

UNDERGRADUATE

Catalog 2018-2019



Summary of Catalog Revisions

The following changes have been made to the 2018-2019 Undergraduate Catalog:

Effective Spring 2019

Financial Responsibility, Page 35

Previous Policy:

(1-23-19)

State universities cannot extend credit. Students are expected to meet financial obligations to the University within the designated time allowed. Tuition and fees are payable at the time of registration, and students are not entitled to enter class or laboratory until all these charges have been paid (Exception: See [Payment by Installment](#) on p. 39.)

Other charges are due within 10 days after a bill is rendered by the university, or according to the special payment instructions that may be printed on the bill. Failure to pay the amount owed in the allotted time can result in withdrawal from classes; the withholding of registration privileges, official transcripts, grades and degrees, university disciplinary action, and other penalties and actions authorized by law.

A student is only registered in the university and entitled to university privileges after he or she has paid all required tuition and fees. A hold against reentry is imposed on a student who fails to pay a debt owed to the university.

Initial payment of tuition and fees may be made by personal check, money order payable to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, credit card (Visa, MasterCard, and Discover only), or cash. Students are advised to exercise care in paying charges by check. When a bad check for tuition and fees is returned to the university, a \$25 returned check service charge is assessed, and the student is given 10 days from receipt of notice to make full payment by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to comply will result in the penalties described above.

Revised Policy:

State universities cannot extend credit. Students are expected to meet financial obligations to the University within the designated time allowed. Tuition and fees are payable at the time of registration, and students are not entitled to enter class or laboratory until all these charges have been paid (Exception: See [Payment by Installment](#) on p. 39.)

Other charges are due within 10 days after a bill is rendered by the university, or according to the special payment instructions that may be printed on the bill. Failure to pay the amount owed in the allotted time can result in withdrawal from classes; the withholding of registration privileges, official transcripts, grades and degrees, university disciplinary action, and other penalties and actions authorized by law. When full payment of Tuition and Fees is not received by the first tuition due date, a **non-refundable** \$50 late payment fee will be assessed to the student's account.

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Initial payment of tuition and fees may be made by personal check, money order payable to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, credit card (Visa, MasterCard, and Discover only), or cash. Students are advised to exercise care in paying charges by check. When a bad check for tuition and fees is returned to the university, a \$25 **non-refundable** returned check service charge is assessed, and the student is given 10 days from receipt of notice to make full payment by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to comply will result in the penalties described above.

A listing of **non-refundable** fees is shown below:

Credit Card Convenience Fee	1.9% added for credit card payments applied to student account billings
Emergency Loan Origination Fee	1% of loan amount
Emergency Loan Late Payment Fee	Balance up to \$500: \$10 per month
	Balance \$500.01 - \$1000: \$20 per month
	Balance greater than \$1000: \$30 per month
	Maximum Charge: \$90
Installment Plan Processing Fee	\$ 30 per academic term
Installment Late Payment Fee	\$5 per late payment; additional \$25 if not paid within 3 days after the due date
Late Payment Fee	\$50 per academic term
Loan Application Fee	\$5
Loan Late Payment Fee	\$5 per month; \$30 maximum
Returned Check Fee	\$25

Tuition and Mandatory Fees, Page 38

Previous Policy:

(1-23-19)

Tuition, fees and charges are assessed to students based on credit hours, at a fixed rate per semester, by course or for specific services. Tuition and fees are subject to change by legislative or regental action and become effective on the date enacted. The Texas Legislature, except for basic tuition, does not set the specific amount for any particular student fee. The student fees assessed are authorized by state statute; however, the University Administration and The University of Texas System Board of Regents make the specific fee amounts and the determination to increase fees in accordance with state law.

Tuition and mandatory fees are the academic costs required of all students for general enrollment. Included are fees charged to support the student union, recreation center, medical services, student services, and university services.

Rates are guaranteed to not increase for up to 4 years. Undergraduates are given a guarantee tuition between 1 and 4 years. Masters students will receive a 2-year guarantee and doctoral students (except medical students) will receive a 4-year guarantee.

Each student will be locked into a guaranteed tuition plan (GTP) rate code based on the semester of initial college enrollment following high school graduation and, if first enrolling before Fall 2014, prior earned college hours. This determination will be finalized by the official census date which falls on the 12th class day of fall and spring semesters, the 4th class day for summer sessions, and the 5th class day for accelerated online program sessions.

If changes in the student record are made after the census date which would justify a change in the assigned GTP rate, the revised rate will be applied starting with the following semester. Charges for current and prior semesters will not be restated. This includes changes resulting from submission of additional transcripts by the student after the census date.

In addition, resident tuition, and mandatory fees are capped at 12 semester credit hours.

Review UTRGV's tuition and mandatory fee charges at www.utrgv.edu/tuition-fees.

Revised Policy:

Tuition, fees and charges are assessed to students based on credit hours, at a fixed rate per semester, by course or for specific services. Tuition and fees are subject to change by legislative or regental action and become effective on the date enacted. The Texas Legislature, except for basic tuition, does not set the specific amount for any particular student fee. The student fees assessed are authorized by state statute; however, the University Administration and The University of Texas System Board of Regents make the specific fee amounts and the determination to increase fees in accordance with state law.

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Review UTRGV's tuition and mandatory fee charges at www.utrgv.edu/tuition-fees.

Outstanding Student Balances, Page 43

Previous Policy:

(1-23-19)

Students with outstanding balances who are no longer attending UTRGV are required to pay 100% of their total balance before any University services are provided. This includes, but is not limited to, the release of any official transcript.

Students with outstanding balances who are currently enrolled at UTRGV are required to pay 50% of their total balance before any University services are provided including registration for classes. When this partial payment is made, the hold will be lifted to allow services or registration and the remaining balance will be paid in four monthly installments (weekly for summer sessions).

Effective August 1, 2018: Students who do not pay their outstanding balance in full after one year from the date of last attendance will be assessed a 23% collection fee*, sent to an external collection agency and subject to credit bureau reporting.

* Fee is based on current contract with external collection agency and subject to change.

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Students with outstanding balances who are currently enrolled at UTRGV are required to pay 50% of their total balance before any University services are provided including registration for classes. When this partial payment is made, the hold will be lifted to allow services or registration and the remaining balance will be paid in four monthly installments (weekly for summer sessions).

Effective August 1, 2018: Students who do not pay their outstanding balance in full after one year from the date of last attendance will be sent to an external collection agency and subject to credit bureau reporting.

Use of Institutional Funds to Cover Outstanding Student Balances, Page 44

Previous Policy:

(1-23-19)

The use of institutional funds, such as Texas Grants and scholarships, will be applied to student account balances as follows:

- Tuition and mandatory fees
- Additional course fees
- Incidental use fees

Some students are normally awarded sufficient financial aid (mostly referred to as Title IV funds; examples include Pell Grant, SEOG, Direct Loans, etc.) and non-Title IV funds or **institutional** funds

(Texas Grants, scholarships, etc.) to cover all tuition and related fees. However, in situations where this financial aid is not sufficient, students are responsible for 100% of their remaining balance.

When students withdraw before the end of the semester, this may result in the reversal of Title IV funds that were previously awarded and may create a balance in the student's account. In most cases, this student account balance is created after all student refunds for the term have been processed. This balance is now owed to UTRGV and known as a student account receivable.

To address student account balances stemming from Title IV reversals, UTRGV reserves the right to apply pending institutional refunds from the current term retroactively to any unpaid prior term balance(s). After this application, remaining credit balances, if any, will be processed as a disbursement (refund) to the student.

Revised Policy:

The use of institutional funds, such as Texas Grants and scholarships, will be applied to student account balances as follows:

- Tuition and mandatory fees
- Additional course fees
- Incidental use fees

Some students are normally awarded sufficient financial aid (mostly referred to as Title IV funds; examples include Pell Grant, SEOG, Direct Loans, etc.) and non-Title IV funds or **institutional** funds (Texas Grants, scholarships, etc.) to cover all tuition and related fees. However, in situations where this financial aid is not sufficient, students are responsible for 100% of their remaining balance, which now becomes a student account receivable.

When students withdraw before the end of the semester, this may result in the reversal of Title IV funds that were previously awarded and may create a balance in the student's account. In most cases, this student account balance is created after all student refunds for the term have been processed. This balance is now owed to UTRGV and known as a student account receivable.

To address student account receivables balances (which may include reversal of Title IV funds), UTRGV reserves the right to apply pending **institutional** refunds from the current term retroactively to any unpaid prior term balance(s). After this application, remaining credit balances, if any, will be processed as a disbursement (refund) to the student.

Short-Term Loans, Page 62

Previous Policy:

(1-23-19)

Made possible through donations from a number of individuals and organizations, these funds are administered by the Financial Aid Office and are available to students for short-term loans. Loans are limited in funding and must be repaid within the semester for which they are borrowed. The loans are designed to aid students who do not have sufficient funds to purchase books and supplies or to assist students when emergencies arise. A \$5 processing fee is assessed to each loan and funding is limited.

Students interested in applying for short-term loans are advised to apply in person at the Financial Aid Office at the beginning of each semester.

Revised Policy:

Made possible through donations from a number of individuals and organizations, these funds are administered by the Financial Aid Office and are available to students for short-term loans. Loans are limited in funding and must be repaid within the semester for which they are borrowed. The loans are designed to aid students who do not have sufficient funds to purchase books and supplies or to assist students when emergencies arise. A \$5 **non-refundable** processing fee and a \$5 **non-refundable** loan late payment fee are assessed to each loan and funding is limited. Students interested in applying for short-term loans are advised to apply in person at the Financial Aid Office at the beginning of each semester.

Emergency Tuition and Fee Loans, Page 62

Previous Policy:

(1-23-19)

Emergency loans are available to UTRGV students needing assistance in paying registration costs. Emergency loans must be paid back to the university during the same semester in which they are borrowed. An applicant will be assessed a 1% processing fee per semester. Students may borrow up to the amount of tuition and applicable fees. For more information, please contact the Emergency Loan Office.

Revised Policy:

Emergency loans are available to UTRGV students needing assistance in paying registration costs. Emergency loans must be paid back to the university during the same semester in which they are borrowed. Emergency Loans not paid by the due date will be assessed **non-refundable** late payment fees as shown in the table below. An applicant will be assessed a 1% **non-refundable** processing fee per semester. Students may borrow up to the amount of tuition and applicable fees. For more information, please contact Student Accounting Services - Emergency Loan Office.

Emergency Loan Late Payment Fee	Balance up to \$500: \$10 per month
	Balance \$500.01 - \$1000: \$20 per month
	Balance greater than \$1000: \$30 per month
	Maximum Charge: \$90

Effective Fall 2018

Student Complaint Procedures, Page 134

New Policy:

(11-19-18)

UTRGV Complaint Processes

(compliant with DOE "Program Integrity" Regulations)

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Texas Administrative Code ([19 TAC § 1.110-1.120](#)) require The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to provide a student complaint procedure that complies with the U.S. Department of Education's "Program Integrity" regulations as part of UTRGV's eligibility for Title IV federal funds. The THECB complaint process may be found [here](#).

Students wishing to file a formal complaint under the THECB process must ensure they have first brought their complaint to UTRGV's attention through UTRGV's complaint processes. Students may submit complaints through [Vaqueros Report It](#). If the matter is unresolved after exhausting UTRGV's complaint processes, the student may then file a formal complaint with THECB.

Students making a complaint to the THECB may submit [required forms and supporting documentation](#) in PDF format by email to studentcomplaints@theqb.state.tx.us, or by regular mail to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Office of General Counsel, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, TX 78711-2788. Original documents should not be submitted, as the THECB cannot return documents received.

Accreditation-related complaints regarding UTRGV's accreditation may be made to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) under its [complaint procedures](#). A complainant should complete SACSCOC's Complaint Form and send two signed copies to the President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097. The details of the SACSCOC complaint process explain that it is intended to address significant, documented, alleged non-compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards, policies, or procedures. Complainants are expected to have attempted to resolve the issue through UTRGV's complaint processes before filing a complaint with SACSCOC.

UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

Students at The [University of Texas Rio Grande Valley](#) must complete the degree requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of their enrollment or a subsequent catalog. Each catalog is valid for a period of seven years from its effective date. Students enrolled beyond the applicability of their catalog of enrollment must meet the requirements of a subsequent catalog, per the recommendation of their academic advisor. This recommendation will be made based on the catalog most likely to facilitate timely graduation. Students who are not enrolled for more than two long semesters will re-enroll under the new catalog in effect at the time of re-enrollment. The University reserves the right to make changes to curriculum and co-curricular requirements, courses, fees, calendar, graduation procedures, and graduation requirements at any time in order to comply with federal, state, UT System, or UT Board of Regents rules and regulations.

It is the responsibility of the students to be familiar with degree requirements stated in their catalog. UTRGV will publish its academic catalog annually in undergraduate and graduate editions, respectively, on the university's website under the address www.utrgv.edu/catalog. Hard copies of the academic catalog will not be made available.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley operates subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System. This catalog is a general information publication. It is not intended to nor does it contain all regulations that relate to students. The provisions of this catalog do not constitute a contract, express or implied, between any applicant, student or faculty member of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley or The University of Texas System.

Date of Publication: October 26, 2018

Accreditation

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

In addition, specific programs are separately accredited or approved by the:

- Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)
- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
- American Occupational Therapy Association, Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) - Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA)
- The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International)
- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP)
- Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
- The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)
- National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS)
- National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)
- National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)
- State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)
- Texas Board of Nursing (BON)

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is a member of:

- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- American Council on Education
- Association for Continuing Higher Education
- Council for Advancement and Support of Education
- Council of Graduate Schools
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Public Use of Facilities

The property, buildings or facilities owned or controlled by The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley are not open for assembly, speech or other activities as are the public streets, sidewalks and parks. The responsibility of the UT System Board of Regents to operate and maintain an effective and efficient system of institutions of higher education requires that the time, place and manner of assembly, speech and other activities on the grounds and in the buildings and facilities of the UT System or component institutions be regulated.

No person, organization, group, association or corporation may use property, buildings or facilities owned or controlled by The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley for any purpose other than in the course of the regular programs or activities related to the role and mission of the university, unless authorized by the Regents Rules and Regulations and/or the [UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures](#). Any authorized use must be conducted in compliance with the provisions of the Regents Rules and Regulations, [UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures](#), and applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Anyone from outside the university who is seeking information about scheduling and use of University Special Use Facilities should contact [Conference & Event Services](#) (Student Union) at 956-665-7989 or email conferences@utrgv.edu. For more information, consult the Regents Rules and Regulations Rule 80101 and [UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures](#) Section: [ADM 10-301](#) (Facility Use).

Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) declares and reaffirms a policy of administering all of its educational programs and related supporting services and benefits in a manner that does not discriminate because of a student's or prospective student's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, or other characteristics that lawfully cannot be the basis for provision of such services. These programs, services and benefits include, but are not limited to, admission, class assignments, scholarships and other financial and employment assistance, counseling, physical education and recreational services, and the membership practices of registered student organizations. Pursuant to this policy statement, UTRGV will undertake a continuing program of compliance with all federal, state and local laws relating to equal educational opportunity and affirmative action, specifically those addressing the obligations of the institution under Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended.

UTRGV has designated the following individuals to direct inquiries or complaints to:

- The immediate supervisor;
- Director of the [Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity](#): 956-665-2103;
- [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#): 956-665-5375 or 956-882-5034;
- [Student Accessibility Services](#): 956-665-7005 or 956-882-7374; or
- [Office of Human Resources](#): 956-665-3020 or 956-882-2451.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Title IX of the U.S. Department of Education's Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or gender in any aspect of a federally funded education program or activity. Such discrimination includes, but is not limited to sexual harassment, sexual violence, sex or gender-based bullying, hazing, stalking, domestic violence, dating violence, and failure to provide equal opportunity in admissions, activities, employment or athletics.

As a recipient of federal funds, UTRGV complies with Title IX and has designated a Title IX Coordinator to oversee all complaints of sex discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems that arise during the review of such complaints. Additionally, other responsibilities include the coordination of training, education, and communications regarding Title IX procedures for the university community.

UTRGV has designated the following individual to serve as the Title IX Coordinator:

Florence Nocar

Interim Director of the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity
Phone: 956-665-2103

florence.nocar@utrgv.edu

A student, staff, faculty member, or applicant for admission or employment who believes that he or she has been discriminated against on the basis of sex, may file a complaint with the Title IX Coordinator or a Title IX Responsible Employee as provided by UTRGV HOP ADM 03-100, Non Discrimination and Complaint Procedure, or ADM 03-300, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct, as applicable. The Title IX Coordinator will ensure that action is taken to resolve the complaint in a prompt and equitable manner.

Sexual Violence

To report sexual violence, please contact UTRGV Police, in addition to, the Title IX Coordinator.

University Police Department

Emergency: 911

Emergency: 956-882-4911

External Reporting

You can also direct inquiries about Title IX, and UTRGV's compliance to:

U.S. Department of Education – Office of Civil Rights

400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202
Hotline: 1-800-421-3481
TDD#: 1-800-521-2172

OCR@ed.gov
<http://www.ed.gov/ocr>

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2018-2019

Additional term dates for accelerated programs and non-standard classes may be found online at <https://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/student-experience/calendars/index.htm>

Fall 2018

Aug. 27	Classes Begin
Sept. 3	Labor Day Holiday. No classes.
Sept. 12	Census Day
Nov. 14	Drop/Withdrawal Deadline
Nov. 22-24	Thanksgiving Holiday Error! Bookmark not defined.
Dec. 6	Study Day. No classes.
Dec. 7-13	Final Exams
Dec. 14 and 15	Commencement

Spring 2019

Jan. 14	Classes Begin
Jan. 21	MLK Day Holiday. No classes.
Jan 30	Census Day
Mar. 11-16	Spring Break. No classes.
Apr. 10	Drop/Withdrawal Deadline
Apr. 19-20	Easter Holiday. No classes.
May 2	Study Day. No classes.
May 3-9	Final Exams
May 10 and 11	Commencement

Summer 2019

May 13	Mini-Term Begins
May 14	Mini-Term Census
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday. No classes.
May 31	Mini-Term Final Exams
June 3	Summer 1/Summer 3 Begins
June 6	Summer 1 Census Day
June 18	Summer 3 Census Day
June 27	Summer 1 Drop/Withdrawal Deadline
July 4	Independence Day. No classes.
July 9	Summer 1 Final Exams
July 11	Summer 2 Begins
July 16	Summer 2 Census Day
July 29	Summer 3 Drop/Withdrawal Deadline
Aug. 7	Summer 2 Drop/Withdrawal Deadline
Aug. 16	Summer 2/Summer 3 Final Exams

UNIVERSITY OVERVIEW & QUICK FACTS

Overview

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is a distributed university located in South Texas, with facilities along the Rio Grande Valley and near the Gulf of Mexico. UTRGV has campuses and off-campus research and teaching sites throughout the Rio Grande Valley including in Boca Chica Beach, Brownsville (formerly The University of Texas at Brownsville), Edinburg (formerly The University of Texas-Pan American), Harlingen, McAllen, Port Isabel, Rio Grande City, and South Padre Island. UTRGV, a comprehensive academic institution, enrolled its first class in the fall of 2015, and the School of Medicine welcomed its first class in the summer of 2016.

