The procedure is available in the following wiki helpdesk page:

https://wiki.cse.tamu.edu/index.php/How_to_Use_MySQL

Students can claim the account from a CSNET link (described in the above page) and the account gets activated within 5 minutes (sometimes immediately).

Basically the steps are (just copying from the above page):

How to claim a database account

1. Using your preferred web browser to go to
   http://csnet.cs.tamu.edu/

   NOTE: You must either be on campus or using VPN to access this site.

2. Log in by entering your CS username and web password.

   If you have forgotten your password or need assistance logging in please visit the helpdesk in room 221 HRBB or room 111E RDMC.

3. On the left hand side of the window, under "My Account", click "My Profile".

4. On the left hand side of the window, under "Special", click "Database Accounts".

5. From here you can see what database accounts you have set up. To set up an account, click the check box for the respective account and then enter your desired password.

6. Click submit.

7. Return to this page to change your account password(s) for your database account(s).

   After submitting the request may take up to 5 minutes to be processed.

Connecting to MySQL
There are several ways to connect to the MySQL database. You may connect via a command line application which allows you to directly enter SQL queries or have your application connect to the database.

1. Using an SSH client such as PuTTY, login to either of the following servers.
   compute.cs.tamu.edu or linux2.cs.tamu.edu

2. At the command prompt run the mysql command as follows:
   mysql -h database2.cs.tamu.edu -u yourusername -p

3. Enter your database password at the prompt.
   Welcome to the MySQL monitor. Commands end with ; or \g.
   Your MySQL connection id is 3 to server version: 4.1.9-nt
   Type help; or \h for help. Type \c to clear the buffer.
   mysql>
   From this prompt you may enter SQL queries to access the database. To quit mysql use the quit command.
Here is a correction of a small error in the above instruction:

For example, if your username were `username`, and you already had a database named `username`, you would type the following commands to:

1. create a new database,

```sql
mysql> create database `username-db1`; <-- this semicolon is missing
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.03 sec)
```