

**ECON 3301: The Economics of Health**  
ONLINE Course Syllabus  
Fall 2019

## Instructor Information

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**Instructor**

Christy Spivey

**Office Number**

College of Business (COB), Room 328

**Office Telephone Number**

I do not have a phone in my office.

The Economics department number is 817-272-3061.

**Email Address**

[cspivey@uta.edu](mailto:cspivey@uta.edu)

**Faculty Profile**

<https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/christy-spivey>

**Office Hours**

Tuesday 5:00 – 6:45pm CST, or by appointment. If you are local, please stop by!

## Course Information

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**Section Information**

ECON 3301-006 and ECON 3301-007

**Class Meetings**

This course is online and will be administered through Canvas: [uta.instructure.com](https://uta.instructure.com). No in-person meetings are required.

**Description of Course Content**

Applies economic analysis to the health sector; examines issues involving health insurance and how these issues have been addressed by the market and by the government; role of market structure in health care markets such as the hospital and pharmaceutical industries; compares the U.S. health care system to health care systems in other countries.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

This course will provide you with an overview of the field of Health Economics. It will prepare you to:

- Identify the economic concepts and tools that economists use to study health and health care.
- Explain the impact of the third-party payer system on the health care industry.
- Analyze the benefits and costs of various healthcare policies and reforms around the world.
- Analyze the consumption and determinants of health and medical care spending from an economic perspective.
- Examine the economic incentives faced by insurance companies, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies, as well as their implications.
- Appreciate the importance of and apply the basic principles of economic evaluation in healthcare.
- Recognize and evaluate the relevance of behavioral economics techniques in health and healthcare.

**Prerequisites**

ECON 2306 Principles of Microeconomics or equivalent

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials**

There is no required textbook. Required content such as articles, videos, a documentary, and a podcast are posted on Canvas. If you would like to purchase one, I recommend Health Economics and Policy by James Henderson (used, any edition).

## Assignments

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Each week's module in Canvas contains content, which will prepare you for the assignments and exams. Within each week's module, you will find one Canvas page for each subtopic, which may contain text, graphics, videos, links to webpages, and embedded articles. You will also find Graded Assignments below the content in each week's module. For your convenience, especially if you choose to read ahead, the *main* articles for the entire course are also available under the course menu ("Readings" link) on the left-hand side of our Canvas course. **The Learning Modules and the posted articles are the most important readings!**

### Syllabus Quiz

The Syllabus/Scavenger Hunt Quiz (Week 1: Getting Started) can be completed while looking at the syllabus and other course materials on Canvas. The goal is to familiarize yourself with course format and policies and to make sure you can navigate the course and use the grade calculator. I want to make sure everyone knows how to calculate their grade as the semester progresses, so that everyone knows where they stand at any point in time throughout the course. Answers to the quiz will be available on Canvas after the due date. Therefore, no late submissions are accepted.



### Experiment Participation

You will participate in several interactive experiments this semester through a platform called Moblab. The experiments are for a participation grade only, but we will use some of the data collected in the experiments for homework assignments. The topics covered in the experiments will also be on exams and the last completion quiz.

Participating in the experiments does require that you log into the experiment at a certain time, but I will give you several time slots to choose from. Moblab is not free, but it is inexpensive.

And, this is the only monetary outlay I ask of you. There is no book required for the class, although you are welcome to purchase a used copy of the recommended book for background reading (any edition).

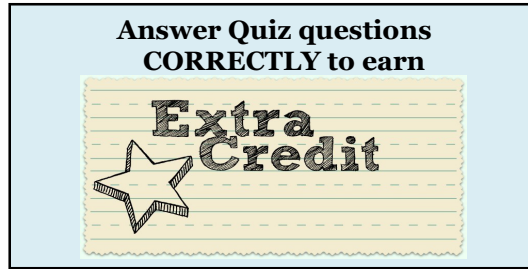
To register for Moblab, follow the instructions given in the Week 1: Getting Started module.