Mission

To transform the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas, and the world through an innovative and accessible educational environment that promotes student success, research, creative works, health and well-being, community engagement, sustainable development, and commercialization of university discoveries.

Vision

To be one of the nation's leaders in higher education, its premier Hispanic-serving institution, and a highly engaged bilingual university, with exceptional educational, research, and creative opportunities that serve as catalysts for transformation in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

Values

Excellence

Transforming the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas, and the world requires weaving excellence throughout the fabric of the university and into the core of everything we do.

Diversity, Access, and Inclusion

Establishing an accessible educational environment requires that we cultivate and enhance the diverse, multicultural, and linguistic assets of our university and the Rio Grande Valley. UTRGV also promotes access, inclusion, and lifelong learning to ensure that all members of the university community have opportunities to succeed.

Inquiry, Discovery, and Creativity

Igniting, illuminating, and enhancing the talents and passions of the university community for open inquiry, discovery, and creativity inspire generations of lifelong scholars and artists who impact the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

Engagement and Impact

Seeking to be a catalyst for transformation, the university integrates social justice, civic responsibility, innovation, and sustainable development in its endeavors. Such change is best undertaken through interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches across the university and with community, government, business, and non-profit partners.

Shared Governance

Participating in decision-making processes with integrity, trust, and respect is a responsibility of all UTRGV stakeholders. This requires an environment of shared governance, academic freedom, accountability and transparency, and open and honest communication.

Leadership

Instilling a sense of value and empowerment in all members of the university community is a fundamental responsibility of leaders at all levels and involves facilitating professional, intellectual, cultural, and personal growth.

Health and Well-being

Recognizing that our success is integrally related to the condition of our community, UTRGV strives to promote the health and well-being of its students, faculty, and staff, and create a healthy, equitable, and resilient community.

Core Priorities

Student Success

Support our students in achieving their academic goals in a timely manner and reaching their professional aspirations through excellent integrated learning experiences both in and out of the classroom.

Educational Opportunities

Strategically expand educational opportunities from pre-K to post-doc to increase experiential learning, research, creative endeavors, and community-engaged scholarship for people in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

Research Impacting the Rio Grande Valley and Beyond

Increase the number and productivity of faculty and students engaged in research and creative work that improves the lives of people in the RGV and beyond.

Health and Medical Education

Promote a culture of health and well-being for UTRGV and surrounding communities that employs a holistic approach to wellness, health, medical education, training, and research.

Community Engagement

Foster sustainable community-university relationships to enrich scholarship, research, teaching, learning, and creative activities while addressing critical societal issues and contributing to the public good.

Other Key Areas of Focus

Bilingual, Bicultural, Biliterate

Build UTRGV as a bilingual, bicultural, and biliterate university.

Campus Climate and Professional Development and Growth for Faculty and Staff

Cultivate a welcoming, inclusive, and nurturing climate for all faculty and staff.

Globalization

Foster a globally-connected university culture.

Sustainability

Institutionalize sustainability throughout the university and promote sustainability awareness in the community.

University History

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) was created by the Texas Legislature in 2013 as the first major public university of the 21st century in Texas. This transformative initiative provided the opportunity to expand educational opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley, including a new [School of Medicine](#), and made it possible for residents of the region to benefit from the Permanent University Fund – a public endowment contributing support to The University of Texas System and other institutions.

DEGREES AND PROGRAMS

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's eleven academic colleges and schools – Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship, College of Education & P-16 Integration, College of Engineering & Computer Science, College of Fine Arts, College of Health Professions, College of Liberal Arts, College of Sciences, Honors College, Graduate College, University College, School of Nursing, School of Social Work, and School of Medicine – offer a wide range of degree options encompassing a comprehensive series of academic concentrations and selected areas of professional study.

- See [Undergraduate Programs](#) for full listing of undergraduate degree plans, minors and certificates.
- See [General Education Core](#) for full listing of courses that pertain to the core curriculum.
- See [Graduate Catalog](#) for full listing of graduate curriculum.

For a listing of Academic Departments, please visit the Department Directory at www.utrgv.edu/directory/departments.

Undergraduate Academic Programs

Bachelor's Degrees

Robert C. Vackar College of & Entrepreneurship

Accountancy (BBA)	Information Systems (BBA)
Economics (BA, BBA)	International Business (BBA)
Entrepreneurship and Innovation (BS)	Management (BBA)
Finance (BBA)	Marketing (BBA)
Hospitality and Tourism Management (BS)	Materials Management and Logistics (BS)

College of Education & P-16 Integration

Early Care and Early Childhood Studies (BS)	Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS)
Early Care and Early Childhood Studies	<i>Elementary Education (BIL, ESL, SPED)</i>
Early Care and Early Childhood Studies (Teacher Certification)	

College of Engineering & Computer Science

Civil Engineering (BS)	Engineering Technology (BS)
Computer Engineering (BSCE)	Manufacturing Engineering (BSMFGE)
Computer Science (BSCS)	Mechanical Engineering (BSME)
Electrical Engineering (BSEE)	

College of Fine Arts

Art (BFA, BA)	Dance (Teacher Certification)
Art (Graphic Design) BFA	Music (Teacher Certification) BM
Art (Studio Art) BA	Performance (BM)
Art (Latin American Art)BA	Theatre (BA)
Art (Teacher Certification) BA	Theatre
Dance (BA)	Theatre (Teacher Certification)
Dance	

College of Health Professions

Addiction Studies (BS)
Biomedical Sciences (BS)
Clinical Laboratory Science (BS)
Communication Sciences and Disorders (BS)
Exercise Science (BS)
Health (BS)
Health
Health (Teacher Certification)

College of Liberal Arts

Anthropology (BA)
Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS)
Communication Studies (BA)
Communication Studies
Communication Studies (Teacher Certification)
Criminal Justice (BSCJ)
Criminology and Criminal Justice (BSCJ)
English (BA)
English
English (Teacher Certification)
History (BA)
History
History (Teacher Certification)
Mass Communication (BA)
Mass Communication

College of Sciences

Biology (BS)
Biology (Biological Science Focus)
Biology (With Minor)
Biology (Teacher Certification)
Chemistry (BS)
Chemistry
Chemistry (Teacher Certification)
Environmental Science (BS)
Marine Biology (BS)
Mathematics (BS)
Mathematics

School of Nursing

Nursing (BSN)

School of Social Work

Social Work (BSW)

Health Services Technology (BAT)
Kinesiology (BS)
Kinesiology
Kinesiology (Teacher Certification)
Nutritional Sciences
Rehabilitation Services (BS)

Mass Communication (Teacher Certification)
Mexican American Studies (BA)
Multidisciplinary Studies (BMS)
Philosophy (BA)
Political Science (BA)
Psychology (BS)
Social Studies Composite (BA)
Social Studies Composite
Social Studies Composite (Teacher Certification)
Sociology (BA)
Spanish (BA)
Spanish
Spanish (Teacher Certification)
Spanish Translation and Interpreting (BA)

Mathematics (Teacher Certification)
Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS)
Middle School Preparation
(Mathematics, Life Sciences)
Physics (BS)
Physics
Physics (Teacher Certification)
Statistics (BS)
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (BS)

Minors

Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship

Business Administration	Information Systems
Economics	Management
Entrepreneurship	Marketing
Global Logistics	Pre-MBA
Human Resource Management	Sustainable Supply Chain Management
Hospitality and Tourism Management	

College of Education & P-16 Integration

All Level/Secondary Education	Reading
Early Care and Early Childhood Studies	Secondary Bilingual Education
Educational Technology	Special Education
Leadership Studies	Technology Education and Corporate Training

College of Engineering & Computer Science

Computer Engineering	Engineering Physics
Computer Science	Manufacturing Engineering
Electrical Engineering	Mechanical Engineering

College of Fine Arts

Art History	Graphic Design
Art	Music
Dance	Theatre
Expressive Arts	

College of Health Professions

American Sign Language Interpretation	Health Services Technology
Addiction Studies	Kinesiology
Health	Rehabilitation

College of Liberal Arts

Anthropology	Latin American Studies
Asian Studies	Legal Studies
Communication Studies	Mass Communication
Communication	Medical Humanities
Criminal Justice	Medical Spanish
English as a Second Language Instruction (7-12)	Mexican American Studies
English	Military Science
Environmental Studies	Philosophy
Film Studies	Political Science
Folklore	Psychology
French Language, Literature, and Culture	Public Administration
French Teaching, Translation, and Culture	Religious Studies
Gender and Women's Studies	Sociology
Global Security Studies	Spanish Translation
History	Spanish

College of Sciences

Applied Mathematics	Biology
Astronomy	Chemistry
Biochemistry	Environmental Science

Geographic Information Systems
Geology and Earth Science
Middle School Mathematics
Nanotechnology
Physical Science

Physics
Pure Mathematics
Secondary School Mathematics
Statistics

Honors College

Honors (Track 1, Track 2, Track 3)

Certificates

College of Fine Arts

Creative Writing

Performance (Mariachi)

College of Liberal Arts

Dual Language

Healthcare Interpreting

College of Sciences

Medical Entomology

Graduate Degrees

Doctoral Degrees

Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship

Business Administration (Ph.D.)

College of Education & P-16 Integration

Curriculum and Instruction (Ed.D.)

Educational Leadership (Ed.D.)

College of Health Professions

Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) in cooperation with
The University of Texas at Austin

Rehabilitation Counseling (Ph.D.)

College of Liberal Arts

Clinical Psychology (Ph.D.)

College of Sciences

Physics (Ph.D.) in cooperation with The University of Arlington

Master's Degrees

Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship

Accountancy (MACC)
Business Administration (MBA)

College of Education & P-16 Integration

Bilingual Education (M.Ed.)
Counseling (M.Ed.)
Curriculum and Instruction (M.Ed.)
Early Childhood (M.Ed.)

Educational Diagnostician (M.Ed.)
Educational Leadership (M.Ed.)
Educational Technology (M.Ed.)
Reading and Literacy (M.Ed.)

School Psychology (MA)
Special Education (M.Ed.)

College of Engineering & Computer Science

Civil Engineering (MS)
Computer Science (MS)
Electrical Engineering (MSE)
Engineering Management (MS)

College of Fine Arts

Art (MFA)
Creative Writing (MFA)

College of Health Professions

Communication Sciences and Disorders (MS)
Exercise Science (MS)
Health Sciences (MS)
Kinesiology (MS)
Occupational Therapy (MS)

College of Liberal Arts

Clinical Psychology (MA)
Communication (MA)
Criminal Justice (MS)
Disaster Studies (MA)
English (MA)
English as a 2nd Language (MA)
Experimental Psychology (MA)
History (MA)
Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS)

College of Sciences

Agricultural, Environmental and
Sustainability Sciences (MS)
Biology (MS)
Chemistry (MS)

School of Nursing

Nursing Administration (MSN)
Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN)
Nursing Education (MSN)

School of Social Work

Social Work (MSSW)

Certification Programs

College of Education and P-16 Integration

Master Reading Teacher
Teacher Certification (Principal or Superintendent)
Assessment of Exceptional Learners

Teacher Leadership (M.Ed.)

Information Technology (MS)
Manufacturing Engineering (MSE)
Mechanical Engineering (MSE)

Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS)
Latin American Art History
Music (MM)

Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS)
Physician Assistant Studies – Bridge
Program (MPAS)
Rehabilitation Counseling (MS)

Anthropology
English
History
Mexican American Studies

Political Science (MA)
Public Affairs (MPA)
Sociology (MS)
Spanish (MA)
Spanish Translation and Interpreting (MA)

Interdisciplinary Studies (MSIS)
Science & Technology
Mathematics (MS)
Ocean, Coastal and Earth Sciences (MS)
Physics (MS)

Certificate Programs

Robert C Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship

Advanced Business Administration
Business Analytics

Customs and International Trade
Health Care Administration Leadership

College of Education and P-16 Integration

Bilingual Education
Board Certified Behavioral Analyst
Digital Literacy Leader
E-Learning

Higher Education Teaching
Technology Leadership in Education
TxVSN Digital Literacies

College of Engineering and Computer Science

Materials
Mechanics and Design

Thermal Fluid Science

College of Fine Arts

Design

Latin American Art History

College of Health Professions

Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

College of Liberal Arts

Advanced Placement Spanish Literature
Board Certified Behavioral Analyst
Communication Training and Consulting
Court Interpreting
Gender and Women's Studies
Healthcare Interpreting
Literary Translation
Localization and Audiovisual Translation
Media Relations and Strategic Communication
Mexican American Studies
Secondary English Language Arts
Spanish Translation and Interpreting

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UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION POLICIES

General Information

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is an equal opportunity educational institution. Under this philosophy, students are admitted to the university without regard to race, creed, color, sex, ethnic origin, religion, age, veteran status or disability.

Admission is for the term in which the student applies to the institution. Students who do not attend must submit an updated application at www.applytexas.org for admission to enroll for a later semester. Students are admitted to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley through the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#), which is responsible for administering admission policies. Students who wish to attend the university must meet all admission requirements by the published deadline date for the semester for which they are applying. Failure to have applications with supporting documents on file by these dates will result in restrictive admission or denial of admission at that time.

Documents must be sent to:

Office of the Vice President for Strategic Enrollment

One West University Blvd. The Tower, Main, Rm. 1.101 Brownsville, TX 78520	1201 West University Dr. Visitors Center, Rm. 1.113 Edinburg, TX 78539	Phone: 1-888-882-4026
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Required high school and/or college transcripts must be requested from each individual institution attended. The official transcripts must be sent by the institution directly to the above address or may be hand delivered as long as they are in a sealed envelope from the institution. Information regarding how test scores may be requested may be obtained by contacting [Testing Services](#) at 956-882-8875 for the UTRGV Brownsville Campus or 956-665-7570 for the UTRGV Edinburg Campus.

ApplyTexas Application

In accordance with Sections 51.762 and 51.763 of the Texas Education Code, students have the opportunity to apply to any public institution in the state of Texas through a common application process. Please check with the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#) for full details. The application is available online at www.applytexas.org.

Application Deadlines

There are two admission application deadlines for each semester and summer session at the university. The first deadline is usually the first workday in February for both summer sessions and the fall semester or the first workday in November for the spring semester.

The second application deadline is for late registration. Specific deadline dates for each semester are listed in the Schedule of Classes and in the University Calendar.

Academic Fresh Start

For Undergraduate Programs, an applicant for admission who is a Texas resident may seek to enter this institution pursuant to the "[Academic Fresh Start](#)" statute, Texas Education Code, Section 51.931. When the applicant informs the Office of the Registrar in writing of the election, the institution, for admissions

purposes, will not consider academic course credits or grades earned by the applicant 10 or more years prior to the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll. An applicant who makes the election to apply under this statute may not receive any course credit for courses taken 10 or more years prior to enrollment.

Criminal Background Checks

Certain programs require students to submit to and satisfactorily complete a criminal background check review as a condition of admission and/or participation in education experiences. Students who refuse to submit to a background check or who do not pass the background check may be dismissed from the program. See [UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures](#) for more information.

Additionally, many Texas school districts require applicants for student teaching or field experiences to undergo a criminal history background check prior to placement in the school district. School districts may deny placement of students with a criminal background. If a school district denies a placement for this reason, the UTRGV Office of Student Teaching and Field Experiences may attempt to assist the student in obtaining a placement in an alternate district. Students should be aware, however, that if they are unable to obtain a placement they will not meet UTRGV's requirements for a teaching degree or teacher certification. Additionally, The Texas State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) regulates the certification of educators to teach Texas public school children. Before an individual can be certified, SBEC must conduct a criminal history background check to ensure an applicant's suitability to interact with children. Working with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), the agency conducts statewide criminal history background checks on all applicants for educator certification. Students pursuing educator preparation should be aware that some criminal histories may lead to the denial of certification as a teacher. Students may obtain additional information from SBEC.

Undergraduate Admission Process

Freshman Admission

Applicants who have not attended a college or university after graduating from high school, may seek admission as a freshman.

Admission Documents Required

1. Application for Admission. The application is available at www.applytexas.org.
2. ACT or SAT scores sent directly from the testing agency. The UTRGV school code is ACT 6991 and SAT 6568.
3. A high school transcript that indicates diploma type, class rank, class size and GPA.
4. Official college transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. Transcripts must be sent directly from the institution(s) attended electronically or by mail or may be hand delivered as long as the document is in a sealed envelope from the institution. Students who are currently enrolled at another institution should request a transcript to be sent with the coursework completed to date, followed by a final transcript to be sent upon completion of the current semester. Only coursework or degrees earned at an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association will be recognized.
5. Documents required after admission follow:
Advancement placement scores if applicable. [Texas Success Initiative](#) (TSI) approved test scores or proof of exemption for students who plan to enroll in college-level coursework. Test scores

from approved TSI exams or TSI exemption will not be used as a basis for admission, but will be used to determine placement. Medical records documenting Meningitis Vaccination(s) will not be used for admission purposes, but is a requirement for enrollment. Official final high school transcript is required to be on file and is a supporting document for financial aid.

Admission Requirements

A profile will be created from all of the information submitted and admissions decisions will be based on that profile and their accomplishments in high school.

Factors review include:

- Class Rank
- Prior college hours
- College Entrance Exams (ACT/SAT)
- Rigor of High School Courses Completed
- Leadership Experience
- Community Involvement
- Career Goals

Top 10 Percent Applicants from Texas High Schools¹ — Applicants who graduate from recognized public or private high schools in Texas with a class rank in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class and have successfully completed the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation, Recommended, or Advanced High School Program from a Texas public high school will be automatically admitted to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Recipients – Applicants who receive an International Baccalaureate Diploma will be automatically admitted to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

State of Texas Uniform Admission Standards

A student scheduled to graduate from a Texas private high school may be considered for admission to a Texas public university if the student has completed the Minimum, Recommended High School Program, or its equivalent, the Distinguished Achievement Program (also known as the Advanced High School Program), or its equivalent, or has achieved college readiness scores on the ACT or SAT entrance exams. Students of Texas private high schools who have completed only a portion of the Minimum, Recommended or Distinguished Achievement Program because the courses are not available to the student may still be eligible for admission to a Texas public university.

Students who do not complete a college preparatory high school program may also gain regular admission if they satisfy the ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks (new scores as of September 2013) on the ACT assessment, or earn a score of at least a **1550** on the SAT assessment which does include the writing component (*SAT test scores prior to March 2016*).

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks Section	Test Score
English	18
Math	22
Reading	22
Science	23

¹ While Top 10 percent or IB admission is automatic, the documents described above must be submitted by the admission deadline in order to take advantage of the automatic admission.

Non-accredited High School, Home School, and GED Students

Students who attended a non-accredited high school or home school and those who received a GED may be admitted by scoring a minimum of 1550 on the SAT (*SAT test scores prior to March 2016*) including the writing component or by meeting the College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT Assessment.

Students graduating from private high schools in Texas can be documented by the students' high school using one of the forms found at <https://www.utrgv.edu/undergraduate-admissions/freshman-students/how-to-apply/index.htm>:

- **TPHSC-Form 1:** Students who graduated in 2010 or before from Texas private schools and Texas public schools
- **TPHSC-Form 2:** Students who will graduate in 2011 or after from Texas private schools and Texas public schools
- **TPHSC-Form 3:** For students graduating under the Foundation High School program in 2015 or later

GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (GED) APPLICANT

Applicants who did not graduate from an accredited high school but who have successfully passed all five-subject tests and received a GED certificate may be considered for admission to UTRGV.

The State of Texas Uniform Admissions Policy also applies to GED graduates. Since a GED graduate cannot provide curriculum information, either the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or the required SAT assessment scores must have been achieved for admittance to a Texas general academic teaching institution. Therefore, the application will not be processed without the SAT or ACT scores to consider.

Transfer Admission

Applicants who last attended an accredited college or university other than The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley may seek admission as a transfer student by submitting their application at www.applytexas.org. Official transcripts, from each institution attended, must also be provided to The [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#). A cumulative GPA of 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required on all academic transfer coursework attempted. Students who are currently enrolled at another institution at the time of application will have their admission decision based on work completed at the time of application. In addition, the applicant must be in good academic standing at the transferring institution. Applicants transferring less than 24 hours must also meet [Freshman Admission requirements](#) (see p. 14).

Admission Documents Required

Applicants seeking admission as a transfer student are required to submit the following documents by the published deadline date to be considered for admission. Applications received after the published deadline date will automatically be processed for the next available semester.

1. Application for Admission. The application is available at www.applytexas.org.
2. Official college transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. Transcripts must be sent directly from the institution(s) attended or may be hand delivered as long as the document is in a sealed envelope from the institution. Students who are currently enrolled at another institution should request a transcript to be sent with the coursework completed to date, followed by a final transcript to be sent upon completion of the current semester. Only

coursework or degrees earned at an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association will be recognized.

3. Texas Success Initiative (TSI) approved test scores or proof of exemption for students who plan to enroll in college-level coursework. Test scores from approved TSI exams or TSI exemption will not be used as a basis for admission, but will be used to determine placement. Refer to p. 81 for further information.

Transfer students who have fewer than 24 college-level hours must also submit:

1. ACT or SAT scores.

High school transcript showing the units completed, grades earned, date of graduation, graduation program type and rank in class. In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.803(e), an applicant is entitled to automatic admission if he/she meets the UTRGV minimum requirements and is a child of certain public servants who were killed or sustained fatal injury in the line of duty.

The [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#) will make every effort to inform applicants of incomplete files. If incomplete applications are received within one month of the application deadline, there will not be sufficient time to notify applicants. Applicants will be issued a UTRGV ID number to be used as a student identification number. Students may use the UTRGV ID or their social security number when requesting information regarding their records.

All documents submitted become the property of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Admission documents submitted will remain on file for one year, if the student does not attend, or for five years if the student attends The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Documents will not be returned.

Admission Requirements

Assured admission is in place for transfer applicants who have earned an associate's degree from an accredited college. For applicants with 24 college-level hours or more a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required. For applicants with less than 24 college-level hours, the entering freshman admission requirements must be followed in addition to a minimum college GPA of 2.0.

Selected applicants who do not qualify for admission will be allowed the opportunity to appeal the decision. For more information contact the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#).

Notification of Admission Decisions

Admission decisions are made throughout the application period and announced as soon as possible. The decision may be to accept pending completion of high school or current college enrollment, or to deny the application. Applicants who were accepted pending completion of high school or current college enrollment are required to submit final transcripts when that institution has transcribed all coursework and final grade calculations. New applicants accepted for admission are required to attend [New Student Orientation](#) prior to enrolling for courses.

Suspected Fraudulent Admission Applications

Applicants for admission to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley should be aware that the information submitted will be relied upon by University officials to determine their status for admission and residency for tuition purposes. Failure to submit a complete and correct application, including all transcripts, is grounds for rejection of application, withdrawal of an offer of acceptance or, after

enrollment, any disciplinary action including expulsion. Any applicant, whether a new student or a former student at the university, who has attended another collegiate institution is not at liberty to disregard any part of the collegiate records and apply for admission to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley on the basis of the high school record or a partial record of his or her college work, but is subject without exception to the regulations given above. Students who have course credit or grades earned 10 or more years ago may elect to be readmitted under the [Academic Fresh Start](#) program. See p. 13 for more information.

Outreach to Prospective Transfer Students

In an effort to help facilitate the transfer process from two-year and four-year institutions to UTRGV, several programs and resources have been established to assist transfer students.

UTRGV provides a host of transfer resources such as the [Transfer Course Equivalency Guide](#) found under the "Student Services" tab at my.utrgv.edu can assist transfer students in evaluating how their existing course credits might satisfy the requirements of a UTRGV degree plan. Additional information on transfer coursework can be found at tccns.org.

For more information on transferring to UTRGV, please visit the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#) website at www.utrgv.edu/admissions or call 956-665-7442.

Transfer of Undergraduate Credits

Transfer of regular academic credit to or recognition of degrees from another institution by The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley involves at least three considerations:

1. The educational quality of the institution from which the student transfers.
2. The comparability of the nature, content and level of credit earned to that offered by UTRGV.
3. The appropriateness and applicability of credit earned to the programs offered by UTRGV, in light of the student's educational Goals.

Course Transferability

Academic courses that are comparable in content to those offered at UTRGV are transferable. There will be exceptions to this rule in the case of the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) and the Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) degrees.

Transfer courses with passing grades are applicable towards the student's degree at UTRGV. The exception to this rule is when a higher grade is required within the degree or general education requirements, which would apply equally whether the course was completed at UTRGV or a transferring institution.

Transfer admission applicants with foreign educational coursework must have their transcripts evaluated from one of the approved agencies. See the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#) for details about contact information for these agencies.

Transfer Credit Guidelines

The grading policies of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will be applied to all coursework transferring from other institutions. Some special circumstances regarding the transfer or non-transfer of credit to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley are listed as follows:

1. **Bible Coursework:** Exegetical or doctrinal courses in religion are not transferable. Courses in Bible of a historical or literary nature (but non-doctrinal) are transferable up to a maximum of 12 credit hours of lower-division credit.
2. **Incomplete Grades:** Incomplete grades are kept as incomplete until a letter grade has been posted by the transferring institution.
3. **Life Experience:** Normally, no credit will be awarded for life experience. Exception to this rule may include those cases where the credit has been validated either by another regionally accredited institution of higher education, or by a test administered by an academic department and approved by the [Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Success, and P-16 Integration](#).
4. **Remedial Courses:** Courses such as remedial or developmental reading and math, speed reading, remedial science and orientation are not transferable for credit.
5. **Terminal Courses:** Terminal courses offered at many junior colleges are not offered for the purpose of transfer to senior colleges and usually are clearly labeled in the college catalog as being non-transferable. Examples of terminal courses are auto mechanics, machine shop, electricity, data processing and welding.
6. **Vocational/Technical Courses:** Drill or skill courses such as filing methods and vocational or technical training courses such as shop courses, welding, carpentry, plumbing and masonry are not transferable.
7. **Second Undergraduate Degrees:** Transfer students entering with a bachelor's degree who seek a second undergraduate degree from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley must officially request that an evaluation of credits be completed by The [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#) by filling out a "Second Degree Evaluation Form." This form can be picked up at the Admissions office located in UCentral. Completion of a baccalaureate degree at another accredited institution will fulfill The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's general education (core curriculum) requirements exclusive of any state specified coursework. Students will be required to complete the Texas state-mandated coursework in U.S. history and political science if this has not already been completed as part of their first degree. Students must also complete an additional minimum of 30 hours of credit in The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley courses and any other University and departmental requirements for the second degree as stipulated in the catalog.

Disputes for Lower Division Courses

The following policy was developed for students transferring to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley from other Texas public institutions:

1. The transfer of curricula shall be as prescribed by the current issue of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's guide to Transfer Curricula and Transfer of Credit. Current guidelines can be reviewed at the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#).
2. The following procedures shall be followed by public institutions of higher education in the resolution of transfer disputes involving lower division courses:
 - a. If an institution of higher education does not accept a course credit earned by a student at another Texas public institution of higher education, that institution shall give written notice to the student and the other institution that the transfer of the course credit is denied.

- b. The two institutions and the student shall attempt to resolve the transfer of the course credit in accordance with Coordinating Board rules and/or guidelines.
 - c. If the transfer dispute is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student or the institution at which the credit was earned within 45 days after the date the student received written notice of the denial, the institution that denies the transfer of the course credit shall notify the commissioner of higher education of its denial and the reason for the denial.
3. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall make the final determination about a dispute concerning the transfer of course credit and give written notice of the determination to the involved student and institutions.
4. All Texas public institutions of higher education shall furnish data to the Coordinating Board on reported transfer disputes as the board may require in accordance with its statutory responsibilities under Section 61.826(e) of the Texas Education Code.

Readmission

There are two types of student that we consider for re-admissions. (1) returning students who are coming back after a leave of more than a year and attended another university or (2) returning re-admits who are coming back after leave of more than a year and did not attend another institution.

1. If students seeking readmission were enrolled at other colleges or universities after last attending UTRGV. The student must submit a "readmit" admission application at www.applytexas.org and official transcripts from the institution(s) attended since last at UTRGV to the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#).
2. If students seeking readmission have been absent from UTRGV for more than one year and did not attend another institution, a "readmit" admission application must be submitted at www.applytexas.org.

Students who are returning after an extended absence are required to meet with an academic advisor.

Returning students who are not TSI exempt or who have not passed all sections of a TSI approved exam, must seek advising at the [Academic Advising Center](#) (AAC).

Honors College

Students of all majors at UTRGV have the opportunity to enhance their primary areas of study by joining the [Honors College](#). The College offers talented and ambitious students an enhanced academic experience by providing smaller classes led by outstanding faculty who emphasize active experimentation, research, and/or artistic expression. Honors students take on more intensive challenges while working more closely with their professors and other excellent students. Beyond the classroom, the College offers students special opportunities for experiential learning and study abroad. Honors students graduate with a competitive diploma and a strong foundation for life-long learning and personal growth.

Admission Eligibility Requirements

Students may be admitted to the program at any time during the year; however, they are not considered active until they are enrolled at UTRGV. Students who meet one or more of the following minimum criteria are eligible to apply:

Entering Freshmen:

- ACT Composite of 24 or higher
- SAT total score of 1180 or higher
- Graduate in the upper 10% of high school class

Currently Enrolled/Transfer Students:

- A minimum total GPA of 3.5 at UTRGV
- 12 earned/credit hours at UTRGV or previous college/university

(Please note: These are minimum requirements and are not guarantees for admission.)

Students must apply directly to the Honors College by submitting an online application, two letters of recommendation, transcripts, and test scores. Although any student with three or more semesters remaining before graduation may apply, students are encouraged to apply as early as possible, preferably as freshmen. Once admitted, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5.

To apply, please visit www.utrgv.edu/honors.

Honors Courses

Honors classes are small and generally limited to 20 students or fewer, which allows for more personal attention and interaction with professors.

Honors classes:

- Emphasize critical thinking, participation, and discussion rather than traditional lectures and textbooks.
- Provide a chance to work with academically gifted students from a variety of backgrounds.
- Provide cultural enrichment as well as experiential learning.
- Afford students the opportunity to conduct independent research or engage in artistic expression under the guidance of experienced faculty mentors.

Scholarships

The Honors College offers its students the chance to apply for an Honors Merit Scholarship through the University's Excellence Scholarship program. Scholarship opportunities for study abroad are available as well. For more information, please contact the [Office of Recruitment and Scholarships](#).

Graduation Requirements

To fulfill Honors College requirements and graduate with honors, students may choose to follow one of four different coursework tracks during their time in the program (for details about these tracks, please visit the [Honors College](#) website at www.utrgv.edu/honors). The Honors College strives to allow students to move through the program by taking as few courses outside their major degree plans as possible. Many Honors courses allow Honors students to fulfill university core requirements within the

Honors College. Finally, Honors College graduates must have a total GPA of 3.5 or higher and must successfully complete all requirements of their chosen track.

Students who graduate as Honors Scholars will have this designation recorded on their transcripts. They will also have the distinction of wearing an Honors Medallion at graduation.

Contact

For an application or additional information about the UTRGV Honors College, please contact:

Honors College		
One West University Blvd. BNOBL 111 Brownsville, TX 78520	1201 West University Dr. ESTAC, Rm. 2.101 Edinburg, TX 78539	honors@utrgv.edu utrgv.edu/honors Phone: 956-665-3386 Fax: 956-665-7211

Dual Credit Program for High School Students

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley provides an opportunity for qualified high school students who are ready for university-level coursework to earn college credit while still in high school. The program is designed to give eligible high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to earn college credit in a University learning environment. Dual Credit students are graded in the same manner as are other college students and are awarded college credit upon completion of their courses. Students who wish to receive dual credit (high school and college credit) must receive approval from their school districts for high school credit to be awarded.

Students who receive dual credit at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley may be eligible for the UTRGV Scholars Scholarship Program upon regular admission to the university.

For more information contact the [Office of Admission and Recruitment](#) at 888-882-4026.

On-Campus Attendance or Distance Learning

Interested students are encouraged to apply for this program through their high schools or school districts.

Admission Criteria for the Dual Credit Program include:

1. Student must be classified as high school junior or senior graduating under the Foundations with Endorsement or Distinguished graduation plan.
2. Must meet one of the following criteria:
 - a. Be ranked in the Top 10% of their class; OR
 - b. Have a 90 GPA or higher (GPA must be on a 100-point scale); OR
 - c. Meet one of the following scores: ACT Composite of 22 or higher or SAT of 1030 (College Board regulations apply for converting Total Score)
3. Complete the Dual Credit application process
4. Meet deadlines for Dual Credit admissions

Application for Dual Credit Admission

To be admitted to the Dual Credit Program, students must submit the following documents by the published deadline for the semester for which they are applying:

- Dual Credit Authorization Form
- High school transcript that includes graduation date, graduation plan type, class ranking and GPA (on a 100-point scale)
- ACT or SAT scores (if used for meeting eligibility)
- For all students under 22 years of age, submit proof of Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination
- Placement test scores fulfilling the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) and/or course pre-requisites. Students will not be permitted to register or will be dropped if TSI requirements are not met.

All admission documents for Dual Credit must be submitted through the University's online document portal, or in person at:

UCentral		
1201 West University Dr. Visitors Center, Rm. 1.113 Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: (888) 882-4026	One West University Blvd. The Tower, BMAIN 1.100 Brownsville, TX 78520 (956) (888) 882-4026	utrgv.edu/ucentral/

It is recommended that all documents be sent at one time. All documents submitted become the property of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Students must also meet the prerequisites for the course(s) in which they plan to enroll, if any exist. To continue participating in the Dual Credit Program, participants must earn a grade of C or higher in each University course taken.

Upon graduation from high school, Dual Credit students must submit a final high school transcript indicating:

1. The student's graduation date and graduation plan type.
2. The student has earned all the credits required for high school graduation.
3. The student's class rank and grade point average (on 100-point scale).

Dual Credit students who wish to continue their studies at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley after high school graduation will be readmitted as Entering Freshmen and will be invited to attend [Freshman Orientation](#).

Summer Housing Program

During the summer, the Dual Credit Program has a limited Room & Board Housing Scholarship for qualified students who may have difficulty traveling to the UTRGV campus to attend class. There is a separate application process for this limited DC Summer Housing Scholarship which is highly competitive due to the limited number of scholarships available. Call the Office of Dual Credit Programs at 956-665-3128 or email at ce@utrgv.edu for more details.

International Admission

An applicant is considered an international student if the applicant falls under the following categories:

- Intends to stay in the US temporarily to study
- Does not have US citizenship or legal permanent resident status (a "green card")

- Applies for a student visa to be allowed entry into the US
- Most international students attending UTRGV are on a F-1 student visa or a J-1.
- Other visa statuses (e.g., H4, L2, TN, F3, TD) may permit study.

All required application documents must be on file in the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#) by the designated date.

Application Deadlines

Since processing applications from undergraduate international students takes more time, UTRGV has different application deadlines for international applicants. All required documents and test scores must be submitted no later than:

Priority Admissions Deadline

- Fall, Summer I, and Summer II February 1
- Spring October 1

Regular Admissions Deadline

Term	Overseas Applicants	Mexican Applicants
Fall	June 1st	July 1st
Spring	November 1st	December 1st
Summer I	April 1st	
Summer II	May 1st	

Application Documents

1. International Student Application for Admission (applytexas.org).
2. \$50.00 International Application fee; nonrefundable.
3. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores or IELTS. Students from countries whose native language is not English are required to take the TOEFL or the IELTS. TOEFL or IELTS scores must be sent directly from the educational testing service UTRGV will not accept residual TOEFL exams taken at another institution. The minimum scores for the tests are as follow: TOEFL IBT 61, TOEFL PB 500, TOEFL CBT 173, and IELTS 6. **Students who submit documentation demonstrating successful completion of ESL Advanced Level course through the UTRGV Language Institute can be waived from TOEFL requirement.
4. ACT Assessment or SAT are designed to assess high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading and science. Only one of the two is required.
5. [Texas Success Initiative \(TSI\)](#) examination requires students to be assessed in reading, writing and math skills prior to enrolling in college, and to be advised on course placement based on the results of that assessment. The approved TSI testing instruments is the TSI Assessment exam. TSI is mandatory in order to register for classes. The test is administered in the following locations:

Testing Center		
1601 Price Rd., Suite E Resaca Village Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-8875	1407 East Freddy Gonzalez Dr. CESS Building Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-7570	testing@utrgv.edu

6. English translation and evaluation of educational records from either World Education Services (WES) or Foreign Credential Services of America (FCSA). In addition to the official transcripts required for admission, certified English translation must be included to allow for accurate interpretations.

World Education Services (WES)		
Bowling Green Station, New York, NY 10274-5087		www.wes.org
Phone: 212-966-6311; Fax 212-739-6100		
Foreign Credential Services of America (FCSA)		
1910 Justin Ln., Austin, TX 78757-2411 (USA)		info@fcsa.biz
Phone: 512-459-8428; Fax: 512-459-4565		www.fcsa.biz

Students who have not yet graduated from high school must have their fifth semester transcript evaluated by one of the agencies mentioned above. After graduation, students must submit an official high school transcript to the same agency for a final evaluation.

Procedure after Admission — Issuance of I-20 Form

UTRGV in an approved Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) school to issue I-20 form.

Once the international student has received an acceptance letter from the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#), the student must turn in the following documents to the [International Admissions and Student Services](#):

- Provide a copy of your valid passport.
- Submit a [Certificate of Financial Responsibility](#) (CFR) form.
- Submit a bank statement showing sufficient financial support for one academic year of study and living. See cost of attendance tables for required amounts.
- If applicable, please submit your [Mexican Tuition Waiver](#) form (Mexican students only).

The student must submit all documents mentioned above to one of the following locations:

International Admissions and Student Services		
One West University Blvd. Main, Rm. 1.308 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-7092 Fax: 956-882-6817	1201 West University Dr. Student Academic Center, Rm. 3.128 Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone 956-665-2922 Fax: 956-665-2281	international@utrgv.edu Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:00am-5:00pm

Upon completion of the application process, admitted students will be issued a Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant F1 Student (I-20 form) by the International Admissions Specialist, who will report the status of international students to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Students then will present the I-20 form to the American Consulate or embassy in their home country to obtain a student visa (F-1) and enter the U.S.

- **Duration of Status:** A non-immigrant student may be admitted for a “duration of status” (D/S). This means that the student is authorized to stay in the United States for the entire length of time during which the student is enrolled full-time or part-time in an educational program and any period of authorized practical training plus 60 days after graduation or 60 days after completion of optional practical training (OPT) (grace period). While in the United States, the student must maintain a valid I-20, visa (unless exempt from visa requirements), and a valid foreign passport.
- **Student on a Visa:** For initial admission, the student must attend the school specified on the I-20 form. If for some reason the student decides to transfer to another school, the student needs to contact immediately the International Admissions Specialist at the other institution to make the appropriate changes on the I-20 form through SEVIS.
- **Re-entry:** A non-immigrant student may be readmitted to the university after a temporary absence of five months or less from the United States, if the student is admissible. The students may be readmitted by presenting a valid foreign passport, a valid visa and either a new Form I-20 or a properly I-20 endorsed for re-entry.
- **Travel Endorsement:** All international students must obtain a travel endorsement signature from the designated school official (DSO) on the second page of the I-20 form every year. Please request a travel endorsement at least seven days before the departure date.
- **Transfer:** A non-immigrant student is permitted to transfer to a different school provided that the transfer procedure is followed in SEVIS. To transfer to a different school, the student should first notify [International Admissions and Student Services](#) to obtain a SEVIS release form and provide an acceptance letter from the new school. Transfer will be in effect only if the student submits the SEVIS transfer-in form and an acceptance letter from the new school to the [International Student Advisor](#) within 15 days of beginning attendance.
- **Extension of Stay:** If the student cannot complete the educational program for the anticipated length of the program, the student must apply for an extension of stay. An application for extension of stay is obtained at [International Admissions and Student Services](#). The application must be submitted to the International Student Advisor and the Academic or Program Advisor at least 30 days but no more than 60 days before the expiration of the student's stay.
- **Change of Major:** If a student decides to change a major or program of study, they will need to visit their new Academic or Program Advisor in order to identify how many credit hours they need to complete the new academic program. The student will contact the International Student Advisor before so he or she can make the appropriate changes to the I-20 form. This would include changing from language studies to a bachelor's program, from a bachelor's program to master's or doctoral program, from an Optional Practical Training (OPT) program to a new degree program, and from one level of degree program to one of the same level (e.g., master's to a second master's). Once the International Student Advisor has reviewed the case, the student will need to go to the [Office of the Registrar](#) or [Graduate College](#) (depending on the academic level) to make the official change and provide appropriate documentation to our office.
- **On-campus Employment:** On-campus employment requires authorization from the International Student Advisor. Students must be in good academic and immigration standing to qualify for this benefit. Students are allowed to work on campus; if they work without proper authorization off campus, the student will fall out of status and will not be able to be reinstated.

into the school. On-campus employment is limited to part time (20 hours or less per week) during the fall and spring semesters. The student employee may work full time (more than 20 hours per week) during the summer and official school breaks. Undergraduate students are allowed to work on-campus after they have successfully completed their first semester.

- **Distance Education:** An F-1 student, is permitted to enroll in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credit hours per semester, toward their full course-of-study requirements. An online or distance-education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio or computer transmission, including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, satellite, audio conferencing or computer conferencing. There are special considerations for hybrid classes, for more information, students must contact their [International Student Advisor](#).
- **Student Reinstatement:** Students who have violated their F-1 student status (i.e. by not obtaining appropriate employment authorization prior to working, not enrolling full-time in the program of study, forgetting to extend I-20 prior to expiration date, not being eligible for extension but needing additional time to complete program, or otherwise failing to maintain status) should schedule an appointment to meet with an [International Student Advisor](#) as soon as possible to discuss their situation.
Federal regulations that govern their stay in the U.S. can change very rapidly. To stay up-to-date regularly, visit the [International Admissions and Student Services](#) website often or make an appointment at your convenience to see an [International Student Advisor](#). International students are required to report any changes on their non-immigrant status immediately to the office.
- **Medical Insurance Requirement for International Students:** As required by Regents' Rule 50402, students holding nonimmigrant visas are required to maintain approved comprehensive health insurance or coverage while enrolled. Medical insurance is required each semester of attendance with required coverage by UT System. Medical insurance will be automatically billed to the student account at the beginning of each semester and must be maintained throughout their time at our University unless a waiver has been submitted and approved by Academic Health Plan (AHP). For more information regarding waiver of medical insurance deadlines, the student must contact your [International Student Advisor](#). Mexican nationals are not required to obtain university medical insurance via AHP as long as they study at UTRGV on campus. For Mexican student doing a Curriculum Practical Training (CPT) at least 75 miles away from campus must need medical insurance coverage through AHP.

Reservation of Work by Undergraduates for Graduate Credit

It is possible for undergraduate students to enroll in graduate courses in their last semester under the following conditions:

- The undergraduate student must lack no more than 12 hours to complete all requirements for his or her first bachelor's degree.
- These 12 hours (or less) must be completed in the same semester, or in two consecutive summer sessions, in which the student is taking the graduate courses.
- Total enrollment, including undergraduate and graduate courses, must not exceed 15 hours in a regular semester, or 12 hours in two consecutive summer sessions.

- The student has a minimum Graduate Admission GPA Calculation of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) on all work completed to date. (For information on the Graduate Admission GPA Calculation, see Graduate Catalog.)
- The application for such graduate work is submitted to the Graduate School. Undergraduates cannot count their work in graduate courses toward the bachelor's degree. Such work will be reserved for credit toward a graduate degree.

Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology (COLTT)

Online Courses and Programs

The [Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology \(COLTT\)](#), support unit for the delivery of online courses and programs at UTRGV, including those that are delivered 100% online, hybrid or web-augmented methods.

UTRGV offers various minors, certificates, undergraduate, and graduate programs online. Some of these programs are offered fully online, in an accelerated mode or partially online. UTRGV offers 500+ online sections every semester within your reach. For more information about our programs and courses, please visit our website at www.utrgv.edu/online.

COLTT Help Desk Support

COLTT provides assistance with online learning and customer service to UTRGV students, faculty and staff. 24/7 help desk support is available via phone, chat or web to meet online learning needs.

Contact the [COLTT Help Desk](#) for any assistance at (956) 882-6792 or (956) 665-5327 or create a support ticket at www.utrgv.edu/coltt/help.

Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology

One West University Blvd.
Brownsville, TX 78520
BRUST 108
Phone: 956-882-6796

1201 West University Dr.
Edinburg, TX 78539
EEDUC 2.202
Phone: 956-665-5327

utrgv.edu/online
utrgv.edu/coltt/help

UT System Online Consortium

An agreement exists between UTRGV and other University of Texas System institutions that allow our students to enroll in online courses offered by other UT System schools. Students wishing to enroll in an online course to be transferred to UTRGV may visit <https://utsystem.edu/sites/ut-online-consortium> for a listing of courses and campus contacts.

Participating Institutions

- The University of Texas at Arlington
- The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas at El Paso
- The University of Texas at Permian Basin
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- The University of Texas San Antonio

Texas Common Course Numbering System

The Texas Common Course Numbering System (TCCNS) has been designed to aid students in the transfer of general academic courses between colleges and universities throughout Texas. Common courses are freshman and sophomore academic credit courses that have been identified as common by institutions that are members of the TCCNS. The system ensures that if the student takes courses that the receiving institution has designated as common, then the courses will be accepted in transfer.

The table below lists the courses The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has identified as common and their TCCNS equivalents. Before using this table, students should make sure the institution they attend employs the TCCNS. Course availability varies from institution to institution.

Only courses that have direct equivalents are shown. Courses at other TCCNS institutions that do not have a direct UTRGV equivalent will be evaluated for transferability on a case-by-case basis. Students wishing to transfer a course to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley that is not listed in this guide should obtain approval from [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#) prior to taking the course.

[The Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#) at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley must receive an official transcript directly from the Office of the Registrar of the institution attended before credit can be transferred. (See section on Transfer Admissions on p. 16 for complete transfer of course credit regulations.)

Texas Common Course Numbering System 2018

Texas Common Course Number		UTRGV Course Number	
ACCT 2301	Principles of Financial Accounting	ACCT 2301	Introduction To Financial Accounting
ACCT 2302	Principles of Managerial Accounting	ACCT 2302	Introduction To Managerial Accounting
ANTH 2302	Introduction to Archeology	ANTH 2302	Introduction to Archeology
ANTH 2351	Cultural Anthropology	ANTH 2351	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ARTS 1301	Art Appreciation	ARTS 1301	Art Appreciation
ARTS 1303	Art History I (Prehistoric to the 14th century)	ARTS 1303	Art History I, Prehistoric to the 14th-Century
ARTS 1304	Art History II (14th century to the present)	ARTS 1304	Art History II, 14th-Century to the Present
ARTS 1311	Design I (2-dimensional)	ARTS 1311	Design I
ARTS 1312	Design II (3-dimensional)	ARTS 1312	Design II
ARTS 1316	Drawing I	ARTS 1316	Drawing I
ARTS 1317	Drawing II	ARTS 1317	Drawing II
ARTS 2313	Design Communications I	ARTS 2313	Design Communications I
ARTS 2316	Painting I	ARTS 2316	Painting I
ARTS 2317	Painting II	ARTS 2317	Painting II
ARTS 2326	Sculpture I	ARTS 2326	Sculpture I
ARTS 2333	Printmaking I	ARTS 2333	Printmaking I
ARTS 2341	Art Metals I	ARTS 2341	Beginning Jewelry/Metalworking
ARTS 2346	Ceramics I	ARTS 2346	Ceramics I
ARTS 2347	Ceramics II	ARTS 2347	Ceramics II
ARTS 2348	Digital Media	ARTS 2348	Digital Media
ARTS 2356	Photography I	ARTS 2356	Photography I
ARTS 2357	Photography II	ARTS 2357	Photography II
ASTR 1404	Solar Systems (lecture + lab)	ASTR 1401	Introduction to Astronomy I
ASTR 1403	Stars and Galaxies (lecture + lab)	ASTR 1402	Introduction to Astronomy II
BCIS 1305	Business Computer Applications	INFS 1301	Computer Information Systems
BIOL 1108	Biology for Non-Science Majors I (lab)	BIOL 1108	Biological Concepts I Lab
BIOL 1109	Biology for Non-Science Majors II (lab)	BIOL 1109	Biological Concepts II Lab
BIOL 1308	Biology for Non-Science Majors I (lecture)	BIOL 1308	Biological Concepts I for Non-Majors
BIOL 1309	Biology for Non-Science Majors II (lecture)	BIOL 1309	Biological Concepts II for Non-Majors
BIOL 1322	Nutrition & Diet Therapy	BIOL 1322	Human Nutrition
BIOL 1406	Biology for Science Majors I (lecture + lab)	BIOL 1406	General Biology I
BIOL 1407	Biology for Science Majors I (lecture + lab)	BIOL 1407	General Biology II
BIOL 2401	Anatomy & Physiology I (lecture + lab)	BIOL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology I
BIOL 2402	Anatomy & Physiology II (lecture + lab)	BIOL 2402	Anatomy and Physiology II
BUSI 1301	Business Principles	MGMT 1301	Introduction to Business
CHEM 1105	Introductory Chemistry I (lab)	CHEM 1105	Introductory Chemistry I Lab
CHEM 1109	General Chemistry for Engineering Majors (lab)	CHEM 1109	Chemistry for Engineers Lab
CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I (lab)	CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I Lab
CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II (lab)	CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II Lab
CHEM 1305	Introductory Chemistry (lecture)	CHEM 1305	Introductory Chemistry I

Texas Common Course Number		UTRGV Course Number	
CHEM 1309	Chemistry for Engineers (lecture)	CHEM 1309	General Chemistry for Engineering Majors (lecture)
CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I (lecture)	CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I
CHEM 1312	General Chemistry II (lecture)	CHEM 1312	General Chemistry II
CHEM 2123	Organic Chemistry I (lab)	CHEM 2123	Organic Chemistry I Lab
CHEM 2125	Organic Chemistry II (lab)	CHEM 2125	Organic Chemistry II Lab
CHEM 2323	Organic Chemistry I (lecture)	CHEM 2323	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 2325	Organic Chemistry II (lecture)	CHEM 2325	Organic Chemistry II
CHIN 2311	Intermediate Chinese I	CHIN 2311	Intermediate Chinese I
COMM 1307	Introduction to Mass Communication	COMM 1307	Introduction to Mass Communication
COMM 1336	Television Production	COMM 1336	Video Production I
COMM 1336		THTF 1336	
COMM 2331	Radio/Television Announcing	COMM 2331	Radio/Television Announcing
COMM 2366		THTF 2366	
COSC 1301	Introduction to Computing	CSCI 1301	Introduction to Computing
COSC 1336	Programming Fundamentals I	CSCI 1370	Engineering Computer Science I
COSC 1336	Programming Fundamentals I	CSCI 1380	Computer Science I
COSC 1336	Programming Fundamentals I	CMPE 1370	Engineering Computer Science I
COSC 2325	Computer Organization	CSCI 2333	Computer Organization and Assembly Language
COSC 2336	Programming Fundamentals III	CSCI 2380	Computer Science II
CRIJ 1301	Introduction to the Criminal Justice System	CRIJ 1301	Introduction to the Criminal Justice
CRIJ 1306	Court Systems and Practices	CRIJ 1306	Court Systems and Practices
CRIJ 1307	Crime in America	CRIJ 1307	Crime in America
CRIJ 1313	Juvenile Justice System	CRIJ 1313	Juvenile Justice System
CRIJ 2313	Correctional Systems and Practices	CRIJ 2313	Correctional Systems and Practices
CRIJ 2328	Police Systems and Practices	CRIJ 2328	Police Systems and Practices
DANC 1241	Ballet I	DANC 1241	Introduction to Ballet Technique I
DANC 2303	Dance Appreciation I	DANC 2323	Dance Appreciation
DRAM 1310	Introduction to Theatre	THTF 1310	Introduction to Film & Video Production
DRAM 1341	Makeup	THTF 1341	Makeup
DRAM 1351	Acting I	THTF 1351	Acting I
DRAM 1352	Acting II	THTF 1352	Acting II
ECON 1301	Introduction to Economics	ECON 1301	Introduction to Economics
ECON 2301	Principles of Macroeconomics	ECON 2301	Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 2302	Principles of Microeconomics	ECON 2302	Principles of Microeconomics
EDUC 1301	Introduction to the Teaching Profession	EDUC 1301	Introduction to the Teaching Profession
ENGL 1301	Rhetoric and Composition I	ENGL 1301	Composition I
ENGL 1302	Rhetoric And Composition II	ENGL 1302	Composition II
ENGL 2321	Introduction to British Literature	ENGL 2321	British Literature
ENGL 2326	Introduction to American Literature	ENGL 2326	American Literature
ENGL 2331	Introduction to World Literature	ENGL 2331	World Literature
ENGL 2341	Introduction to Literature	ENGL 2341	Forms of Literature
ENGL 2351	Introduction to Mexican American Literature	ENGL 2351	Mexican-American Literature
ENGR 1201	Introduction to Engineering	ENGR 1201	Introduction to Engineering
ENGR 1204		MECE 1221	
ENGR 1304	Engineering Graphics I	ENGR 1304	Engineering Graphics I

Texas Common Course Number		UTRGV Course Number	
ENGR 2105	Linear Circuits Lab	ENGR 2105	Electrical Circuits I Laboratory
ENGR 2301	Engineering Mechanics I: Statics	ENGR 2301	Engineering Mechanics I - Statics
ENGR 2301	Engineering Mechanics I: Statics	MECE 2301	Statics
ENGR 2302	Engineering Mechanics II: Dynamics	ENGR 2302	Engineering Mechanics II - Dynamics
ENGR 2303	Engineering Mechanics II: Dynamics	MECE 2302	Dynamics
ENGR 2305	Linear Circuits	ENGR 2305	Electrical Circuits I
ENGR 2305	Linear Circuits	MECE 2305	Linear Circuits
ENGR 2308	Engineering Economics	ENGR 2308	Engineering Economics
ENGR 2332	Mechanics of Materials	ENGR 2332	Mechanics of Materials
ENGT 2307	Engineering Materials I for Engineering Technology	ENGT 2307	Engineering Materials I for Engineering Technology
ENGT 2310	Introduction to Manufacturing Processes	ENGT 2310	Introduction to Manufacturing Processes
ENVR 1401	Environmental Science I (lecture + lab)	ENVR 1401	Introduction to Environmental Science I
ENVR 1402	Environmental Science II (lecture + lab)	ENVR 1402	Introduction to Environmental Science II
FREN 2311	Intermediate French I	FREN 2311	Intermediate French I
FREN 2312	Intermediate French II	FREN 2312	Intermediate French II
GEOG 1301	Physical Geography	GEOG 1301	Physical Geography
GEOG 1303	World Regional Geography	GEOG 1303	World Regional Geography
GEOL 1401	Earth Sciences for Non-Science Majors I (lecture and lab)	GEOL 1401	Earth Sciences I
GEOL 1403	Physical Geology (lecture and lab)	GEOL 1403	Physical Geology
GEOL 1404	Historical Geology (lecture and lab)	GEOL 1404	Historical Geology
GERM 2311	Intermediate German I	GERM 2311	Intermediate German I
GERM 2312	Intermediate German II	GERM 2312	Intermediate German II
HIST 1301	United States History I	HIST 1301	U.S. History I
HIST 1302	United States History II	HIST 1302	U.S. History II
HIST 2321	World Civilizations I	HIST 2321	World History I
HIST 2322	World Civilizations II	HIST 2322	World History II
HIST 2327	Mexican-American History I	HIST 2327	Mexican American History I
HIST 2328	Mexican-American History II	HIST 2328	Mexican American History II
KORE 2311	Intermediate Korean I	KORN 2311	Intermediate Korean I
MATH 1314	College Algebra	MATH 1314	College Algebra
MATH 1324	Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences	MATH 1324	Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences
MATH 1325	Calculus for Business and Social Sciences	MATH 1325	Calculus for Business and Social Sciences
MATH 1332	Mathematics for Liberal Arts	MATH 1332	Contemporary Mathematics
MATH 1342	Elementary Statistical Methods	MATH 1342	Elementary Statistical Methods
MATH 1350	Fundamentals of Mathematics I	MATH 1350	Mathematics for Teachers I
MATH 1351	Fundamentals of Mathematics II	MATH 1351	Mathematics for Teachers II
MATH 1414	College Algebra	MATH 1414	College Algebra
MATH 2305	Discrete Mathematics	MATH 2305	Discrete Mathematics
MATH 2318	Linear Algebra	MATH 2318	Linear Algebra
MATH 2321	Differential Equations and Linear Algebra	MATH 2321	Differential Equations and Linear Algebra
MATH 2412	Precalculus	MATH 2412	Pre-Calculus Math
MATH 2413	Calculus I	MATH 2413	Calculus I
MATH 2414	Calculus II	MATH 2414	Calculus II

Texas Common Course Number		UTRGV Course Number	
MATH 2415	Calculus III	MATH 2415	Calculus III
MUSI 1116	Sight Singing & Ear Training I	MUSI 1116	Sight Singing and Ear Training I
MUSI 1117	Sight Singing & Ear Training II	MUSI 1117	Sight Singing and Ear Training II
MUSI 1157	Opera Workshop	MUEN 1143	Opera Workshop
MUSI 1183	Voice Class I	MUSI 1183	Vocal Methods
MUSI 1188	Percussion Class I	MUSI 1188	Percussion Methods
MUSI 1192	Guitar Class I	MUSI 1192	Guitar Methods
MUSI 1306	Music Appreciation	MUSI 1306	Music Appreciation
MUSI 1310	American Music	MUSI 1310	History of Rock
MUSI 1304	Foundations of Music	MUSI 1313	Teaching Music in the Elementary School
MUSI 2116	Sight Singing and Ear Training III	MUSI 2116	Sight Singing and Ear Training III
MUSI 2117	Sight Singing and Ear Training IV	MUSI 2117	Sight Singing and Ear Training IV
PHED 1164	Introduction to Physical Fitness & Wellness	KINE 1164	Introduction to Fitness and Sport
PHED 1306	First Aid	KINE 1306	First Aid and First Responder
PHED 1301	Foundations of Kinesiology	KINE 1351	Introduction to Sports and Exercise Science
PHIL 1301	Introduction to Philosophy	PHIL 1301	Introduction to Philosophy
PHYS 1401	College Physics I (lecture + lab)	PHYS 1401	General Physics I
PHYS 1402	College Physics II (lecture + lab)	PHYS 1402	General Physics II
PHYS 1407	Elementary Physics II (lecture + lab)	PHYS 1407	Elementary Physics and Acoustics II
PHYS 1405	Elementary Physics I (lecture + lab)	PHYS 1425	Physics of Sound and Music
PHYS 1410	Elementary Physics (lecture + lab)	PHYS 1430	Elementary Physics Through Video Games
PHYS 2425	University Physics I (lecture + lab)	PHYS 2425	Physics for Scientists and Engineers I
PHYS 2426	University Physics II (lecture + lab)	PHYS 2426	Physics for Scientists and Engineers II
GOVT 2305	Federal Government	POLS 2305	U.S. Federal Government & Politics
GOVT 2306	Texas Government	POLS 2306	Texas Government & Politics
PHYS 1415	Physical Science I (lecture + lab)	PSCI 1421	Physical Science I
PHYS 1417	Physical Science II (lecture + lab)	PSCI 1422	Physical Science II
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	PSYC 2301	General Psychology
PSYC 2317	Statistical Methods in Psychology	PSYC 2302	Basic Statistics for Psychologists
SGNL 1301	Beginning American Sign Language I	ASLI 1310	American Sign Language I
SGNL 1302	Beginning American Sign Language II	ASLI 1320	American Sign Language II
SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology	SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology
SOCI 1306	Social Problems	SOCI 1323	Social Problems
SOCW 2361	Introduction to Social Work	SOCW 2361	Introduction to the Social Work Profession
SOCW 2362	Social Welfare as a Social Institution	SOCW 2362	The Social Welfare Institution
SPAN 2311	Intermediate Spanish I	SPAN 2311	Intermediate Spanish I for Non-Native Speakers
SPAN 2312	Intermediate Spanish II	SPAN 2312	Intermediate Spanish II
SPAN 2313	Spanish for Bilinguals I	SPAN 2313	Spanish for Bilinguals I
SPAN 2315	Spanish for Bilinguals II	SPAN 2315	Spanish for Bilinguals II
SPAN 2389	Academic Cooperative	SPAN 2389	Academic Cooperative (English/Spanish Translation)
SPCH 1311	Introduction to Speech Communication	COMM 1311	Introduction to Communication
SPCH 1315	Public Speaking	COMM 1315	Public Speaking

Texas Common Course Number		UTRGV Course Number	
SPCH 1318	Interpersonal Communication	COMM 1318	Interpersonal Communication
SPCH 2333	Discussion & Small Group Communication	COMM 2333	Small Group Communication
SPCH 2335	Argumentation and Debate	COMM 2335	Argumentation and Debate

FISCAL POLICIES

The cost of attending The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is relatively low – approximately \$3,793.76 per semester in 2018-2019 academic school year for twelve hours of required tuition and fees for an undergraduate student who is a resident of Texas. Student financial aid programs offer part-time employment, scholarships, grants, and loans to help students at The University of Rio Grande Valley meet the costs of attending college. For more information on financial aid, see [Financial Assistance](#) on p. 44.

Financial Responsibility

State universities cannot extend credit. Students are expected to meet financial obligations to the University within the designated time allowed. Tuition and fees are payable at the time of registration, and students are not entitled to enter class or laboratory until all these charges have been paid (Exception: See [Payment by Installment](#) on p. 39.)

Other charges are due within 10 days after a bill is rendered by the university, or according to the special payment instructions that may be printed on the bill. Failure to pay the amount owed in the allotted time can result in withdrawal from classes; the withholding of registration privileges, official transcripts, grades and degrees, university disciplinary action, and other penalties and actions authorized by law. When full payment of Tuition and Fees is not received by the first tuition due date, a **non-refundable** \$50 late payment fee will be assessed to the student's account.

A student is only registered in the university and entitled to university privileges after he or she has paid all required tuition and fees. A hold against reentry is imposed on a student who fails to pay a debt owed to the university.

Initial payment of tuition and fees may be made by personal check, money order payable to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, credit card (Visa, MasterCard, and Discover only), or cash. Students are advised to exercise care in paying charges by check. When a bad check for tuition and fees is returned to the university, a \$25 **non-refundable** returned check service charge is assessed, and the student is given 10 days from receipt of notice to make full payment by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to comply will result in the penalties described above.

A listing of **non-refundable** fees is shown below:

Credit Card Convenience Fee	1.9% added for credit card payments applied to student account billings
Emergency Loan Origination Fee	1% of loan amount
Emergency Loan Late Payment Fee	Balance up to \$500: \$10 per month
	Balance \$500.01 - \$1000: \$20 per month
	Balance greater than \$1000: \$30 per month
	Maximum Charge: \$90
Installment Plan Processing Fee	\$ 30 per academic term
Installment Late Payment Fee	\$5 per late payment; additional \$25 if not paid within 3 days after the due date

Late Payment Fee	\$50 per academic term
Loan Application Fee	\$5
Loan Late Payment Fee	\$5 per month; \$30 maximum
Returned Check Fee	\$25

Credit Card Convenience Fee

A credit card convenience fee is a processing fee that credit card companies charge for using credit cards as a method of payment. As UTRGV continues to offer this service to students, a convenience fee will now be added to the student's tuition and fee bill.

Beginning January 1, 2018, a 1.9% **non –refundable** fee will be added to all credit card payments made towards tuition and fees. All credit card payments must be processed online. The Bursar Office will no longer accept credit card payments in-person or over the phone for tuition and fee payments.

For more information go to www.utrgv.edu/conveniencefee.

Student Tuition and Fee Bill

Tuition and fees bill statements are available at my.utrgv.edu through ASSIST two weeks prior to the first tuition due date. Students are responsible for verifying their student account before every tuition due date in order to make sure there is no outstanding balance. UTRGV is required to set aside a portion of a student's designated tuition to provide financial assistance. Effective Spring 2010, notice of the specific amount required to be set aside will be included with the student's tuition bill (Texas Education Code, Section 56.014).

Residency Classification for Tuition Purposes

The Office of the Registrar is responsible for determining Texas residence status of students for purposes of tuition. The office is guided by the Texas Education Code, Section 54.052, et seq., the Rules and Regulations for Determining Residence Status of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and University Regulations. Under the state statutes and regulations, for tuition purposes, a student or prospective student is classified either as a resident of Texas, nonresident (U.S. citizens from another state) or students who are citizens from another country.

A resident of the State of Texas for tuition purposes is an individual or dependent who has physically resided (or whose parent has physically resided) in the state of Texas for a period of 12 continuous months prior to enrollment, or is an individual who graduated from a Texas high school and has maintained a residence in Texas continuously for at least three years prior to the date of that graduation and one year prior to enrollment. Individuals seeking to establish resident status under the second definition, and who are not citizens or permanent residents, must provide an affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity of eligibility. Students are required to complete the [Core Residency Questionnaire](#) as part of the application process. Residency for tuition purposes will be based on this questionnaire and other information/documents submitted by the student as required by University residency officials in accordance with Texas Education Code.

- A nonresident for tuition purposes is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien who has not lived and worked in the state of Texas for a period of 12 months prior to enrollment.
- A foreign student is a person who is a citizen of another country.

Residency for tuition purposes for a dependent is established on the residency of the parents or legal guardian.

While these state requirements for establishing residency are complex and should be referred to in each particular circumstance, they generally require a minimum of 12 months of residence and gainful employment or ownership of residential property in Texas prior to enrollment. Individuals classified as a nonresident or foreign student may qualify for resident tuition rates and other charges while continuing to be classified as a nonresident or a foreign student under the following exceptions:

- Students who receive academic competitive scholarships
- Teaching or research assistants
- Faculty employment
- Special types of visas
- Military

Additional information on residency, reclassification, tuition exceptions and waivers is available at:

Office of the Registrar

One West University Blvd.
The Tower, Main, Rm. 1.101
Brownsville, TX 78520

1201 West University Dr.
Student Services Bldg., 1st Floor
Edinburg, TX 78539

registrar@utrgv.edu
Phone: 956-665-2201

Students are required to sign an oath of residency as part of the application process. Residency for tuition purposes will be based on this oath and other information/documents submitted by the student as required by The Office of Undergraduate Admissions and/or The Office of the University Registrar.

Excess Credit Hours

As authorized by state law, a student who pays resident tuition rates and who attempts hours that exceed a designated limit will be charged an additional \$50 per credit hour. The designated limit for a student who initially enrolled in an institution of higher education in Fall 1999 through Summer 2006 is 45 credit hours beyond the required hours for the student's declared degree program. The designated limit for a student who initially enrolled in an institution of higher education in Fall 2006 or later is 30 credit hours beyond the hours required for completion of the student's degree program.

The following credit hours are not included in the calculation:

- Credit hours earned by the student 10 or more years before the date the student begins the new degree program under the [Academic Fresh Start Program](#) of the Texas Education Code, § 51.931.
- Hours earned by the student before receiving a baccalaureate degree that has previously been awarded to the student.
- Hours earned by the student by examination or similar method without registering for a course.
- Hours from remedial and developmental courses, workforce education courses, or other courses that would not generate academic credit that could be applied to a degree at the

institution if the course work is within the 27-hour limit at two-year colleges and the 18-hour limit at general academic institutions.

- Hours earned by the student at a private institution or an out-of-state institution.
- Hours not eligible for formula funding.
- Semester credit hours earned by the student before graduating from high school and used to satisfy high school graduation requirements.

Students who wish to appeal the charges due to extenuating circumstances should submit an appeal online and attach supporting documentation through the UTRGV Strategic Enrollment appeals portal, enrollment.utrgv.edu/appeals.

Tuition for Same or Substantively Identical Courses

Students enrolling in a course that is the same as or substantively identical to a course previously attempted will be charged an additional \$150 per credit hour for the repeated course(s) beginning with the third attempt. The “three-attempt rule” applies to all undergraduate students paying in-state tuition, including those non-resident students receiving waivers to pay in-state tuition. Any courses taken at the institution Fall 2002 or later will be considered in calculation of this fee with the exception of courses defined as exempt from this rule by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code section 13.106.²

Students in their final semester prior to graduation, who must repeat one or more previously completed courses for the third or greater time in order to meet graduation requirements will be exempt from paying the higher tuition for the repeated course(s) for one semester. Students who wish to apply for this exemption, or other students who wish to appeal the charges due to extenuating circumstances, should submit a written letter of appeal online and attach supporting documentation through the UTRGV Strategic Enrollment appeals portal, enrollment.utrgv.edu/appeals.

Tuition and Mandatory Fees

Tuition, fees and charges are assessed to students based on credit hours, at a fixed rate per semester, by course or for specific services. Tuition and fees are subject to change by legislative or regental action and become effective on the date enacted. The Texas Legislature, except for basic tuition, does not set the specific amount for any particular student fee. The student fees assessed are authorized by state statute; however, the University Administration and The University of Texas System Board of Regents make the specific fee amounts and the determination to increase fees in accordance with state law.

Tuition and mandatory fees are the academic costs required of all students for general enrollment. Included are fees charged to support the student union, recreation center, medical services, student services, and university services.

Rates are guaranteed to not increase for up to 4 years. Undergraduates are given a guarantee tuition between 1 and 4 years. Masters students will receive a 4-year guarantee and doctoral students (except medical students) will receive a 4-year guarantee.

² Coursework attempted at UT Brownsville in partnership with Texas Southmost College, and UT Pan American will be included in the repeated course calculation.

Each student will be locked into a guaranteed tuition plan (GTP) rate code based on the semester of initial college enrollment following high school graduation and, if first enrolling before Fall 2014, prior earned college hours. This determination will be finalized by the official census date which falls on the 12th class day of fall and spring semesters, the 4th class day for summer sessions, and the 5th class day for accelerated online program sessions.

If changes in the student record are made after the census date which would justify a change in the assigned GTP rate, the revised rate will be applied starting with the following semester. Charges for current and prior semesters will not be restated. This includes changes resulting from submission of additional transcripts by the student after the census date.

In addition, resident tuition, and mandatory fees are capped at 12 semester credit hours.

Review UTRGV's tuition and mandatory fee charges at www.utrgv.edu/tuition-fees.

Payment by Installment

Section 54.007 of the Texas Education Code provides for payment by installment of tuition and mandatory fees in the fall and spring semesters. Students electing to use the installment plan must be enrolled for a minimum of one class and must apply on ASSIST online at my.utrgv.edu.

Eligible students have the following Installment payment option during fall and spring registration:

- One-fourth payment on the first tuition due date.
- One-fourth payment on the first business day of the month after the fifth class week.
- One-fourth payment on the first business day of the month after the tenth class week.
- The final one-fourth payment on the first business day of the month before the last class day.

Once the Installment Payment option has been selected, it may not be changed; however, advance payments will be accepted.

Students electing to sign up for an Installment Plan must sign/acknowledge a promissory note via ASSIST. A **non-refundable** Tuition Installment Incidental Charge of \$30 will be collected to defray the cost to the university of providing this delayed payment service.

The second and any subsequent installment must be made before the class week indicated above. Late installments will be accepted during the first three class days of the class week indicated above, but a **non-refundable** late payment charge of \$5 will be assessed in addition to the installment amount.

After the first three class days of the class week indicated above, late installments will still be accepted, but a **non-refundable** reinstatement fee of \$25 will be assessed in addition to the installment amount.

A student who fails to provide full payment of tuition and fees, including assessed late fees, to the university when the payments are due is subject to one or more of the following actions at the university's option:

- Being withdrawn from the university.
- Being barred from readmission to the institution.
- The withholding of the student's grades, degree, and official transcript.
- All penalties and actions authorized by law.

Refund of Registration Fees

To officially withdraw from the university or drop a course, a student must go to the [Office of the Registrar](#). A student withdrawing officially and completely during a fall or spring semester will receive a refund of total tuition and fees (excluding nonrefundable fees) according to the following scale (Section 54.006, Texas Education Code):

1. 100 percent before the first day of classes.
2. 80 percent during the first five class days.
3. 70 percent during the second five class days.
4. 50 percent during the third five class days.
5. 25 percent during the fourth five class days.
6. No refund after the fourth five class day period.

Refund of total tuition and fees (excluding nonrefundable fees) during a summer term to students withdrawing officially and completely will be made according to the following scale:

1. 100 percent before the first day of classes.
2. 80 percent during the first class day.
3. 50 percent during the second class day.
4. No refund after the third class day.

NOTE: The term “class days” refers to days the university schedules classes, not the individual student’s schedule. Students officially dropping courses but remaining enrolled at the university receive a full refund of tuition and mandatory fees actually paid for the dropped classes through the 12th class day (official census day) during a fall or spring semester or the fourth class day (official census day) during a summer term, minus the other nonrefundable fees assessed for each course dropped beginning with the first day of classes. Students will not receive refunds for classes dropped after these dates. Additionally, per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rules and regulations, students may not enroll in a course after the official census date (Ch. 9, Subchapter B, 9.31a).

Refund checks will be mailed within 45 days to the student’s billing address on file at the [Office of the Registrar](#) (within 30 days if the student did not receive some form of financial assistance through the university). Refunds for a student under the installment plan will be first applied to the student’s unpaid balance.

Students who do not officially withdraw through the [Office of the Registrar](#) will be responsible for tuition, fees and any circumstances arising from failure to withdraw.

* Texas Education Code, Section 54.504 – Incidental Fees and 55.16 Board Responsibility authorizes the governing board to fix and collect fees and charges. The averages are not given for college and course related fees (laboratory, incidental, supplemental/individual fees) since charges vary according to academic program and courses; actual fees are published in the institutional catalog and/or other publications.

**The Texas Legislature, except for basic tuition, does not set the specific amount for any particular student fee. The student fees assessed are authorized by state statute; however, the university

administration and UT System Board of Regents determine specific fee amounts and make the decision to increase fees.

***House Bill 3015 authorizes the governing boards of institutions of higher education to charge any student Designated Tuition in any amount necessary for the effective operation of the institution effective Sept. 1, 2003. These amounts are approximate as additional charges for course or program related fees may be incurred.

Withdrawal for Military Service

A student who withdraws as a result of being called to active military service may choose:

1. To receive a refund of tuition and fees for the semester;
2. If eligible, to be assigned an incomplete (I) in each course; or
3. At the instructor's discretion receive a final grade in courses where he or she has completed a substantial amount of coursework and has demonstrated sufficient mastery of the course material.

Policies affecting students who are absent for military service but do not withdraw are provided in the "[Military Absence](#)" on p. 77.

Tuition Rebates (Office of the Registrar)

Eligible Students

To qualify for a tuition rebate of \$1,000 upon graduation from UTRGV, students must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Student must have attempted no more than three hours in excess of the minimum number of credit hours required to complete the degree in the catalog under which they graduated. (See definition of Attempted Hours below.)
2. Student must have enrolled for the first time in an institution of higher education in the fall of 1997 semester or later.
3. Student must be requesting a rebate for work related purposes to a first baccalaureate degree received from at a Texas public university.
4. Student must have been a resident of Texas, must have attempted all coursework at a Texas public institution of higher education, and have been entitled to pay resident tuition at all times while pursuing the degree.

Definition: Attempted hours include transfer credits, course credit in excess of nine hours that were earned exclusively by examination, courses that are dropped after the official census date, for-credit developmental courses, optional internship and cooperative education courses, and repeated courses exclusively by examination. Courses dropped for reasons that are determined by the institution to be totally beyond the control of the student shall not be counted.

Amount of Tuition Rebates

1. The amount of tuition to be rebated to a student under this program is \$1,000, unless the total amount of undergraduate tuition paid by the student to the institution awarding the degree was

less than \$1,000, in which event the amount of tuition to be rebated is equal to the amount of undergraduate tuition paid by the student to the institution.

2. A student who paid the institution awarding the degree an amount of undergraduate tuition less than \$1,000 may qualify for an increase in the amount of the rebate, not to exceed a total rebate of \$1,000, for any amount of undergraduate tuition the student paid to other Texas public institutions of higher education by providing the institution awarding the degree with proof of the total amount of that tuition paid to other institutions.
3. Tuition rebates shall be reduced by the amount of any outstanding student loan, including an emergency loan, owed to or guaranteed by this state, including the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. If a student has more than one outstanding student loan, the institution shall apply the amount of the rebate to the loans as directed by the student. If the student fails to provide timely instructions on the application of the amount, the institution shall apply the amount of the rebate to retire the loans with the highest interest rates first.

Responsibilities of Institutions

1. Institutions shall notify first-time freshmen of the tuition rebate program. A notice in this catalog is considered an acceptable form of notice.
2. If requested by potentially eligible students, public institutions of higher education are required to provide these students opportunities to enroll during each fall and spring semester in the equivalent of at least 12 credit hours that apply toward their degrees. Institutions are not required to provide students with the opportunity to enroll in specific courses or specific sections. The requirement may be met by allowing substitutions for required courses or by allowing [Dual Credit](#) in courses from another institution, so long as the courses are taught on the student's home campus and the student incurs no financial penalty.
3. Texas public universities are required to provide students with appropriate forms and instructions for requesting tuition reimbursement at the time that students apply for baccalaureate degrees.
4. Institutions are required to provide tuition rebates to students who apply for them within 60 days after graduation or provide the student with a statement explaining the reason the student is ineligible for the rebate.
5. Institutions are required to provide a dispute resolution process to resolve disputes related to local administration of the program.
6. Disputes related to lower-division credit transfer should be resolved in accordance with Coordinating Board rules, Chapter 5, Section 5.393 of this title (relating to transfer of lower division course credit).
7. Institutions may adopt rules and regulations for administering the program.

Responsibilities of Students

1. Students desiring to qualify for tuition rebates are responsible for complying with all University rules and regulations related to administration of the program.
2. Students desiring to qualify for tuition rebates are solely responsible for enrolling only in courses that will qualify them for the rebates.
3. A student who has transferred from another institution of higher education is responsible for providing to the institution awarding the degree official transcripts from all institutions attended by the student.

4. Students must apply for rebates prior to receiving their baccalaureate degrees on forms provided by the institution's registrar's office and must keep the institution notified of their mailing address for at least 60 days after their graduation date.

Treatment of Title IV Student Financial Aid Funds When a Student Withdraws

When federal Title IV grant or loan assistance is disbursed and the recipient does not complete the enrollment period, the law requires that The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley calculate the amount that must be returned by the school and/or student to Title IV program accounts.

The date the student initiates the withdrawal is used for calculating the percentage used in the formula for Return of Title IV funds. The number of days from the first class day to the withdrawal date divided by the number of days in the payment period (semester) equals the percentage of Title IV funds earned. If the withdrawal date is after the 60 percent point of the semester, the student has earned 100 percent of the Title IV funds.

If a student fails to earn a passing grade in at least one class, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is required to calculate the amount for Return of Title IV funds based on the last day of enrollment. If last day of attendance cannot be determined, UTRGV may use the midpoint of the period (in lieu of an official withdrawal date) as documentation of the student's last date of attendance. Unless the student can provide acceptable documentation that shows the student was enrolled more than 60 percent of the semester, the student may owe a refund back to UTRGV and the federal government.

Federal Financial Aid Policy when a Student Receives No Passing Grades

If a student receiving federal financial aid who began attendance and has not officially withdrawn fails to earn a passing grade in at least one course during the semester, UTRGV will assume, for Federal Title IV purposes, that the student has unofficially withdrawn, unless UTRGV can document that the student completed the semester. Federal regulations require the school to determine if the student earned the failing grades or if the student dropped out of school. If UTRGV is unable to determine that the student completed the semester, then it must assume that the student withdrew unofficially and must apply the Return of Title IV Funds Policy. The consequence of applying the Return of Title IV Funds Policy is that some financial aid funds may have to be returned to the federal aid accounts, causing the student to owe a balance to the school or to the federal government. The balance must be paid within 45 days or the student's account will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education for collections. The student will be notified of the responsibility to repay unearned funds to the appropriate program and/or to UTRGV.

Outstanding Student Balances

Students with outstanding balances who are no longer attending UTRGV are required to pay 100% of their total balance before any University services are provided. This includes, but is not limited to, the release of any official transcript.

Students with outstanding balances who are currently enrolled at UTRGV are required to pay 50% of their total balance before any University services are provided including registration for classes. When this partial payment is made, the hold will be lifted to allow services or registration and the remaining balance will be paid in four monthly installments (weekly for summer sessions).

Effective August 1, 2018: Students who do not pay their outstanding balance in full after one year from the date of last attendance will be sent to an external collection agency and subject to credit bureau reporting.

Use of Institutional Funds to Cover Outstanding Student Balances

The use of institutional funds, such as Texas Grants and scholarships, will be applied to student account balances as follows:

- Tuition and mandatory fees
- Additional course fees
- Incidental use fees

Some students are normally awarded sufficient financial aid (mostly referred to as Title IV funds; examples include Pell Grant, SEOG, Direct Loans, etc.) and non-Title IV funds or **institutional** funds (Texas Grants, scholarships, etc.) to cover all tuition and related fees. However, in situations where this financial aid is not sufficient, students are responsible for 100% of their remaining balance, which now becomes a student account receivable.

When students withdraw before the end of the semester, this may result in the reversal of Title IV funds that were previously awarded and may create a balance in the student's account. In most cases, this student account balance is created after all student refunds for the term have been processed. This balance is now owed to UTRGV and known as a student account receivable.

To address student account receivables balances (which may include reversal of Title IV funds), UTRGV reserves the right to apply pending **institutional** refunds from the current term retroactively to any unpaid prior term balance(s). After this application, remaining credit balances, if any, will be processed as a disbursement (refund) to the student.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

General Information

Financial aid plays a vital role at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley where a large percentage of students receive some type of financial assistance.

Tuition and fees at UTRGV are significantly lower than private colleges and equal to, or lower than, most public colleges. This, together with the availability of financial aid funds, makes UTRGV an outstanding educational value.

There are several sources of graduate student aid, including federal, state, institutional and private funds. Financial assistance comes in the form of grants, scholarships, student loans, and work-study.

For more information about the various types of financial assistance, you may visit us at:

U Central		
One West University Blvd. The Tower, Main, Rm. 1.101 Brownsville, TX 78520	1201 West University Dr. Student Services Bldg., 1 st Floor Edinburg, TX 78539	utrgv.edu/finaid Phone: 1-888-882-4026 Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Tuesday, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Friday, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm

To find out if the federal student financial aid application has been processed, or to see the information on the application, a student can call 1-800-433-3243 or visit the website at www.fafsa.gov.

Application Process

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is an equal opportunity institution in the administration of its financial aid programs. In keeping with this policy, financial aid is extended to students without regard to race, creed, sex, national origin, veteran status, religion, age or disability. In order to qualify for federal financial assistance, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen or be classified as a Texas resident under Senate Bill Law 1528.
2. Be registered with Selective Service (Students subject to selective service registration will be required to file a statement that the student has registered or is exempt from selective service registration in order to be eligible to apply for financial aid.)
3. Have a high school diploma or its equivalent.
4. Have signed a statement of educational purpose certifying that any federal or state aid received will be used for educational purposes.
5. Be enrolled as a regular student working toward a degree in an eligible degree program.
6. Have not defaulted on any federal, state or institutional loan, and not owe a refund to any federal or state grant program.
7. Demonstrate financial need, except when applying for funds from a program that does not require financial need.
8. Be in satisfactory academic standing and making Satisfactory Academic Progress (as defined by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy described below) at the university.
9. Have completed a financial aid application and all required documentation is on file by the appropriate deadline.

How to Apply for Financial Aid

File your FAFSA over the Internet at www.fafsa.gov; you will need to obtain an FSA ID (a username and password) to be able to access and sign your FAFSA.

You may visit us either at our Edinburg or Brownsville locations for one-on-one electronic FAFSA submittal assistance. All required documents must be submitted before any aid can be awarded. Some applications are selected for verification of information submitted on the application.

If you are classified as a Texas Resident under Senate Bill 1528 law, you must complete a TASFA application. The TASFA application can be obtained under the Financial Aid forms section at www.utrgv.edu/finaid.

In order to apply for summer institutional grants, you must submit a Summer Notification at www.utrgv.edu/finaid in addition to a FAFSA or TASFA. The Summer Notification is available yearly on December 15.

Additional Information on the Federal Verification Procedure

As stated above, some FAFSA applicants are selected for verification. Verification is the process in which the school's financial aid office requests documentation from students based on the information provided on the FAFSA application submitted to Department of Education. If an applicant has been selected for verification, we will notify them by email and via their ASSIST account. In most cases the documents used to verify information are the prior year's federal tax return transcript and a Verification Worksheet; additional documents may be requested depending upon the information to be verified. Applicants are asked to submit the requested information to the Financial Aid Office within two weeks. Dependent students must submit parental information as requested in addition to their own information. The financial aid application is considered incomplete until verification is completed; that is, no aid offer will be made until verification is complete.

If corrections must be made as a result of verification, corrections to the ISIR will be submitted to the federal processor. If an aid offer must be adjusted because of information submitted as part of the verification process, the applicant will be notified via email through a revised Financial Aid Notification.

The UTRGV School Code for the FAFSA is **003599**.

Application Deadlines

To ensure processing before registration, the recommended priority dates for submission of the FAFSA are as follows:

- **Fall awards:** March 15
- **Spring awards:** Sept. 15
- **Summer awards:** Feb. 15

Final deadline to apply for financial aid is June 30 of the end of the award year. In order to award aid for an application submitted after the end of the spring semester, the student must be currently enrolled in a summer term. Aid is awarded on a funds-available basis, and priority is given to students that file by the March 15 priority deadline.

Students that did not apply for financial aid or submit required documents by the recommended priority dates may not have their aid awarded at the time payment is due. Arrangements will then need to be made by the student for an alternative method of payment.

Benefits of Applying Early

- You increase your chance of receiving some of the state and/or local aid, which is in limited in funding.
- You get an award letter prior to the payment of tuition and fees.

- If your file needs corrections, these can be completed before the payment date of tuition and fees.

The Disbursement Process

Students receiving financial aid can expect to receive their aid in any of the following methods:

1. When the student accepts his/her award, the award will be credited to the student's account to pay for educational expenses 10 days before the first day of classes
2. Stafford Loan funds will be credited to the student's account 10 days prior to the first class day for students who have successfully completed the required counseling session and master promissory note. If a student is a first-time freshman borrower, the funds will not be received until 30 calendar days after the first class day.
3. Financial aid cash disbursements: Any credit remaining in the student's account after all tuition/fees and all educational expenses have been paid will be disbursed during the week prior to the first class day. Direct deposit can be set up via the student's ASSIST account so that any disbursements are deposited into the student's bank account. If direct deposit has not been set up, any disbursements will be mailed to your mailing/billing address on the system. Changes of address can be made via ASSIST account.

NOTE: Changes in class schedule or enrollment status may cause an adjustment or cancellation of your awards, which will require you to pay a balance or return funds.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Introduction

Federal Title IV financial aid regulations require students receiving federal student financial aid to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at the university in order to remain eligible for this aid. Satisfactory Academic Progress standards are also required for some state and institutional financial aid programs. The Financial Aid Office evaluates SAP at the end of each semester, once grades are posted. There are three components of SAP: a qualitative standard (i.e., GPA), pace of progression (number of credits attempted and earned), and a maximum time frame to complete the degree or program. All semesters of enrollment including summer must be considered in the determination of SAP. SAP standards, including grade point average, pace, and maximum time frame, begin anew for students seeking a graduate or professional degree after completing an undergraduate degree.

Qualitative or Grade Point Average (GPA)

The student must maintain at least a 2.0 total grade point average (GPA), which is consistent with the University's academic requirements. All UTRGV courses with a grade of A, B, C, D, F, RA, RB, RC, RD, and RF are counted in the calculation of GPA. Satisfactory Academic Progress cannot be determined until all grades of I or IP (incomplete) are resolved. Transfer grades that are accepted by the university are not counted in the determination of GPA because they are not part of the total GPA³.

³ Note: Students from UTB-TSC who transferred during Fall 2015 thru Summer 2017 had their UTB-TSC SAP status migrated into UTRGV as their initial SAP status. Coursework transferred from the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College for students enrolled at UTRGV prior to Fall 2017 will be included in the calculation of the total GPA. All other Transfer students are considered new students unless their transfer-attempted hours exceed Max Time Frame.

However, the credits from all attempts accepted by UTRGV are counted in the calculation of pace and the maximum time frame requirement. If a student repeats a course, only the most recent grade is counted in the calculation of GPA. Remedial courses are included in the calculation of GPA. Audited courses do not count toward the GPA, pace, or maximum time frame requirements. Credit is not granted for audited courses.

PACE (Progression Requirements)

The student must be progressing toward graduation requirements by completing the courses for which they enroll each semester. Courses or classes are measured in credit hours. Students must complete at least 67 percent of all credits attempted. For example, a sophomore who has attempted 60 credit hours and has satisfactorily completed 48 of those credit hours would have completed 80 percent of attempted credits.

Credits attempted are all course credit hours for which the student is enrolled as of the semester census date, which is the 12th day of class in a semester for regular fall and spring and 4th class day for regular summer sessions (for terms shorter in length please check for census date), whether they have received a grade yet or not. Once grades are assigned, attempted credits include grades of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, S, U, CR, NC, IP, I, DR, or W. Grades of DROPPED are counted as hours attempted if the student is enrolled in the class and charged for it as of the semester census date. Credits satisfactorily completed are classes for which the student receives a grade of A, B, C, D, P, S, CR or P. Remedial courses are not included in the calculation of pace.

Maximum Time Frame Requirements

The student must complete undergraduate degree requirements in a maximum time period according to federal regulation. Maximum time frame will be measured by the number of credit hours attempted. Students are allowed a maximum of 180 attempted credit hours in order to complete bachelor's degree requirements. Students attempting a second bachelor's degree are allowed 90 attempted credit hours. Attempted credit hours, for purposes of calculating maximum time frame, include all courses with grades of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, S, U, CR, NC, DR, W or I and IP courses for which grades have not yet been assigned. Transfer credits, AP credits, or CLEP credits accepted for the student's academic program or degree are also counted when measuring the maximum time frame to complete the degree or program. Remedial courses are not included in the calculation of maximum time frame requirement.

Warning Period

Students who fail to meet the minimum requirements, other than maximum time frame, will be allowed one warning semester to restore satisfactory standing. Financial aid will be processed for one semester only. Financial aid will be processed for one semester only. At the end of the warning semester, the student must have regained satisfactory SAP status in order to continue receiving financial aid. Students having reached the maximum time frame to complete a program cannot receive a warning semester.

Financial Aid Suspension

Students who fail to earn the minimum requirements during the warning semester will be considered as not making SAP and all financial assistance will be terminated or suspended until the student regains minimum satisfactory academic progress standards. Students may re-establish eligibility for upcoming periods by achieving the satisfactory progress standards. After a student has re-established eligibility,

he/she may be considered for aid for upcoming periods but not for periods during which the standard had not been met.

Appeals

A student who is denied aid because of a failure to meet satisfactory progress standards after the warning semester may appeal this determination by completing a Financial Aid SAP Appeal by published deadlines. An appeal must be based on significant mitigating circumstances, circumstances that seriously affected academic performance. Examples of possible mitigating circumstances are serious illness, severe injury, death of a family member, and other similar situations. The appeal must include an explanation of why the student failed to meet SAP standards, and what has changed that will now allow the student to regain satisfactory SAP status. Appeals can only be approved if it appears that the student can regain satisfactory SAP status after the end of the following semester of enrollment, or if the student can regain satisfactory SAP status by following an academic plan that will lead to timely completion of the degree program. Students with approved appeals are placed in probationary status for one semester or placed in an academic plan lasting more than one semester. Students placed in an academic plan must meet all requirements of the academic plan in order to continue receiving financial aid. Probationary or academic plan status ends when the student regains SAP status or does not meet the requirements of the academic plan. Students whose appeals are denied remain in financial aid suspension until satisfactory progress standards are regained.

The Appeals Committee of the Financial Aid Office will review the appeal within ten business days of receiving a completed appeal and required documentation. Decisions are made after a careful evaluation of the student's unique circumstances, Federal Title IV regulations, and UTRGV guidelines. The student will be notified of the committee's decision via e-mail and the student portal. During this time, the student is responsible for any tuition and fees (including late fees) that are charged to their account. Students that are placed on Academic Plan will receive an e-mail indicating the conditions of this plan. Students can also view the conditions of the Academic Plan via the student portal.

The Appeals Committee is composed of professional staff from the financial aid office that function in a student advisory or administrative capacity and are knowledgeable of federal, state, and institutional financial aid regulations and policies may include staff from other departments when deemed that their expertise may be necessary for a decision. Appeal decisions are final.

Treatment of Title IV Aid When a Student Withdraws

When federal Title IV grant or loan assistance is disbursed and the recipient does not complete the enrollment period, the law requires that UTRGV calculate the amount that must be returned by the school and/or student to Title IV program accounts.

The date the student initiates the withdrawal is used for calculating the percentage used in the formula for Return of Title IV Funds. The number of days from the first class day to the withdrawal date divided by the number of days in the payment period (semester) equals the percentage of Title IV Funds earned. If the withdrawal date is after the 60 percent point of the semester, the student has earned 100 percent of the Title IV funds.

If a student fails to earn a passing grade in at least one class, UTRGV is required to calculate the amount for Return of Title IV Funds based on the last day of enrollment. The last day of attendance is provided

by UTRGV faculty when entering a non-passing grade. If last day of attendance cannot be determined, UTRGV may use the midpoint of the period (in lieu of an official withdrawal date) as documentation of the student's last date of attendance. If the student was not enrolled more than 60 percent of the semester, the student may owe a refund back to UTRG and the federal government.

Attendance Verification

UTRGV requires faculty to report students who did not attend any class meetings between the beginning of a semester and census day (official 12th class day). For online classes, attendance is defined as logging into the course website and participating in an academically related activity. Federal regulations state that a student must begin attendance in all classes for which he/she enrolls in order to establish Title IV program eligibility (i.e. loans & grants). A student who is reported as non-attending will have his/her financial aid reduced and the cost of attendance budget adjusted.

Distance Learning

For students enrolling in Distance Learning who list UTRGV as their Home institution, financial aid funds will be disbursed to after the census date. Students are responsible for contacting their Host Institutions to make payment arrangements.

Study Abroad Program

Enrollment in a program of study abroad approved for credit by UTRGV may be considered enrollment at UTRGV for the purpose of applying for federal student aid.

Students who apply for financial assistance for study abroad should apply in the same manner as if they were planning on being in residence at UTRGV. A study abroad student must file a FAFSA and must be participating in a program that is pre-approved to be a financial aid eligible program. This is determined by the agreements that are set up by the Office of International Programs and Partnerships for each specific program. Students should verify with both the Office of International Programs and Partnerships and the Financial Aid Office to determine if the program they are interested in is an eligible program for financial aid purposes.

To be considered for Title IV funds, the study abroad applicant is expected to meet all financial aid application priority deadlines, to adhere to other financial aid deadlines, to meet all the eligibility requirements for Title IV awards and be making Satisfactory Academic Progress and meet minimum enrollment requirements for financial aid programs.

The study abroad applicant should also note that if awarded an institutional or outside scholarship, these awards may result in a reduction or cancellation of financial aid.

NOTE: Financial aid funds will be disbursed the week before the first day of the program for the respective semester. As a result, students will need to make payment arrangements with their respective study abroad programs.

Federal Pell Grant

The study abroad applicant who is eligible for the Federal Pell Grant will have the award based on hours enrolled.

Stafford Loans

Students who will be eligible for Federal Stafford loans, unsubsidized loans and/or Perkins loans should be aware that:

1. First-time borrowers will not receive loan proceeds until 30 days after the start of the term.
2. Completion of Entrance Loan Counseling and an approved Master Promissory Note (MPN) will be required for all loan applicants before any loan funds are disbursed.
3. Student loans require students to be enrolled at least half-time (6 hours).
4. For a student enrolled in one term, student loans will be disbursed in two equal disbursements (usually at the beginning of the term and at the term mid-point).

NOTE: If a student is not automatically awarded a Stafford loan, he/she may submit an additional Financial Aid Request available online at www.utrgv.edu/finaid.

Return to Title IV

Any time a student withdraws from the study abroad program, he or she will be responsible for repayment of federal financial aid funds, if applicable. Please refer to section on Return of Title IV in the catalog for additional information.

Types of Financial Assistance

Grants

Federal Pell Grant

This grant is available to qualifying students who complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is online at www.fafsa.gov. Pell eligible students may receive the Pell Grant for up to 12 full time semesters or its equivalent. Pell Grants are not available to students who have already received a bachelor's degree. The Pell grant eligibility for a student is determined based on the amounts set by U.S. Department of Education based on estimated family contribution.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

The federal government established this program for students with high financial need. Graduate students or students who have already received a bachelor's degree are not eligible for FSEOG. The actual amount and qualification is determined after the FAFSA is submitted for processing. Awards from this program are based on the availability of funds.

Texas Public Educational Grant (TPEG)

A Texas Public Educational Grant is a campus-based grant for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need. Unlike the Federal Pell Grant, there is no guarantee that an eligible student will receive a TPEG. Awards from this program are based on the availability of funds. If a student is awarded a TPEG at UTRGV, his/her account will be credited.

TEXAS Grant

The TEXAS (Towards EXcellence, Access and Success) Grant was created to provide a grant to enable well-prepared students to attend public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in Texas. To qualify for TEXAS Grant, a student must:

- Be a Texas resident.

- Have not been convicted of a felony or crime involving a controlled substance.
- Complete the FAFSA and show financial need.
- Have an EFC less than or equal to 5609.
- Register for the Selective Service or are exempt from this requirement.
- Enroll in at least 3/4 time (nine hours or more) in an undergraduate program.
- Not have earned a baccalaureate degree

AND

- Be a graduate of an accredited high school in Texas not earlier than the 1998-99 school year.
- Complete the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program in high school. (See additional academic requirements below for students graduating from high school after May 1, 2013.)
- Enroll in a nonprofit public college or university in Texas within 16 months of graduation from a public or accredited private high school in Texas.
- Have accumulated no more than 30 credit hours, excluding those earned for dual or concurrent courses or awarded for credit by examination (AP, IB, or CLEP).

OR

- Have earned an associate's degree from a public technical, state or community college in Texas.

AND

- Enroll in any public university in Texas no more than 12 months after receiving their associate's degree.

Initial eligibility for a person graduating from high school after May 1, 2013 must include meeting the following academic requirements:

Be a graduate of a public or accredited private high school in this state who completed the Recommended High School program or its equivalent and have accomplished any two or more of the following:

- Graduation under the Advanced High School Program, successful completion of the course requirements of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, or earning of the equivalent of at least 12 credit hours of college credit in high school;
- Satisfaction of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) college readiness benchmarks or be TSI exempt;
- Graduation in the top one-third of the person's high school graduating class, or graduation from high school with a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a four-point scale or the equivalent; or
- Completion for high school credit of at least one advanced mathematics course following the successful completion of an Algebra II course
- If sufficient money is available, meet the academic eligibility criteria for students that graduated from high school before May 1, 2013.

Students entering the program from high school who continue in college and who meet program academic standards can receive awards for up to 150 credit hours, until they receive a bachelor's

degree, or for five years if enrolled in a four-year degree plan or six years if enrolled in a five-year degree plan, whichever comes first.

Students entering the program based on acquisition of an associate's degree who continue in college and who meet program academic standards can receive awards for up to 90 credit hours, until they receive a bachelor's degree, or for three years if enrolled in a four-year degree plan or four years if enrolled in a five-year degree plan, whichever comes first.

Students must ensure that an official high school transcript is on record with the Office of Admissions before they can receive an award.

Receipt of a TEXAS Grant is not guaranteed and is dependent on yearly allocations from the state.

Student Loans

Students who are eligible for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and/or Perkins Loans should be aware that a completed entrance loan counseling session and master promissory note are required for all loan applicants. Freshmen students that were not offered a student loan, are required to meet for Freshman Loan Counseling. The Financial Aid Calendar with available dates is available at www.utrgv.edu/finaid under the Request Additional Aid section.

NOTE: A student already awarded a student loan that needs additional funds may submit the request for additional aid available online at www.utrgv.edu/finaid.

The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Stafford Direct Loans) Program

The Direct Loan Program is one of the federal student aid programs offered by the Department of Education, which provides students with a simple, inexpensive way to borrow money to pay for education after high school. The Direct Loan program offers unsubsidized Stafford Loans for students pursuing graduate degrees. The first step in the application process is the completion of the FAFSA. After the student's FAFSA is processed, the Financial Aid Office will review the results and advise the student as to his or her loan eligibility. Before receiving any loan disbursements through the Direct Loan program, every student borrower will have to complete an entrance counseling session and an electronic master promissory note and must be enrolled for at least half-time (6 hours). Once these requirements are complete, the Financial Aid Office will receive electronic confirmation that the information has been completed and funds will be credited to the student's University account 10 days before the first day of class. When loans are awarded for one semester only the first half is credited first and the second half is credited approximately mid-semester.

Texas B-On-Time Loan Program

The purpose of the Texas B-On-Time Loan Program is to provide eligible Texas students no-interest loans to attend colleges and universities in Texas. Only renewal awards are available. If the student meets specified goals, the entire loan amount can be forgiven upon graduation.

Renewal Eligibility Requirements

To maintain eligibility for future disbursements, the student must:

- Be a Texas resident.
- Has not earned a bachelor's degree.

- Enrolled full-time in an undergraduate degree.
- Has completed a FAFSA and is eligible to receive federal financial aid.
- Complete at least 75% of the semester credit hours attempted in the most recent academic year and have a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent) on all course work previously attempted at institutions of higher education.
- Not receive B-On-Time loans for more than 150 hours.

Forgiveness Requirements: A Texas B-On-Time Loan shall be forgiven if the student receives an undergraduate degree or certificate from an eligible institution and the student either:

- Graduated with a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, within:
 - Four calendar years after the date the student initially enrolled in an eligible institution,
 - Five calendar years after the date the student initially enrolled in an eligible institution, if the degree is in architecture, engineering, or any other program determined by the board to require more than four years to complete,
 - Two calendar years after the date the student initially enrolled in a public or private two-year institution; or
- Graduated with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, with a total number of credit hours (including transfer hours and hours earned exclusively by examination) that is no more than six hours beyond what is required to complete the degree or certificate.

IRS regulations indicate that these loans must be reported as taxable income when they are forgiven.

NOTE: Funds are limited and students will be selected based on priority guidelines determined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

*** Beginning 2015-2016 year, this program is only available to students that have received it before.**

Federal Work-Study Program (FWS)

The Federal Work-Study Program provides jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need. This program allows the student to earn money to help pay educational expenses and also encourages community service work and work related to the student's course of study.

To qualify a student must:

- Submit the FAFSA and have financial need
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Be enrolled for the semester
- Meet UTRGV's Satisfactory Academic Policy Requirements

For Texas residents, the Texas College Work Study Program is also available.

To qualify a student must:

- Submit the FAFSA/TASFA and have financial need
- Be a Texas resident
- Be enrolled for at least half time
- Meet UTRGV's Satisfactory Academic Policy Requirements
- Have an Employment Authorization Card (if you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident)

Work-study employment may be on campus or off campus. If off campus, the employer is usually a private nonprofit organization or public agency, and the work performed must be in the public interest. The amount a student receives in wages under work study cannot exceed the total amount awarded.

Work-study can be requested online by submitting an Additional Aid Request at www.utrgv.edu/finaid. More information about work-study programs can be found at www.utrgv.edu/finaid.

State Exemptions and Waivers

The Texas Education Coordinating Board administers various tuition assistance programs including programs for teachers and vocational nursing students. Further information about these programs may be obtained by visiting the Financial Aid website at <http://www.utrgv.edu/finaid> or visiting the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website at <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com>.

After initially qualifying for a mandatory or discretionary exemption or waiver from the payment of all or part of the tuition or other fees for enrollment during a semester, a student may continue to receive the exemption or waiver if the student maintains a GPA for making satisfactory academic progress, and if an undergraduate student, does not complete an excessive number of credit hours.

Adopted Students Formerly under the Conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

This program provides exemption of tuition and required fees for individuals who were adopted and were subject of an adoption assistance agreement under Subchapter D, Chapter 162, Family Code, that provided monthly payments and medical assistance benefits and was not limited to providing only for the reimbursement of nonrecurring expenses.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexans.com.

Tuition Exemption for Current or Former Foster Care Students under the Conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS)

This program provides exemption of tuition and required fees for persons who were in foster care or other residential care under the conservatorship of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services on or after the day preceding their 18th birthday, the day of the student's 14th birthday if the student was eligible for adoption on or after that day, or the day the student received a high school diploma or equivalent. In order to take advantage of this exemption the student must enroll as an undergraduate no later than the third anniversary of date of discharge from that care or the 25th birthday.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexans.com.

Exemption for Children of Disabled or Deceased Firemen, Peace Officers, Game Wardens, and Employees of Correctional Institutions

Exemption is for children under 21 years of age (or 22 if the student was eligible to participate in special education under Texas Education Code, Section 29.003) of disabled full-paid or volunteer firefighters, full-paid municipal, county, state peace officers, custodians of the Department of Criminal Justice, or game wardens. Disability/death must have occurred in the line of duty. Students are exempted from tuition and required fees, not to exceed 120 undergraduate credit hours or any semester begun after age 26, whichever comes first.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexas.com.

Exemption for Highest Ranking High School Graduate (Valedictorian Tuition Exemption)

Valedictorians of each accredited Texas high school are exempted from tuition during the first two regular semesters immediately following their high school graduation. In order to qualify for this exemption, the student must submit a copy of his/her certificate to Financial Aid Office confirming the student was the highest-ranking student of his/her high school.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexas.com.

Senior Citizen Exemption

Senior citizens may be exempt from payment of tuition for up to six credit hours per term on a space-available basis. A senior citizen is defined as a student of age 65 or older.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexas.com.

Texas Hazlewood Act Exemption

The purpose of the Hazlewood Act (Section 54. 341, Texas Education Code) is to encourage U.S. veterans to pursue higher education.

The Hazlewood Act is a State of Texas benefit that provides qualified Veterans, spouses, and dependent children with an education benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition exemption, including most fee charges, at public institutions of higher education in Texas. This does NOT include living expenses, books, or supply fees.

To qualify for the Hazlewood Act the Veteran must:

- At the time of entry into active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces,
 - designated Texas as Home of Record;
 - or entered the service in Texas;
 - or was a Texas resident;
- Have received an honorable discharge or separation or a general discharge under honorable conditions as indicated on the Veteran's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214);
- Have served at least 181 days of active military duty
- service (excluding active duty training);
- Currently reside in Texas;
- Have no federal Veterans education benefits, or have no federal Veterans education benefits dedicated to the payment of tuition and fees only (such as Chapter 33 or 31; Pell and SEOG are not relevant) for term or semester enrolled that do not exceed the value of Hazlewood benefits;
- Not be in default on a student loan made or guaranteed by the State of Texas;
- Enroll in classes for which the college receives tax support (i.e., a course that does not depend solely on student tuition and fees to cover its costs), unless the college's governing board has ruled to let veterans receive the benefit while taking non-funded courses; and
- Meet the GPA requirement of the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy in a degree or certificate program as determined by the institution's financial aid policy and, as an undergraduate student, not be considered to have attempted an excessive amount of credit hours.

Hazlewood-Legacy Program (Transfer of Hazlewood Benefits)

Eligible veterans may assign unused hours of exemption eligibility to a child under certain conditions to be eligible, the child (Legacy recipient) must:

- Be classified by the institution as a Texas resident.
- Be the biological child, stepchild, adopted child, or claimed as a dependent in the current or previous tax year.
- Be 25 years or younger on the first day of the semester or term for which the exemption is claimed (unless granted an extension due to a qualifying illness or debilitating condition) ; and
- Meet the GPA requirement of the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy in a degree or certificate program as determined by the institution's financial aid policy and, as an undergraduate student, not be considered to have attempted an excessive amount of credit hours.

If the child to whom hours have been delegated fails to use all of the assigned hours, a veteran may assign the unused hours that are available to another dependent child. However, you may not exceed 150 hours total, regardless how you distribute the hours among multiple children. Only one child at a time may use the transferred benefits. If it is determined that simultaneous enrollment of Legacy children has occurred, all Hazlewood Act Exemption Applications may be rendered void, and the college/universities may charge for the semester hours taken during the time period multiple Legacy children have used the benefits. Veteran's spouses are not eligible to receive a transfer of unused hours.

Texas Hazlewood Exemption for Eligible Dependents (Spouses and Children)

Spouses and dependent children of eligible Active Duty, Reserve, and Texas National Guard Veterans who died in the line of duty as a result of injury or illness directly related to military service, are missing in action, or who became totally disabled for purposes of employability as a result of a service-related injury or illness are entitled to each receive a 150 credit hours exemption.

A spouse or child must:

- Be a spouse or child of a Veteran who, at the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces,
 - designated Texas as Home of Record;
 - or entered the service in Texas;
 - or was a Texas resident;
- Be a spouse or child of a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Texas National Guard who died as a result of service-related injuries or illness, is missing in action, or became totally disabled (100%) as a result of service-related injury or illness or is entitled to receive compensation at the 100% rate based on individual unemployability (IU) due to a permanent service connected injury or illness;
- Have no federal Veterans education benefits or have no federal Veterans education benefits dedicated to the payment of tuition and fees only (such as Chapter 33 or 31; Pell and SEOG Grants are not relevant) for the term or semester enrolled that do not exceed the value of Hazlewood benefits;
- Be classified by the institution as a Texas resident; and
- Meet the GPA requirement of the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy in a degree or certificate program as determined by the institution's financial aid policy and, as an

undergraduate student, not be considered to have attempted an excessive amount of credit hours. This requirement does not apply to the spouse or child of a MIA, KIA, or service connected deceased Veteran.

Tuition and Fee Exemption for Members of State Military Forces

Texas Education Code, Section 54.2155, provides an exemption for individuals certified by the adjunct general of the state military forces as having been awarded assistance for tuition and fees under Texas Government Code Section 431.090. Eligible students are exempt from tuition, not to exceed 12 credit hours charged at the Texas resident rate, and mandatory fees for any semester in which the tuition exemption is received.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexans.com.

Children of U.S. Military who are Missing in Action or Prisoner of War (MIA/POWs)

To provide an education benefit to the children of persons listed as Missing in Action or Prisoners of War by the U.S. Department of Defense.

- Are Texas residents.
- Are 21 or younger or 25 or younger and receiving most of his/her support from a parent.
- Have documentation from the Department of Defense that a parent, who is classified as a Texas resident, is missing in action or a prisoner of war.
- Enroll in classes for which the college receives tax support (i.e., a course that does not depend solely on student tuition and fees to cover its costs).
- Exemption covers tuition, service fees, lab fees, building use fees, and all other fees except room, board or clothing fees, or deposits in the nature of security for the return or proper care of property. No funds may be used to pay tuition for continuing education classes for which the college receives no state tax support.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexans.com.

Exemption for the Surviving Spouse and Minor Children of Certain Deceased Public Servants (Employees)

This program is available for the surviving spouse or children of certain public peace officers, probation officers, parole officers, jailers, police reservists, fire fighters and emergency medical personnel (Texas Code 615.003). Death must have occurred in the line of duty as a result of a risk inherent in the duty. The student must enroll full-time and is exempted from tuition and fees, student housing and food costs not to exceed bachelor's degree or 200 hours.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexans.com.

Exemption for Peace Officers Enrolled in Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice Courses

This program is available for Peace Officers currently employed by the state of Texas or a political subdivision of Texas. Student must be enrolled in an undergraduate program leading to a law enforcement or criminal justice degree. Courses not directly related to law enforcement or criminal justice are not eligible for reimbursement. Students must submit proof of employment as a paid officer no sooner than 30 days of the 12th class date of semester seeking exemption.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexans.com.

Exemption for Firefighters Taking Fire Science Courses

This program is available for persons employed as fire fighters or active members of volunteer fire departments to take college courses as part of a Fire Science Curriculum to help them in their work. Tuition and laboratory fees for courses are offered as part of curriculum but will not cover excess or repeated hours. To receive continuing awards, firefighter must meet institutional financial aid academic progress.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexas.com.

Exemption for Blind and Deaf Students

A blind disabled person or a person whose sense of hearing is nonfunctional and is a Texas resident may be eligible for exemption from payment of tuition and required fees if appropriately certified by a state vocational rehabilitation agency. Contact the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services for more information.

For more information, please visit www.collegeforalltexas.com.

Exemption Program for Children of Professional Nursing Program Faculty and Staff

To provide an exemption of tuition to eligible students to encourage their parents to continue employment as professional nurse faculty or staff members in the state of Texas. Student must:

- Be 25 years or younger.
- Be a Texas resident.
- Have not previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Be enrolled at an institution that offers an undergraduate or graduate program of professional nursing.
- Be the child of an individual who:
 - At the beginning of the semester or other academic term for which an exemption is sought: (1) holds a master's or doctoral degree in nursing, and is employed full-time by an undergraduate or graduate professional nursing program offered by the institution that the child is attending and is employed as a member of the faculty or staff with duties that include teaching, performing research, serving as an administrator, or performing other professional services other than serving as a teaching assistant, or (2) holds a baccalaureate degree in nursing and is employed by a professional nursing program offered by the institution as a full-time teaching assistant, or
 - During all or part of the semester or other academic term for which an exemption is sought: (1) holds a master's or doctoral degree in nursing, and has contracted with an undergraduate or graduate professional nursing program in this state to serve as a full-time member of its faculty or staff with duties that include teaching, performing research, serving as an administrator, or performing other professional services other than serving as a teaching assistant, or (2) holds a baccalaureate degree in nursing and has contracted with a professional nursing program offered by the institution to serve as a full-time teaching assistant.
- Register for the Selective Service or be exempt from this requirement.
- Have not previously received an exemption under this section for 10 semesters or summer sessions.

Students are exempted from tuition, which may be prorated if parent is not full-time.

Consideration for fee waivers will be determined prior to the 12th class day during a fall or spring semester or prior to the fourth class day during a summer term.

For additional information, please visit www.collegeforalltexas.com.

You may also contact us at:

U Central		
One West University Blvd. The Tower, Main, Rm. 1.101 Brownsville, TX 78520	1201 West University Dr. Student Services Bldg., 1 st Floor Edinburg, TX 78539	utrgv.edu/finaid Phone: 1-888-882-4026 Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Tuesday, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Friday, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm

Scholarships

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley offers a variety of scholarships through the University Scholarship Committee and departmental committees. These scholarships are based on various prerequisites and are intended to recognize students for their outstanding academic accomplishments and future potential. These awards are made possible through the generosity of local as well as national business firms, organizations, individuals and University endowed funds.

The majority of the scholarships are not automatically renewed. Students must apply each year for continued consideration. Although most awards are restricted to U.S. citizens and permanent residents of the United States, some are open to international students, who are encouraged to apply.

For a complete list of scholarships, visit <http://www.utrgv.edu/scholarships> to view the available scholarships. To be considered for scholarships at UTRGV, students must complete the UTRGV Scholarship application online at www.utrgv.edu/applyscholarships. The scholarship process is very competitive, students are encouraged to apply early and make sure their applications are submitted and complete. **Important:** It is UTRGV's policy not to award institutional scholarships to students who have received aid (including institutional, state, federal and private sources) in excess of their cost of attendance. If your cost of attendance is exceeded, any UTRGV scholarship(s) may be reduced or cancelled.

UTRGV Scholars Program

If you are an entering freshman who has earned college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) examinations and/or the Concurrent Enrollment (CE) program or are an International Baccalaureate Diploma recipient, and/or have very high ACT scores, and/or is ranked as top 10 % of your graduating class you may be considered for a four-year renewable scholarship.

You may qualify to receive the UTRGV Presidential Scholars award valued up to \$32,000, the UTRGV Meritorious Scholar award valued up to \$20,000, or the UTRGV Distinguished Scholar award for out of area students valued up to \$40,000.

HOW TO APPLY

There is no formal application for the UTRGV Scholars Scholarship. The UTRGV Scholars Scholarship is awarded based on a holistic review and competitive basis. There are limited slots available; therefore, you are highly encouraged to do the following as early as possible to ensure you are considered for the scholarship:

- Fill out the UTRGV Admission Application at applytexas.org.
- Submit your ACT or SAT scores.
- Submit an official high school transcript to the UTRGV Office of Student Enrollment, which must include ACT or SAT scores, GPA (on a 100-point scale), and rank and class size (at time of application).
- Request your AP scores (if applicable) be sent directly to UTRGV as well as any college transcripts reflecting concurrent enrollment hours earned.
- To be considered, you must be admitted to UTRGV by December 1st.

Fifth-Year Accounting Student Scholarship Program

The Fifth-Year Accounting Student Scholarship Program was established to recognize and support outstanding scholars who plan to pursue careers in accounting and serve as Certified Public Accountants in the state of Texas.

The program can provide up to \$7,500(lifetime maximum) to eligible students to assist with the cost of completing the educational requirements to sit for the CPA exam in Texas. In order to apply, students must:

- Be classified as residents of Texas.
- Be enrolled at least half time.
- Have completed at least 120 hours of college coursework (including at least 15 credit hours of accounting) at the beginning of the term in which the award is being made.
- Be making Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- Have not already taken the CPA exam, but plan to take the CPA examination in the state of Texas and are willing to sign a written statement confirming the intent to take the written examination conducted by the Texas State Board of Public Accounting for the purpose of being granted a certificate of Certified Public Accountant.
- Register for the Selective Service or be exempt from this requirement.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Applications are available within the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship at the Accounting department. Funding is limited; therefore, only complete applications will be considered.

Outside Scholarships

Many agencies, employers, military and service organizations award funds to students. Receipt of these external awards may result in a reduction of your financial aid from UTRGV. Therefore, if you are a

financial aid recipient, you must notify the Financial Aid Office of any scholarships you are awarded from sources other than UTRGV. To the extent possible, we will adjust loan awards before reducing grants.

It is also the student's responsibility to notify the Scholarship Office of any special instructions or billing information regarding external scholarships. All checks for these awards should be made payable to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and sent to either of our locations:

Scholarships		
One West University Blvd. The Tower, Main, Rm. 1.101 Brownsville, TX 78520	1201 West University Dr. Student Services Bldg., 1 st Floor Edinburg, TX 78539	utrgv.edu/scholarships Phone: 956-665-2935 Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am-5:00 pm

No credit will be entered on your account before the check arrives. It is URGV's policy to equally divide external scholarships between fall and spring.

Mexican Nationals

Citizens of Mexico may apply for a Nonresident Tuition Waiver. To be eligible, a student must have or obtain an F-1 student status, enroll full time and must apply before the required deadline dates. Students who have filed for permanent residency are not eligible. For information about this program, contact the Office of International Admissions and Student Services.

Good Neighbor Scholarship

A limited number of Good Neighbor Scholarships (as prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board), which provide exemption of tuition, are available to native-born citizens and residents from nations of the Western Hemisphere other than the United States. Information is available from the Office of International Admissions and Student Services.

Other payment options

Short-Term Loans

Made possible through donations from a number of individuals and organizations, these funds are administered by the Financial Aid Office and are available to students for short-term loans. Loans are limited in funding and must be repaid within the semester for which they are borrowed. The loans are designed to aid students who do not have sufficient funds to purchase books and supplies or to assist students when emergencies arise. A \$5 **non-refundable** processing fee and a \$5 **non-refundable** loan late payment fee are assessed to each loan and funding is limited. Students interested in applying for short-term loans are advised to apply in person at the Financial Aid Office at the beginning of each semester.

Emergency Tuition and Fee Loans

Emergency loans are available to UTRGV students needing assistance in paying registration costs. Emergency loans must be paid back to the university during the same semester in which they are borrowed. Emergency Loans not paid by the due date will be assessed **non-refundable** late payment fees as shown in the table below. An applicant will be assessed a 1% **non-refundable** processing fee per semester. Students may borrow up to the amount of tuition and applicable fees. For more information, please contact Student Accounting Services - Emergency Loan Office.

Emergency Loan Late Payment Fee	Balance up to \$500: \$10 per month
	Balance \$500.01 - \$1000: \$20 per month
	Balance greater than \$1000: \$30 per month
	Maximum Charge: \$90

ENROLLMENT

General Information

Classification

Undergraduate students are classified according to the number of hours of college credit they have earned:

- Freshmen 0-29 earned hours
- Sophomores 30-59 earned hours
- Juniors 60-89 earned hours
- Seniors 90 or more earned hours

Post-baccalaureate students are those who hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution and are not enrolled in a graduate program or degree-seeking undergraduate program, but are enrolled in undergraduate classes.

Degree-seeking graduate students are those who have earned a bachelor's degree and have been accepted to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley for graduate study in Master's or Doctoral programs. Non-degree seeking graduate students are those who have earned a bachelor's degree and are taking graduate courses for professional or academic improvement including achievement of higher grades.

Course Information

Undergraduate classroom course information, including a list of courses to be offered each semester, syllabi (including textbook information) and faculty curriculum vita of each regular instructor, may be accessed through the ASSIST portal found at the my.utrgv.edu (Texas Education Code, Section 51.974). The information concerning the courses offered by each department (or college for interdisciplinary courses) can be found [online](#). The listing includes the following information:

- **Student Learning Outcomes:** Each degree program has identified learning outcomes that it expects its graduates to achieve by the end of the program. These student learning outcomes are reflected in the courses offered by the program.
- **Course Number, Title and Contact Hours:** If the course has defined weekly contact hours, these will be shown in brackets [] following the course title, with lecture hours first, laboratory hours second and clinical hours, if any, third. These contact hours are for the fall and spring semesters. Summer weekly contact hours will be adjusted according to the length of the summer session. (See p. 136 in the Glossary for more information and example.)
- **Course Numbers:** Courses are numbered to show both the collegiate level at which they are offered and the hour value of the course. The first digit shows the level, and the second digit shows the credit hours. The last two digits are departmental designations. For example, Spanish 1301 shows that the course is taught at the freshman level and carries three hours of credit per semester. All lower-division undergraduate courses ending in the numbers 87 and 88 are honors courses.

- 0000 courses are developmental level, lower division
- 1000 courses are freshman level, lower division
- 2000 courses are sophomore level, lower division
- 3000 courses are junior level, upper division
- 4000 courses are senior level, upper division
- 5000-7000 courses are master's level
- 8000-9000 courses are doctoral level
- 8000-8499 courses are associated with the first year of medical school
- 8500-8999 courses are associated with the second year of medical school
- 9000-9499 courses are associated with the third year of medical school
- 9500-9999 courses are associated with the fourth year of medical school

Grading Policies

Grading System

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley uses a 4.0 system. The following grades are used to designate achievement in coursework. Their corresponding grade values and points for students in undergraduate programs are indicated below.

A	Excellent	(4 grade points per hour)
B	Good	(3 grade points per hour)
C	Satisfactory	(2 grade points per hour)
D	Below Average	(1 grade point per hour)
F	Failure	(0 grade points per hour)

The following grades may be used in undergraduate coursework, where allowed, and earn no grade points:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • P (Passing) | • W (Withdrawal) |
| • NP (No Pass) | • RA (Developmental-Pass) |
| • S (Satisfactory) | • RB (Developmental-Pass) |
| • U (Unsatisfactory) | • RC (Developmental-Pass) |
| • IP (In progress) | • RD (Developmental – No Pass) |
| • I (Incomplete) | • RF (Developmental-No Pass) |
| • CR (Credit) | • RI (Developmental - Incomplete) |
| • NC (No Credit) | • RP (Developmental – Pass) |
| • DR (Course dropped) | • RNP (Developmental – No Pass). |

Total Grade Point Average

The total grade point average (GPA) at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is calculated on the basis of courses taken at the university and excludes transferred grades. Coursework transferred from the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College for students enrolled at UTRGV prior to Fall 2017 will be included in the calculation of the total GPA.

Calculation of Undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA)

The grade point average (GPA) is computed by dividing the total grade points earned by the total credit hours attempted. The total Grade Point Average is calculated using institutional coursework attempted. The current semester grade point average is calculated using only coursework attempted within a specific semester. Attempted hours are the total number of hours for courses that a student has attempted including failing grades such as F, DR and W. Grade points are assigned based on the grade received multiplied by the number of credit hours. For example, a grade of A is equivalent to four grade points.

An illustration of the method of calculation of the GPA follows:

Course No.	Grade	Hours		Points Attempted		Total Points
ENGL 1301	A	3 hrs.	x	4 pts. per hr.	=	12
MATH 1314	B	3 hrs.	x	3 pt. per hr.	=	9
HIST 1301	C	3 hrs.	x	2 pts. per hr.	=	6
BIOL 1406	D	4 hrs.	x	1 pts. per hr.	=	4
KINE 1233	F	2 hrs.	x	0 pts. per hr.	=	0
TOTAL		15 hrs.				31

TOTAL ATTEMPTED HOURS = 15

TOTAL GRADE POINTS = 31

To calculate the GPA for this example, divide the grade points by the attempted hours as follows:

- 31 divided by 15 = 2.06

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete (I) grade is a temporary grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if:

1. The student is passing the course to date;
2. The student will not have completed the required coursework or exam within the allotted time of a regular semester or summer session; and
3. The instructor determines that the reason for the work being incomplete is valid and that the grade of "I" is justified.

Incomplete grades are not to be awarded for students who failed to attend or stopped attending classes.

A written agreement between the student and the instructor specifying the work to be made up and the deadline for its accomplishment must be filed in the office of the Department Chair at the time that the "I" is submitted. The work agreed upon must be satisfactorily completed and the "I" changed no later than the end of the next regular (Fall or Spring) semester from the date the "I" was received (unless an extension is requested by the instructor) or the grade will convert to a failing grade unless the faculty member identifies an alternate grade to be assigned at the time of submitting the written agreement between the student and faculty member.

Faculty members wishing to assign an Incomplete grade may do so during the regular grading period via Assist, otherwise a grade of NR (Not Reported) will be entered for the student. Grades of NR may have a negative impact on students' eligibility for financial aid.

Credit by Examination

Students may receive credit by examination for some course requirements. For more information, see p. 89.

Quality of Work

While a grade of D is considered passing in a subject, the student must maintain an overall average of a C, which corresponds to a 2.0 GPA, if the student expects to graduate.

In addition, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has certain specific grade requirements. For example, the student must make a C in College Algebra and required freshman English courses. The student must also have at least a C average in both the major and minor fields.

NOTE: Other specific requirements can be found in the program descriptions in other sections of the catalog, and overall requirements for a bachelor's degree are listed on p. 84 of this catalog.

Repeated Courses

UTRGV undergraduate students who retake a class that is not designated as "repeatable for credit," will have the last grade and hours attempted used to calculate the grade point average. Repeated courses will be indicated on the student's transcript with an "E" (excluded). The policy for repeating courses applies only to undergraduate courses completed and repeated at UTRGV. Transfer courses will not be used to replace a grade earned at UTRGV for the purpose of raising a student's grade point average.

Grade Change

If an error in computation, evaluation or recording warrants a grade change, the instructor of record (IOR) may initiate a grade change form through the School Director/Department Chair, or College Dean. In the event that the IOR is no longer employed by the university, the academic dean will make a good faith effort to contact him or her before deciding whether to change the grade or not. In cases where a grade of NR was administratively assigned to a student for a class, this same grade change process should be followed by the IOR or designee.

Dean's List

After each fall and spring semester, a dean's list is published listing the names of all undergraduate students enrolled in a minimum of 12 college-level (non-developmental) hours who have a grade point average of 3.5 or better for courses taken that semester. The [Office of the Registrar](#) notifies students who qualify for the Dean's List via email notification to students' campus email addresses.

President's List

After each fall and spring semester, a president's list is published listing the names of all undergraduate students enrolled in a minimum of 12 college-level (non-developmental) hours who have a grade point average of 4.0 for courses taken that semester. The [Office of the President](#) notifies students who qualify for the President's List via email notification to students' campus email addresses. Certificates may be available from their office upon request from the student.

Grade Reports

Student grade reports are not mailed automatically for students. Students may view their grades online in ASSIST. Students requiring a paper copy of their grades may request a transcript to be mailed to their home address, or they can obtain unofficial transcripts online in Assist at no cost.

REGISTRATION

Procedures

Registration

Students register for their courses online via ASSIST. Students will not be added to the official class rosters or grade sheets after the registration periods have ended as published in the academic calendar. Per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Rules and Regulations, students may not enroll in a course after the official census date (Ch. 9, Subchapter B, Sec.9.31a). Per Texas Administrative Code (Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 21, Subchapter A, Rule 21.4), students must pay all tuition and fees by the 20th class day in a regular semester (fall or spring), or by the 15th class day in a summer session. Students who do not pay tuition and fees in full or request installment plans when available will have their classes dropped for that term.

Advanced Services for Student Information Supported by Technology (ASSIST) Registration on the Web

In order to provide students with easy access to student information, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley developed Advanced Services for Student Information Supported by Technology (ASSIST). Through ASSIST, students may access general academic and financial information from home or any place they have access to the web. