assess appropriate point values.

Some policies are so important that violating them is automatically 100 points. Students who accumulate 100 points are likely dismissed from the Academy. Points accumulated the first year are not carried over into the second year. Although points may not be carried over from one year to the next, prior violations can be considered by the TALH administrator in determining the points to assign a student in the case of a subsequent violation.

Be aware that all Academy students will be held accountable for abiding by all policies until May 18, 2016. Students in their last year who accumulate 100 points or are involved in a serious policy violation will be disciplined — even if it is at the end of the year. Disciplinary measures may include, but are not limited to, inability to participate in the graduation ceremony and dismissal. Class of 2016 students who accumulate 80 points will be able to participate in the graduation ceremony at the discretion of the TALH Director. Class of 2017 students who have accumulated 80 points may lose the opportunity to return to TALH or be subject to return under a behavioral contract.

Any point value a student may accumulate will be reset to zero at the end of each academic year. Some returning students may be conditionally readmitted with a behavior agreement based on the previous year.

**50+ Parent/Guardian Conference & Behavioral Agreement**

If a student accumulates 50 or more points, his/her parents/guardians must have a conference with the TALH administrator. This conference must be scheduled within five (5) working days following the accumulation of 50+
points. After talking with the student and his/her parents/guardians, the TALH administrator will work with the student to design an individualized Behavior Agreement. Once a student has reached 50 points, such an agreement is required to remain at TALH.

**UNAUTHORIZED BEHAVIOR**

Every community finds it necessary to establish policies and procedures for the safety of its members. As a member of TALH and a Lamar University student, you are expected to be a mature, responsible citizen of our community. To protect your rights and the rights of others, various policies and regulations were created. These regulations are outlined in the University Code of Conduct, TSUS regulations, the Morris Hall/Food Service Contract and the TALH Handbook.

The following list is an attempt to specify consequences for more obvious types of violations and should not be considered all-inclusive without flexibility in individual circumstances. Behavior may fall under several categories and in these cases, the TALH Administration reserves the right to determine the level and assess appropriate demerits. The Administration also reserves the right to determine disciplinary level for violations of policy not listed. Parents will be notified of any disciplinary infractions for which their student has been found responsible. TALH administration will also inform parents of any infractions that are considered illegal, including the use and possession of tobacco products. **There are no appeals for italicized violations.**

**LEVEL I (maximum of 30 points may be assigned)**
- Missing or arriving late to mandatory TALH/LU functions (classes, meetings, Humanities Seminar, study hall, etc.).
- Noise violations.
- Late (30 minutes or less) for room check.
- Field trip policy violations.
- Use of obscenities, profanities, language, etc.
- Failure to meet room inspection standards within 24 hours of warning.

**LEVEL II (maximum of 50 points may be assigned)**
- Unauthorized access; roofs, opposite sex halls, atriums, climbing wall, etc.
- Furniture removal.
- Failure to comply.
- Fraudulent use of identification card.
- Pet policy violations.
- Unauthorized day trips out of Jefferson County.
- Unauthorized activities in the hall: rollerblading, bikes, other sporting activities, etc.
- Safety and security violations: incense, candles, open flames, unauthorized electrical appliances, failure to evacuate, possession of combustible materials, etc.

**LEVEL III (maximum of 100 points may be attained)**
- Public displays of affection.
- Possession or use of tobacco products. Tobacco products includes cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, hookahs, chewing tobacco, dip, smokeless tobacco, snuff, electronic cigarettes or any other items containing or classified as such.
- Possession of prohibited items as outlined in the housing contract and TALH/Lamar University contract.
- Late (30 minutes or more) for room check.
- Body piercing (except ears) and the wearing of body piercing jewelry or adornment.
- Inappropriate behavior towards TALH/Lamar University staff: rudeness, obscenities, muttering, online blogs, etc.
- Disorderly conduct – See Housing Contract.
- Unauthorized use of Lamar University facilities: tapping coaxial cable or phone lines, running data lines, etc.
- Fight provoking behavior or language.
- Violation of computer policy.
- Solicitation: selling, running a business, etc.
- Dishonesty – lying, deception, misrepresentation, etc.
• Violation of TALH academic or behavior probation.
• Unauthorized visitation.
• Entering or exiting the building via a non-designed entrance or exit: windows, side doors after hours, etc.
• Obstruction of Judicial Proceedings.
• Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism, cheating on tests, etc.
• Excessive absences.
• Three Level I and II policy violations in 30 days: (cumulative violations which did not result in the awarding of points at the time of the incident, but which have developed into a noticeable trend: quiet hours, trash, documented warnings, etc.)

