I’ve been admitted... now what?
A general checklist for admitted freshmen students

☐ Meet TSI requirements – http://testing.tamucc.edu; under Placement Exams
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a state mandate that requires all undergraduate students entering a Texas public institution to be assessed for readiness to enroll in undergraduate academic coursework. You must provide assessment scores and/or proof of exemptions/waivers to the Office of Admissions prior to registering for New Student Orientation. You will be ineligible to enroll in classes until this requirement has been met.

☐ Apply for financial aid – www.fafsa.ed.gov
If you have not already done so, you are encouraged to apply for financial assistance using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more information on eligibility requirements, types of aid, and deadlines, please visit the Office of Student Financial Assistance web site at http://osfa.tamucc.edu.

☐ Apply for University scholarships – http://scholarships.tamucc.edu
You may begin applying for University scholarships following your admission to A&M-Corpus Christi. Applications may be submitted online via the University Scholarships web site.

☐ Apply for on-campus housing – http://housing.tamucc.edu; under Apply for Housing
Applications and housing assignments are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. You are encouraged to submit the On-Campus Housing Application and Lease Guaranty to Camden Miramar (our housing provider) as soon as possible.

☐ Register for/attend New Student Orientation – http://orientation.tamucc.edu
All freshmen are required to register for and attend New Student Orientation prior to enrollment. These Orientations are offered in January for incoming Spring students, and during the summer months for those students entering in the Summer and Fall semesters. You must be admitted for an upcoming term to be eligible to register.

☐ Complete your student file
If you are still in high school, you will need to have your high school send a final copy of your transcript (indicating completion of high school requirements and graduation date) to the Office of Admissions following your graduation. If you have obtained or will be obtaining any additional college credit through enrollment at another institution, Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Credit programs, please forward record of these items to the Office of Admissions so that we may add them to your student file.

☐ Login to S.A.I.L. – http://sail.tamucc.edu
S.A.I.L. is the University’s secure student portal where you can access your student, academic, and financial records on file at A&M-Corpus Christi. You can use S.A.I.L. to: update your contact information; register for classes; check the status of your financial aid and review/accept awards; view your unofficial transcripts, grades, and class schedules; purchase your parking permit; pay your tuition, and more!

☐ Activate your Islander e-mail account – http://newuser.tamucc.edu
Your Islander student e-mail address is the primary way in which the University will contact you. Via this e-mail address, you will receive official University correspondence, billing and financial aid notifications, and emergency announcements (in cases of a campus emergency). Once activated, you can check your e-mail at any time at http://islander.tamucc.edu/mail.

☐ Update your application and contact information
If you would like to change your intended major or term of entry, you may do so by submitting a letter of request to the Office of Admissions. Remember: Your offer of admission is good for up to one application year – if you choose to enroll after this time, you will need to re-apply for admission.

Perhaps you’ve moved or gotten a new phone number since you applied for admission. Be sure to check S.A.I.L. to verify the contact information we currently have on file for you and make updates as necessary. Remember: The University will use this information to communicate with you, so it is best that it remains up-to-date at all times.
Before you attend Orientation
Things to do before you come to New Student Orientation

☐ Check your financial aid status; accept award package & scholarships
By now, you have hopefully submitted your application for financial aid (FAFSA) and your University scholarship application. If you have not already applied for financial assistance, you are encouraged to do so prior to attending Orientation. Once processed, you can check your financial aid status and accept/decline your awards online at http://sail.tamucc.edu.

☐ Check your housing status
Camden Miramar will periodically notify you by e-mail and postage mail of the status of your housing application and assignment. You can also contact their offices directly at 361.825.5000 for more information.

☐ Register for Aloha Days – http://alohadays.tamucc.edu
Aloha Days provides new freshmen with an opportunity to develop friendships, an awareness of their personal values, and a sense of Islander pride within a relaxed summer camp setting. To learn more about Aloha Days or to register, contact the Student Activities Office at 361.825.2707.

☐ Make travel arrangements - http://orientation.tamucc.edu/freshman/travel_accommodations.html
Book flights and hotel accommodations, and map out a travel plan that will ensure your safe arrival to campus.

☐ Pack all necessary items
In addition to your normal packing routine, be sure to pack comfortable clothing, a pair of walking shoes, a light jacket, and an umbrella. You may also consider bringing such items as a valid government-issued identification card (e.g., driver’s license) or passport, your Social Security card, and any other official documentation you may need to have on-hand to address outstanding items during your visit to campus.
At Orientation
All the items you can/will address at New Student Orientation

☐ Meet other new and current students
New Student Orientation provides an ample opportunity for you to meet fellow new students and make valuable connections with current Islanders, faculty and staff. Freshmen who make these connections and create these friendships are often more successful in their transition to college, achieve better grades, and graduate.

☐ Register for classes
You will be assigned a 30-minute appointment to register for classes with the assistance of an academic advisor. Though you may be thinking, "Won't all the classes be filled by then?", don't worry. Seats are typically set aside for incoming students in our freshmen-level courses, and our advisors will make sure that you get registered for the courses you need.

☐ Complete an Entrance Loan Counseling session – http://osfa.tamucc.edu
If you will be taking out any student loans, you will need to complete an Entrance Loan Counseling session. All monies awarded will not be disbursed until you have a) accepted your awards and b) completed an entrance loan counseling session.

☐ Get your SandDollar$ Card - http://universityservices.tamucc.edu
Your SandDollar$ Card is your official University identification card at A&M-Corpus Christi. Money can be placed on this card - which acts like a debit card - and used to make purchases on campus at vending & printing machines, dining facilities, and the Bookstore. The card can also be used to check out books at the library, access recreational and fitness facilities, entry to campus housing and your residence hall, and to gain free entrance to Islander athletic events.

☐ Purchase a meal plan – www.tamucc.campusdish.com
A meal plan is pre-paid account you can purchase to fund all of your on-campus meals. Dining Services provides several plans to accommodate your eating preferences.

☐ Submit your FERPA Waiver to the University Registrar
The University maintains two types of records: education records and directory information. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. The FERPA Waiver form can be obtained from the Office of the University Registrar, and allows you to give access to your educational records to others, such as a parent or spouse. For more information, please visit the Registrar’s web site at http://registrar.tamucc.edu.

☐ Set up a bank account with Wells Fargo
Representatives from our on-campus Wells Fargo branch will be available to talk to you about all the great features of Wells Fargo Banking and how to integrate your banking account with your SandDollar$ card.

☐ Get an on-campus mailbox - http://universityservices.tamucc.edu
If you are living on campus, you can obtain an on-campus mailbox free of charge at the 78412 Post Office. Boxes for off-campus residents are also available for a small fee.

☐ Learn about student services and how to utilize them - http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu
The Division of Student Affairs takes great pride in providing services, programs, activities, and leadership opportunities to enhance your college experience. They strive to assure that they are meeting your needs for intellectual and personal development beyond the classroom, and will outline how you can take advantage of the many services and opportunities made available to you through their offices.

☐ Meet student clubs and organizations - http://studentactivities.tamucc.edu
From Greek to spiritual to special interest groups, the University boasts over 100 different clubs and organizations to choose from when it comes to getting involved. Representatives from various clubs and organizations will be available to learn more about what they do as an organization and how to join!

☐ Familiarize yourself with the campus
If you have yet to visit the campus, you'll have the opportunity to take a guided tour with one of our specially-trained tour guides during Orientation. It’s a perfect time to ask your questions and get some answers from a current Islander!

☐ Tour the housing facilities; get room dimensions
Bring your camera and your measuring tape to start planning out your new college pad for when you move in later.
Before classes begin

Tie up any loose ends before classes start

☐ Receive/activate your HigherOne Refund Card - https://corpuschristi.higheroneaccount.com

You will receive a HigherOne Easy Refund Card in the mail to manage any refunds you receive from the Business Office. Refunds can consist of your financial aid, dropping classes and/or overpayments. You will need to activate this card and select a refund option before you can receive any refunds.

☐ Review your class schedule; make changes as necessary

You can access your class schedule online and add/drop courses as necessary using S.A.I.L. Just remember: Adding or dropping courses can affect your degree plan as well as your financial aid, so make sure to check with your advisor(s) and/or the Office of Student Financial Assistance before you make any changes to your schedule.

☐ Pay your tuition - http://www.tamucc.edu/~business

Tuition is due to the Business Office prior to the first day of classes. Payments can be made online or in person. If you will be using financial aid to pay your tuition, it is always a good idea to check with the Office of Student Financial Assistance to make sure that everything is in order to cover the costs. For more information, contact the Business Office at 361.825.2600.

☐ Purchase your textbooks - www.tamucc.bncollege.com

You can look up/purchase your textbooks online or in person at the University Bookstore, located in the University Center.

☐ Purchase your parking permit – http://sail.tamucc.edu

Anyone who parks a vehicle on campus is required to purchase and display a valid parking permit. Permits can be purchased online via S.A.I.L. and picked up at the University Police Department.

☐ Set up your Novell campus computer login – http://labs.tamucc.edu

In order to use a computer located on campus, you will need a valid Novell user account. To set up your Novell login, please visit Corpus Christi Hall, Room 202 or log on to http://labs.tamucc.edu.

☐ Register on I-link with Career Services – http://career-services.tamucc.edu

Need a job? I-link, a free online service provided through Career Services, allows students to search and inquire about current on- and off-campus job listings.

☐ Get your SMARTTHINKING username and password – http://casa.tamucc.edu

Stop by the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) in the Mary & Jeff Bell Library to request your username and password for SMARTTHINKING, a 24-hour web-based tutoring service designed to assist you with your study and research.

☐ Register your laptop/device on the University’s wireless network – http://labs.tamucc.edu

If you have a laptop or device with a wireless network card, you can register to use the University’s wireless internet connection. To get set up, stop by Corpus Christi Hall, Room 201, or contact the Student Computer Help Desk at 361.825.5618 for more information.

☐ Attend Aloha Days – http://alohadays.tamucc.edu

All registered Aloha Days participants will depart from the campus to an off-site location, so be sure to arrive on time with your bags in tow. For more information on what to pack, a program agenda, and more, visit the Aloha Days web site.

☐ Move into your resident hall/apartment - http://housing.tamucc.edu/tobring.html

Move-in days are usually scheduled a few days to a week prior to the first day of class. You can begin preparing for your official move-in by referring to Camden Miramar’s helpful What To & What Not To Bring list.

☐ Find where your classes are - http://www.tamucc.edu/about/campusmap.html

Print out a copy of your class schedule on S.A.I.L. and, armed with a campus map, seek out where your classes will be. Doing so will save you plenty of time the first week of classes and hopefully keep you from being late for class.