### Completion Quizzes

Several completion quizzes will be given throughout the semester. They are for a completion grade only. Note that you will not be given credit for skipped questions. So, if you answer all questions on time, you will get 100%, regardless of whether you have answered them correctly.

You should complete these on your own, without collaboration. Late quizzes will **NOT** be accepted. They must be submitted (not just begun) by the specified deadline. Answers will be available on Canvas after the due date.

In addition, you can earn up to 2 points (out of 100) of **extra credit** on your final course score by answering questions correctly. The average of your completion grade quizzes will be divided by 50, and those points will be added to your final course score. Because the extra credit earned depends upon answering the questions correctly, a numeric grade for the quizzes will show up in the Canvas gradebook. The numeric grade is used to calculate the extra credit only.



### Graded Discussion Board Assignments

Discussion board assignments will involve an initial post by each of you, in response to a question that I pose, followed up by at least two reply posts. These reply posts will be responses to classmates' initial posts and/or follow-ups to how others have replied to your initial post.

Please see the Week 1: Getting Started module on Canvas for detailed discussion board information, including guidelines, suggestions, and the grading rubric. Make sure to look at the grading rubric before posting. Late discussion board assignments will **NOT** be accepted.

### Homework

There are three homework assignments, one before Exam 1, a second before Exam 2, and a third after Exam 2. The first two homework assignments are optional. This means you do not have to turn them in for a grade. If you do turn them in, they will be graded and count towards your overall grade. While they are optional to be turned in, it is **essential** that you do and understand the problems in order to do well on exams. **The third homework is not optional**, since there is no exam following it.

The homeworks are mostly problem-based assignments. There are videos posted to help with them, and I will help in live Canvas Conferences sessions (instructions on how to participate forthcoming). Your completed homework assignment should be uploaded to Canvas as **one Microsoft Word file or PDF file**. Please do not upload multiple JPEG or PNG files. Make sure to paste them into a Word document first, and then save the Word file as a PDF file. Recent versions of Word have the capability to save documents as PDF files by going to File, then Save as Adobe PDF. If your Word version does not have this, you can download free software to turn any document into a PDF file here:

<http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/writer.asp>

Late homework assignments will be **NOT** be accepted. You may discuss your homework assignments with one another, but you should do your own thinking and turn in your own work. In other words, **do not copy someone's work or turn in someone else's work as your own**. Doing so will result in not getting credit for the assignment and a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Doing your own work will help prepare you for exams.

### Project

A part-individual and part-collaborative project based on creating an infographic and designing a healthcare system will be the focus of a significant portion of your time. The various components of the project and the grading scheme are described in a separate document, which is posted on Canvas. Please see the Project module on the course menu for details, helpful guidance, and grading rubrics.



## Exams

The two exams are not cumulative. They will be administered online using the Canvas Respondus Lockdown Browser, which you can download under Help on the Canvas global navigation menu. You will need a laptop with a built-in camera or a webcam attached to your monitor.

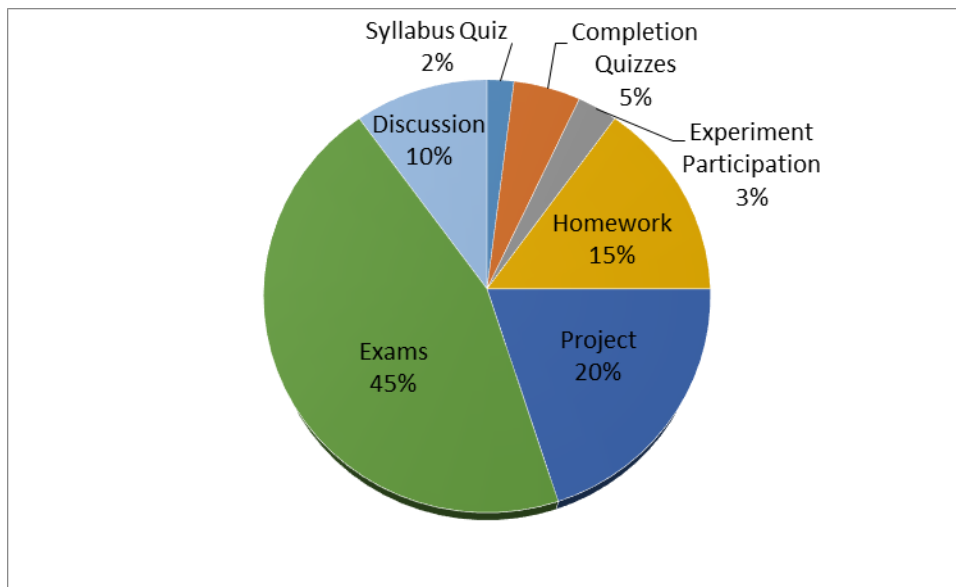
## Grading Information

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### Assessment

Your grade will be determined by a syllabus/scavenger hunt quiz, three homework assignments (the first two are optionally graded), five completion/extra credit quizzes, four graded discussion board posts, a project, and two exams. The percentage of total points will be allocated as follows:

<b>Syllabus Quiz</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Experiment Participation</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Completion Quizzes (1% each):</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Discussion Board Posts (2.5% each):</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Homework (5% each):</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Project:</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Exams (22.5% each):</b>	<b>45%</b>



Your letter grade will be determined by the percentage of total points earned as follows:

<b>A</b>	<b>90% and above</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>80 – 89.99%</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70 – 79.99%</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60 – 69.99%</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>below 60%</b>

I do not curve individual assignments or final grades. I also do not offer extra credit beyond what is mentioned in this syllabus. I only assign incompletes in the course for documented health/family emergencies. Please do not ask me to assign an incomplete if you intend to drop the course but forget to do so.

Please use the **grade calculator** on the Home Page (not any total columns in the Canvas gradebook) to determine your assessment progress throughout the semester.

Each homework assignment counts for 5% of your grade, for a total of 15%, as explained above. If you do not turn in the first two homeworks, the missing 5% for each will be redistributed to the next exam. Then your grade will be determined as follows:

<b><i>Syllabus Quiz</i></b>	<b>2%</b>
<b><i>Experiment Participation</i></b>	<b>3%</b>
<b><i>Completion Quizzes</i> (1% each):</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b><i>Discussion Board Posts</i> (3% each):</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b><i>Homework 3</i></b>	<b>5%</b>
<b><i>Project:</i></b>	<b>20%</b>
<b><i>Exams</i> (27.5% each):</b>	<b>55%</b>

## Course Schedule

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A detailed course schedule is below, including all due dates for assignments. It can also be found on the Home Page on Canvas as an Excel spreadsheet. I reserve the right to change the schedule, but I will post an updated one if I do so as well as notify you of any changes via email.

**I highly recommend that you print out the schedule and keep it in a convenient place, as well as add all due dates to your calendar.**

## Economics of Health, FALL 2019

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic and Activities</b>	<b>Assignments with Due Dates</b>	<b>Due (11:59 pm CST)</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Welcome, Course Overview</b>	Discussion Board Post: Introduce Yourself	<b>Sunday 9/1</b>
Aug 27-Sept 2	Review Syllabus, Grade Calculator	Syllabus and Course Scavenger Hunt Quiz	<b>Monday 9/2</b>
	Review Project Info, Infographic Learning Module	PROJECT: Sign up for topic on Google doc	<b>Monday 9/2</b>
	Explore other Visible Elements of Course		
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Review of Economic Concepts</b>	Discussion Board Post: Research Questions for Infographic	<b>Saturday 9/7</b>
Sept 3 - Sept 9	Formulate Research Question for Infographic	Discussion Board replies (2)	<b>Sunday 9/8</b>
		Completion Quiz 1 (Review)	<b>Monday 9/9</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Comparative Health Systems</b>	Discussion Board Post	<b>Saturday 9/14</b>
Sept 10 - Sept 16	Read article	Discussion Board replies (2)	<b>Sunday 9/15</b>
	Watch documentary "Sick Around the World"	Completion Quiz 2 (Comparative Health)	<b>Monday 9/16</b>
	Do Research for Infographic		
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Intro &amp; Market Failure: In-Class Experiment</b>	PROJECT: Waypoint 1 (Infographic Research Document)	<b>Monday 9/23</b>
Sept 17 - Sept 23	Moblab Experiment	Optional Homework 1 (Experiment)	<b>Sunday 9/29</b>
	Homework Q&A LIVE Session (time TBD)		
	Do Research for Infographic		
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Demand for Health</b>	Completion Quiz 3 (Demand for Health)	<b>Monday 9/30</b>
Sept 24 - Sept 30	Read articles		
	Wrap up Infographic		
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Exam 1 Q&amp;A LIVE Session (time TBD)</b>	PROJECT: Post infographic on Canvas	<b>Wednesday 10/2</b>
Oct 1 - Oct 7	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>Fri 10/4 - Mon 10/7</b>
		PROJECT: Sign up to evaluate 4 infographics	<b>Friday 10/4</b>
		PROJECT: Evaluation of peer infographics due	<b>Monday 10/7</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Insurance</b>	PROJECT: Sign up for healthcare design group on Google doc	<b>Friday 10/11</b>
Oct 8 - Oct 14	Moblab Experiments	Optional Homework 2 (Insurance)	<b>Sunday 10/20</b>
	Homework Q&A LIVE Session (time TBD)		
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Insurance</b>	Discussion Board Post	<b>Sunday 10/20</b>
Oct 15 - Oct 21	Podcast	Discussion Board replies (2)	<b>Monday 10/21</b>
	Meet with Healthcare Design Group		
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Hospitals, Docs, Drugs</b>		
Oct 22 - Oct 28	Read articles		
	Work on Healthcare Design		
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Hospitals, Docs, Drugs</b>	Discussion Board Post	<b>Saturday 11/2</b>
Oct 29 - Nov 4	Read articles	Discussion Board replies (2)	<b>Sunday 11/3</b>
	Work on Healthcare Design	Completion Quiz 4 (Hospitals, Drugs, Docs)	<b>Monday 11/4</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Exam 2 Q&amp;A LIVE Session (time TBD)</b>		
Nov 5 - Nov 11	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>Fri 11/8 - Mon 11/11</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Work on Healthcare Design</b>		
Nov 12 - Nov 18			
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Economic Evaluation</b>	PROJECT: Waypoint 2 (Team Healthcare Plan Draft)	<b>Friday 11/22</b>
Nov 19 - Nov 25	Read article	Homework 3 (Economic Evaluation) - NOT OPTIONAL	<b>Sunday 12/1</b>
	Homework Q&A LIVE Session (time TBD)		
	Work on Healthcare Design		
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Behavioral Economics</b>	Completion Quiz 5 (Behavioral Economics)	<b>Monday 12/2</b>
Nov 26 - Dec 2	Moblab Experiment/Survey		
	Read articles		
	Work on Healthcare Design		
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Wrap up and Turn in Healthcare Design Project</b>	PROJECT: Post Video Presentation on Canvas	<b>Tuesday 12/3</b>
Dec 3 - Dec 4		PROJECT: Evaluation of peer collaboration due	<b>Wednesday 12/4</b>

## Expectations

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Treat this syllabus as a contract that you have “signed” by enrolling in the course. You are responsible for remembering all deadlines. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus during the semester, although I will try not to do so.

### Online Learning

This online course is designed to cover the same content and same amount of material as a traditional face-to-face course. The face-to-face version of this course meets for over 2.5 hours per week. A generally-accepted rule of thumb is that for every hour spent in class, you should spend approximately two to three hours outside of class studying. So, a student taking the face-to-face class should spend at least 5 hours a week outside of class studying.

Online courses can seem more time-consuming than face-to-face courses, as time spent on an online class includes time normally spent in lecture in a face-to-face class PLUS study time and time spent working on assignments. This means you should be spending more than 5 hours a week on this course to earn a high grade! As an online learner, the total amount of time you will spend working on this class will vary from person to person and week to week.

**Watch the slideshow below for some tips on being a successful online learner:**

<http://www.slideshare.net/SidneyEve/quick-start-guide-for-online-students>

### Communication

I will communicate with you mainly via email, weekly video or audio messages, and through several live (recorded) sessions on Canvas Conferences. If for some reason you need assistance with something that can't be answered via email, I am happy to arrange a phone call or Canvas Conferences session with you.

**Please check your university-provided email account daily!** Email is definitely the best way to reach me. I will answer as quickly as possible. Barring extenuating circumstances, you can expect a response within 24 hours (usually sooner).

There is a “Course Q&A Discussion Board for Students” under Week 1: Getting Started that you may post in anytime to seek help from your classmates. If you can't find an answer to your question, please email me. If I think that others can benefit from the answer to your question, I will either email the class or post a message or video in the discussion board.

### Academic Integrity

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. According to the UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."



Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>. Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials <http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

More specifically related to this course, academic dishonesty includes:

- **copying someone else's work or representing someone else's work as your own when doing homework**
- **emailing another student your homework file, or sharing the file in another way**
- **communicating with other individuals while taking a quiz or exam**
- **discussing or sharing quiz/exam content with anyone who has already taken the quiz/exam or has yet to take the quiz/exam**
- **referencing books, notes, the internet, or "cheat sheets" during quizzes (except when authorized)**
- **failing to report witnessed academic dishonesty, regardless of participating in it**

Violators will automatically receive a grade of zero on the assignment or exam and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

### **Attendance**

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Since this is an online course, physical attendance is not required. Your full participation in the course is required to do well.

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

## **Student Resources**

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### **Student Support Services**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#) by appointment, [drop-in tutoring](#), [mentoring](#) (time management, study skills, etc.), [major-based learning centers](#), [counseling](#), and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [Resource Hotline](#) (<http://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/success-programs/programs/resource-hotline.php>).

### **IDEAS Center**

The [IDEAS Center](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** [tutoring](#) and [mentoring](#) to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at [www.uta.edu/IDEAS](http://www.uta.edu/IDEAS), or call (817) 272-6593.

### **The English Writing Center (411LIBR)**

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](https://uta.mywconline.com) (<https://uta.mywconline.com>). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services



for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](#) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor [Academic Plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (<http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library's hours](#) of operation.

### **Librarian to Contact**

Each academic unit has access to [Librarians by Academic Subject](#) that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves.

### **Research or General Library Help**

- [Academic Plaza Consultation Services](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) ([library.uta.edu/academic-plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza))
- [Ask Us](http://ask.uta.edu/) ([ask.uta.edu/](http://ask.uta.edu/))
- [Library Tutorials](http://library.uta.edu/how-to) ([library.uta.edu/how-to](http://library.uta.edu/how-to))
- [Subject and Course Research Guides](http://libguides.uta.edu) ([libguides.uta.edu](http://libguides.uta.edu))
- [Librarians by Subject](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) ([library.uta.edu/subject-librarians](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians))
- [Research Coaches](http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach) (<http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach>)
- [A to Z List of Library Databases](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php) ([libguides.uta.edu/az.php](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php))
- [Course Reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves) ([https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course\\_reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves))
- [Study Room Reservations](http://openroom.uta.edu/) ([openroom.uta.edu/](http://openroom.uta.edu/))

## **Institution Information**

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UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.php) page (<http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.php>) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

## **Emergency Phone Numbers**

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In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381.