LEVEL IV (100 points) These may result in suspension from TALH and Lamar University.
• Interference or disruption of the educational mission of Lamar University: inappropriate behavior in class, in Lamar University offices, etc.
• Safety and security violations: incendiary devices, possessing firearms or prohibited weapons, fireworks or lasers, arson, propping outside doors, tampering with fire alarms or other safety equipment or systems, etc.
• Curfew violations (See "Curfew Policy").
• Activities that endanger the lives of self or others.
• Vacation and closed weekend policy violations.
• Objects thrown into or from balconies, windows, etc.
• Vandalism – willful & malicious destruction/defacing of property.
• Falsification of TALH/LU documents.
• Threatening behavior: verbal, physical or other (including online blogs).
• Violent hostility.
• Providing false information to or about Lamar University faculty and staff.
• Conduct unbecoming a TALH student.

ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES – Zero tolerance means that certain actions will absolutely not be tolerated under any circumstances and violations will result in an immediate dismissal review by the TALH Director.
• Possession and/or use of alcohol, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia (See “Alcoholic Beverages and Illegal Drugs”)
• Acts that could constitute felonies or serious misdemeanors
• Repeated violation of policies

Students who repeatedly violate minor policies or violate Level III, IV or zero-tolerance policies are viewed as not being ready for the TALH experience and may be dismissed.

OTHER (points can vary according to incident)
• Aiding & Abetting: Assisting or encouraging others in the violation of rules and regulations. Student is found equally responsible for the violation.
• Guests: Residents may receive a sanction appropriate to the violation(s) of their guests.
In Case of Fire call LU Police at (409) 880-8311

1. Feel the door for heat. If there is not heat, place a damp towel across your nose and mouth.
2. Close your bedroom and hallway door.
3. Evacuate the door quickly and calmly.
4. Use the stairs only.
5. Exit the building through the fire gates located on the Cheek Street entrance.
6. Proceed across Georgia Street to the small park and stand with the TALH students.
7. Your TALH CL will take roll. If a student is missing, inform the CL.
8. DO NOT REENTER the building until the fire or police departments give the all clear.
9. If the door is hot, soak a towel and place it against the bottom of your door. Go to the bedroom and open your blinds to signal for help. DO NOT OPEN THE WINDOW. If you are on the first floor and are trapped, exit your room from the window and proceed to the roll call point.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO EXTINGUISH A FIRE YOURSELF.
Lamar University

Components of the General Education Core Curriculum

Communication - three semester hours: ENGL 1301 and three semester hours from COMM 1315, COMM 1321, DSDE 1371, FREN 1311, SPAN 1311

Mathematics - three semester hours from MATH 1314, MATH 1316, MATH 1325, MATH 1342, MATH 1350, MATH 1414, MATH 2305, MATH 2310, MATH 2312, MATH 2413, MATH 2414, MATH 3370

Life and Physical Sciences – six semester hours from BIOL 1308, BIOL 1315, BIOL 1406, BIOL 1407, BIOL 2306, BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, CHEM 1306, CHEM 1308, CHEM 1311, CHEM 1312, GEOL 1390, GEOL 1403, GEOL 1404, PHYS 1305, PHYS 1307, PHYS 1311, PHYS 1401, PHYS 1402, PHYS 1405, PHYS 1407, PHYS 1411, PHYS 2425, PHYS 2426, SPSC 1301, SPSC 1401

Language, Philosophy and Culture – three semester hours from ENGL 2300, ENGL 2310, ENGL 2320, ENGL 2322, ENGL 2326, ENGL 2331, ENGL 2371, ENGL 2376, PHIL 1370, PHIL 2306

Creative Arts – three semester hours from ARTS 1301, ARTS 1303, COMM 1375, DANC 2304, MUSI 1306, PHIL 1330

American History – six semester hours from HIST 1301, HIST 1302, HIST 2301

Government/Political Science – six semester hours from POLS 2301, POLS 2302

Social and Behavioral Sciences – three semester hours from BULW 1370, ECON 1301, ECON 2301, ECON 2302, INEN 2373, PSYC 2301, SOCI 1301

Additionally, students must complete one of the three following component area options:

Component Area Option I – three semester hours from ENGL 1302, ENGL 1374, two semester hour lab sciences from BIOL 1406, BIOL 1407, BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, GEOL 1403, GEOL 1404, PHYS 1401, PHYS 1402, PHYS 1405, PHYS 1407, PHYS 1411, PHYS 2425, PHYS 2426, SPSC 1401 and one semester hour flex course from MATH 1414, MATH 2413, MATH 2414, LIBR 1101, HNRS 2160, LMAR 1101

Component Area Option II – three semester hours from ENGL 1302 and three semester hours from MATH 1316, MATH 1325, MATH 1342, MATH 1350, MATH 1414, MATH 2305, MATH 2310, MATH 2312, MATH 2413, MATH 2414, MATH 3370, BUAL 2310, INEN 2301, PSYC 2317

Component Area Option III – three semester hours from MATH 1316, MATH 1325, MATH 1342, MATH 1350, MATH 1414, MATH 2305, MATH 2310, MATH 2312, MATH 2413, MATH 2414, MATH 3370, BUAL 2310, INEN 2301, PSYC 2317, two semester hour lab sciences from BIOL 1406, BIOL 1407, BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, GEOL 1403, GEOL 1404, PHYS 1401, PHYS 1402, PHYS 1405, PHYS 1407, PHYS 1411, PHYS 2425, PHYS 2426, SPSC 1401 and one semester hour flex course from MATH 1414, MATH 2413, MATH 2414, LIBR 1101, HNRS 2160, LMAR 1101

Notes:

1. Students should consult their major advisor for recommended or required core courses and prerequisite courses, including Texas Success Initiative requirements.

2. Transfer students may satisfy the PHIL 1370 requirement with PHIL 1301 (Introduction to Philosophy).

3. Business majors must complete ECON 2301 and 2302 to satisfy degree requirements.
Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities  
Weekend Travel Request

All students are required to be in the residence hall Sunday through Thursday night from 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m., but TALH permits students to leave the campus for weekend travel with sufficient prior notice and signature on file from a parental/guardian.

TALH considers student safety a critical responsibility and strictly enforces its weekend travel policy. Parental cooperation is crucial to support this goal. **This form must be submitted to the Student Services Coordinator no later than 4:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon prior to the requested absence.** This form must be submitted to the Student Services Coordinator, Mr. Bruce Hodge via email (bruce.hodge@lamar.edu) from a registered parent or guardian email address. If your email address changes, please contact Mrs. Colichia at (409) 880-2377. TALH will email a confirmation of your child’s weekend travel plans by Thursday afternoon. You do not need to call to confirm your child’s travel plans. If you have not received a confirmation email by Friday morning, or if you receive a confirmation email you did not expect, please call (409-839-2993) or email Mr. Hodge. A final travel report identifying students leaving campus is prepared for the TALH administration by Friday morning. All department students must sign out on the weekend travel sheet in Mr. Hodge’s office.

**NOTE:** This form is not required for CLOSED WEEKENDS, SEMESTER BREAKS, or SPRING BREAK.

I hereby grant permission for my child, ________________________________________________ (please print first and last name) to travel for the weekend. The date of departure is ________________________________ (month/day/year).

The date of return is __________________________. (month/day/year)

NOTE: In the event of a change of plans, the student must notify a TALH administrator and the CA and abide by all rules and regulations.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Daytime Phone Number

Evening or Cell Phone Number

Destination of my child:

________________________________________________________________________

Responsible Party

________________________________________________________________________

Address

________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip

________________________________________________________________________

Telephone Number

**DEADLINE:** 4:00 p.m. Wednesday

**NO EXCEPTIONS, PLEASE**
This is to certify that we have received a copy of the TALH Student Handbook, 2015-2016. We have carefully read, fully understand, and agree to abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the handbook. In addition, we agree to abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the Cardinal Village Lease, the Lamar University Student Code of Conduct, and the Lamar University Student Handbook. We understand that policies may be subject to changes throughout the year and that it is our responsibility to be aware of the printed updates supplied to us.

We are aware that students may be dismissed if they fail to meet the required academic standards as determined by the Director of TALH. We are aware that students may be dismissed if they violate a major policy or repeatedly violate minor policies as determined by the Director of TALH.

We understand that students are accepted into the TALH program for one academic year only. We understand that, at the end of the first year, the TALH administration will review the academic and disciplinary record of each student and decide whether or not to re-admit the student for a second academic year.

Student Name (please print):________________________________________________________
Student Signature: ______________________________________________________________

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (please print): __________________________________________
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: ______________________________________________________

Date: __________________________

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO:
CINDY COLICHIA
TALH
P. O. BOX 10062
BEAUMONT, TX 77710