

Get a head start on your studies. Live with other science majors. Enjoy special social activities. Prepare for your future as a science professional.

The Natural Sciences Learning Clusters are open to all science and mathematics majors, including those who are undecided on a specific major but leaning toward math or science. If you live on campus and want to be part of the Natural Sciences Learning Clusters, you can choose a cluster in one of four designated residence halls — and you can also join the community even if you live off campus. You'll make friends before classes start, get to know St. Edward's by joining at least one Student Life organization and take special seminar classes geared toward your interests.

You can participate in the pre-college research workshop limited to cluster members. You will also be eligible for a \$1,200 research stipend, plus a \$1,100 housing stipend if you are selected to participate in a research project the following summer. The Natural Sciences Learning Clusters are provided by a grant from TG (the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation) in Round Rock, Texas.

THE FIRE WORKSHOP (PRE-SEMESTER)

If you decide to participate in the Freshman Introduction to Research Experience (FIRE) weekend workshop, you will move in before other students arrive on campus. At the welcome dinner that evening, you'll meet other science cluster members and several science faculty members. The next day, you will participate in the FIRE workshop, where you will learn research tools and methodologies in the discipline you have selected as your major, which will give you priority to participate in a more substantive and challenging research project the following summer.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR

You'll enroll in at least one seminar course specially selected for you and your Cluster peers each semester, so you will already know many of the students in the room before the first class even meets. In addition, you will have access to free tutoring at the Academic Success Center on campus. And there will be fun activities — such as laser tag, kayaking and movie nights — to balance the demands of study with the need for relaxation.

SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECT

In the spring semester science seminar course, you will learn about possible research projects and meet the supervising faculty. If there is a project that interests you, you can apply to participate in a six-week research project with the faculty member/research project of your choice. Up to 15 students will be supported for summer research during the first six-week summer session.

For more information, contact:

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SIGNING UP

- To join a cluster, when you make your campus housing reservation, you must choose a room designated for cluster housing. (There are four residence halls to choose from.)
- Commuting students (who do not live on campus) can join the cluster. When you register for classes, tell your advisor you want to join the cluster so you will be placed in the correct class(es).