ACCESS
The Academy for Collegiate Excellence and Student Success is a bridge to college program with the mission of facilitating a smooth transition for students from high school to college.

Our Goals
• Improve students’ overall academic performance
• Enhance retention and graduation rates of participants

High School Student
Math, Writing & Reading Enhancement
Conversational Spanish
Critical Thinking & Problem Solving Skills
Study & Test Taking Skills
Motivation & Confidence-Building
Leadership & Social Development
Service Learning & Civic Engagement

College Ready Student
ACCESS Academics

- 200 contact hours
  - Classes 8 am – 3:30 pm
    - Composition
    - Critical Thinking
    - Math
    - Problem Solving
    - Reading
    - Conversational Spanish
  - Workshops/Study halls
    - 6:30 – 9:30 pm MTWRSu
      - Math
      - Service learning
      - Changing Self
      - Study Skills
  - Homework: Mandatory
  - Scholarships awarded
Field Experiences

- Challenge Works Course
- Consular visits
- “Moon Mission”
- Museum visits that incorporate assignments
- Athletic events with an educational twist
- Cultural activities (Lion King, Aida)
- Etiquette Night
- Austin/Capitol trip
- The Pact, “Brown at ’50 Tour,” DC Tour
Learning Through Service and Civic Engagement

- Read “Nickled and Dimed in America; saw the play.
- Great Debate: studied Civil Rights and the presidencies of LBJ, Bush and Clinton
- Had weekly workshops on Service Learning
- Participated in Service Learning experiences local area:
  - PV/Waller/Hempstead: park, Thrift Shop, Focus on Families, etc
  - Tomball Nursing Home
  - Houston Food Bank
  - SHAPE Center
- Capstone experiences in New Orleans, Brownsville and Glendora, Mississippi
TEXANS SERVING TEXAS
The Diversity of our State and its Economic Engines

Diversity of the State:
- NASA
- Ranching/Freedom Colonies
- Ft. Hood
- Consulates
- Austin

Local Service:
- Tomball Home: Music, games, Conversation
- City of Houston: Weatherization Project/Community Garden
- PV/Waller area
Residential Life

- **Residential Life: Boot Camp**
  - Wake up at 6:00 AM
  - Breakfast mandatory at 6:30 AM
  - Classes from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
  - Workshops/Study halls 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
  - Lights out at 11:00 PM, M-Th and Sun
  - No cell phones, TVs, Video games
  - No visitation (men/women)
  - Sports activities
  - Talent show
  - Learn to co-exist in a civil, productive manner
Measures of Success

- Over 1300 students have participated in ACCESS
- ACCESS students have exceeded PV retention and graduation rates since the program’s inception
- Participated in a FIPSE Grant for $400K to disseminate best practices in recruitment, retention, remediation and formula funding to four HBCUs
- Staff have been selected to make presentations at state, regional and national conferences on advising, retention and remediation
ACCESS Statistics

1996 – 2007

Number of participants: 1181
Matriculation to PVAMU: 901 76.3%
Retention to the sophomore year: 698 77.5%
6-year graduation rate: 374 41.5%
From ACCESS to University College

The statistical and anecdotal successes of ACCESS demonstrated that the core objectives and strategies of this program had implications beyond a small group of freshmen. This realization was the impetus behind The PLACE, a pilot for University College. The successes of these two programs led to the creation of University College, a program serving ALL PVAMU freshmen.

University College is a ‘freshman neighborhood’ that provides a comprehensive living and learning experience. It is a supportive, structured environment that includes holistic advisement, centralized support services, referrals, academic enhancement and a residential setting that stresses academic success and teamwork.
ACCESS

EDUCATION * SERVICE LEARNING * CIVIC ENGAGEMENT * CHALLENGING EXPERIENCES * CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES * DIVERSITY * TEAM BUILDING * CHARACTER BUILDING * SCHOLARSHIP * ENRICHMENT

MORE THAN JUST A PROGRAM
IT’S A LIFE TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE