

Keyword: Coming to Texas A&M

Interviewee information:

- Name/nickname: Maria
- School year: 2022
- Major: General Nutrition
- Hometown: Laredo, Tx
- Family's country of origin: Mexico

Transcript (copy segment transcript here):

[00:00:39-00:02:25]

[00:00:39] What was the application process like?

[00:00:42] It was... it was difficult only because there are certain cases where I knew I had to pay for like S.A.T. scores or I had to pay for application fees or stuff like that. So I got a job that way I was able to afford that. And I didn't really have the guidance that other kids had kids who their parents did go to college. So struggling with studying for the S.A.T, for example, and trying to tell my mom if she can pay for S.A.T. tutoring or stuff like that, like I wasn't able to really afford that. So it was a struggle in a way.

[00:01:24] So what kind of help did you get like a home, if any? Or like I saw at school? At home it was mainly a lot of support.

[00:01:50] I didn't really get it from my dad because he was really against me moving out based, especially being born in like a Hispanic culture. I guess, it's really family-oriented. But my mom-. My mom was very supportive. That's what kind of helped me. What was the question again? I'm sorry. What kind of help did you get? Like at home-. Okay. It was mainly, like I said, support. Yes. And at school, it was just asking friends who knew what they were doing. Or my teachers or counselors.

[00:02:26-00:03:40]

[00:02:26] Tell me about the day you got your acceptance letter. I remember it was November. It was like late November. I always doubted myself. There was a bunch of self-doubt especially, especially because I didn't really think I was capable of even entering A&M. But I remember I decided to log in through the Howdy portal. It was like it was-. I wasn't even expecting the acceptance letter that that day. But I remember I was sitting in my room and I like entered, whatever. And then I saw that as soon as I entered my application like portal, I saw that it said, you been admitted.

[00:03:09] So it's kind of like, wait am I actually reading this? Is this actually real? So I remember sending a picture to one of my close friends. I was like, are you reading what I'm reading? No then she called me and she was like, Oh, my God, you made it! I was like, are you serious? I remember I went running to my brother and I was like, look, What does this say? He's like, you've been admitted. I was like "I made it!" And he's like, "cool." But yeah, I felt really excited knowing that I got in. So it was nice.

[00:03:41-00:04:37]

[00:03:41] Can you tell me about your first day on campus, whether it be the NSC or the first time you were here?

[00:03:48] My first day on campus? Yeah. Or first day of class. I don't know what you picture your first day being. Well, first day on campus was during Howdy week. It was, I think, August the 17 or 18. It was overwhelming and especially seeing, I'm so used to it, like where I'm at. There's a lot of Hispanics. So diversity wise it was like a culture shock for me, I guess.

[00:04:19] But I felt, in a way, welcomed.

Like I said, at some point, I did feel like I didn't belong here only because it was just too much for me. But I remember just going around and exploring, and like seeing different-. Where my classes would be at. Stuff like that.