

Department of Agricultural  
and Environmental Sciences



# ***#LifeUpdates***

***# Moved to Music City, Nashville, TN***

***# Going to Graduate School at ***

***# To Study Agricultural Sciences***

*Welcome to Tennessee State University  
Department of Agricultural and  
Environmental Sciences  
College of Agriculture*

**Agricultural Science Graduate Student Council**

**August 2019**

# Paperwork/Online Submission

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## Checklists

TSU ID and Parking Permit: \_\_\_\_\_

- Go to Hankal Hall for ID and Parking Permit (Kean Hall only for first week of the semester)
- What to bring for Parking Permit: Vehicle registration, proof of insurance, valid driver's license, and university ID
- What to bring for ID: your T Number and driver license or passport (valid identification)

Registered Classes: \_\_\_\_\_

- Access to MyTSU to get TSU User ID and Password—first time user please visit [http://www.tnstate.edu/cit/OTS\\_GettingOnline.pdf](http://www.tnstate.edu/cit/OTS_GettingOnline.pdf) to see how to get online (finding TSU ID from TNumber and password (for the first time user, password would be T+first five digits of your T number + tsu, for example with a TNumber of T00123456, the password would be T00123tsu). You can always contact help desk at 615 963-7777 (24 hours helpline)
- Visit how to register class page at: <http://www.tnstate.edu/cit/RegistrationGuide.pdf>. Also see what are the common registration mistakes a student makes: <http://www.tnstate.edu/cit/RegistrationErrors.pdf> and confirm your registration and pay your outstanding bills.
- Visit <http://www.tnstate.edu/cit/studentervices.aspx> to get help on any online services
- Before registering for courses, please discuss with your advisor regarding what courses are best for you to sign up in order to get the degree and concentration that you are seeking for. Later, you will fill the study plan in consultation with your advisor and thesis/dissertation committee.
- Here are other online sites you will be frequently visiting: MyTSU, eLearn and email

Submitted Health Form: \_\_\_\_\_

- The state of Tennessee requires all students attending college, university and technical institutes to provide proof of two (2) doses of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine on or after the first birthday or proof of immunity to measles. More details can be found here: [http://www.tnstate.edu/campus\\_life/healthservices.aspx](http://www.tnstate.edu/campus_life/healthservices.aspx) and you are required to submit certificate of immunization. University places hold on your account until you submit a complete health form to Student Health Services <[StudentHealthServices@Tnstate.edu](mailto:StudentHealthServices@Tnstate.edu)>

Enrolled into payment plan: \_\_\_\_\_

- The College of Agriculture sets up payment plan for those received graduate research assistantship (GRA). To know whether you are on payment plan or not, please visit MyTSU, Student Applications, Select Banner services, Student, Student Account, Account Detail for Term/Confirm Enrollment/Credit Card Payment, select pay now, then You will be redirected to a new website where you can find information on your payment plan

Signed Contract: \_\_\_\_\_

- If you have been awarded GRA, you need to sign contract to get paid at the end of each month.
- Once you received an email from Ms Tamla Thompson saying “Your contract is ready to sign”, then go to Human Resources Building to sign the contract (Address to HR: Walter S Davis Blvd, Nashville, TN Located behind Harold E. Ford Sr & John N. Ford Residential Complex).

Checked eLearn: \_\_\_\_\_

- Online class materials are usually located on eLearn to make sure that you are not missing any important information or deadline on the courses you need to sign in frequently. Instructor normally announced it on the first day of the class. Login to [elearn.tnstate.edu](http://elearn.tnstate.edu) using your TSU user name and password.

# TIPS: How to balance between graduate school and your personal life, and be successful!

Welcome to TSU, you are now officially the member of **BIG BLUE family**!! Going to the graduate school is a dream for most of us. It is an important milestone in our professional career. We want you to do it right the first time and get one step closer to your dreams!! There is no right or wrong recipe, our graduate students (Brent Newman, Ph.D. Student and recently graduated MS student Jeronimo Gomes Da Silva Neto) shared some of their graduate school experiences here at the TSU. We have listed them hoping that they may be useful to you.

- A regular meeting with your major advisor is most important to successfully complete your graduate studies here at TSU. Meeting him/her prior to registering for courses so that you know which classes are required in order to achieve candidacy as well as which courses may be most beneficial to you and your research project.
- Manage your time. Set aside days during the week that are just for getting coursework done, days for just doing research, but make sure that you always spend at least a few hours during the week for writing. Please note that writing does not happen over night!!
- If you are struggling in a particular class, it's okay, we have all been there. The TSU faculty genuinely care about your success as a student and they are here for you so don't be afraid to email or contact the professor, drop by their office and ask for help. Also, talk to other students in the class, form study groups and help each other! Please note that maintaining GPA 3.0 or higher is also required to maintain your assistantship and successfully complete the degree that you are seeking for!!
- Cost- budget! Many of us survive on a small stipend (and trust, it's possible) which can be difficult. Renting in numbers drives the cost of living down. Get together with others in your program and see if they have rooms available for rent or if they want to consider renting with you. There are also many scholarships available at TSU; apply for them!
- Where to get help? First and foremost, your major advisor! Second, other students in the department. If you think it may be something more serious or you just feel overwhelmed, TSU also offers FREE counseling to all students. Many of the counselors are trained in helping students with stress management so don't be afraid to stop by the counselor's office (Basement of Wilson Hall) and schedule an appointment
- Social Life: Don't be afraid to not only talk to people in class and on campus but also go out... you are in Nashville! One of the fastest growing cities in the United States; home to the world's best country music and hot chicken. Just because you are a graduate student doesn't mean you have to work all the time. Take a break and check out the sites every now and then!
- Networking: Build your professional network through conferences, professional society meetings and outreach activities. In the 21st century, networking is the key to the success!!
- Lastly and most important; communicate often with your major advisor. He/she will guide you as well as set you up for success during your time here at TSU. If you still need additional help to meet your needs as a graduate student, do not hesitate to talk with Dr. Pokharel.

**We wish you all the best in your exciting journey to graduate school and eager to celebrate your success at here at the College of Agriculture!!**

## Student Clubs

**Environmental Science Club (ESC):** ESC aims to promote awareness of environmental issues to encourage students to make more environmentally sustainable decisions both on campus and in the community. Any undergraduate and graduate students of TSU who are interested environmental science, agriculture, biology, chemistry and any other related fields can be a member of the club. The ESC is a membership based student organization; however, it welcomes interested TSU faculty members and staff to join and participate in its activities. The club hosts various education, awareness and community outreach programs throughout the semester that include invited speakers, outdoor activities, and environmental awareness building programs such as a cleanup campaign, and changing consumer behavior through 3R (Recycle, Reduce and Reuse) that inspire its members for a positive change in the TSU community. If you need further information, please contact faculty advisor – Dr. Jason de Koff <[jdekkoff@tnstate.edu](mailto:jdekkoff@tnstate.edu)> or ESC President – Mr. Matthew Purucker <[mpurucke@my.tnstate.edu](mailto:mpurucke@my.tnstate.edu)>

**Food Science Club (FSC):** The Food Science Club is an active student club on campus. Any TSU undergraduate and graduate students majoring in food science or having an interest in food science may join the club. The club meets every 3rd Friday of the month during the spring and fall semesters. Each meeting is intended to be offering informational and networking sessions through guest lectures by professors from various horizons such as food chemistry, engineering, microbiology, processing, packaging, and sensory. The club promotes interaction among students and faculty within the college of agriculture. Also, emphasis is placed on field trips to food companies. Members are encouraged to participate in local, regional and national meetings, conferences and symposia. For more information about the Food Science Club (FSC), contact faculty advisor — Dr. Ramasamy Ravi <[rravi@tnstate.edu](mailto:rravi@tnstate.edu)> or FSC President - Mr. Sharath Julakanti <[sjulakan@my.tnstate.edu](mailto:sjulakan@my.tnstate.edu)> .

**Biotech Club:** We are currently looking for student leaders to form and run biotech club. If you are interested and would like to get involved, please let Dr. Korsi Dumenyo <[cdumenyo@tnstate.edu](mailto:cdumenyo@tnstate.edu)> or Dr. Ali Taheri <[ataheri1@tnstate.edu](mailto:ataheri1@tnstate.edu)> know. Thank you

**Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS):** Tennessee State University's MANRRS Chapter contributes to the overall TSU mission by promoting activities and providing opportunities to its members, and its ideology goes hand-in-hand with the TSU ethos of "Think. Work. Serve." MANRRS empowers its members to think, work, and serve as they strive to make a difference in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. Being a productive and proactive member of MANRRS has many benefits for members. For instance, the MANRRS community offers several specific opportunities for its members to advance themselves professionally (such as cluster and national conventions), and the TSU chapter of the organization has delivered programs and hosted events that cater to the needs of its members and non-members in the campus and university community. Any undergraduate and graduate students of TSU seeking degree in agriculture and natural resources may join MANRRS. If you need further information, please contact faculty advisor – Dr. De'Etra Young <[dyoung23@tnstate.edu](mailto:dyoung23@tnstate.edu)> or MANRRS TSU Chapter President — Ms Kristin Day <[kristinday17@gmail.com](mailto:kristinday17@gmail.com)>

## Campus Map

Please see campus map for important locations such as library; Student Center; Bursar's Office; Food Court at: [http://www.tnstate.edu/contact\\_us/documents/ParkingMap\\_2017.pdf](http://www.tnstate.edu/contact_us/documents/ParkingMap_2017.pdf)

## Useful Contacts

Dr. Bharat Pokharel, Graduate Coordinator — Tel: 615 963 6054; email: [bpokhare@TNState.edu](mailto:bpokhare@TNState.edu)

Dr. Samuel Nahashon, Chair, Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Tel: 615 963 2575; email: [snahashon@TNState.edu](mailto:snahashon@TNState.edu)

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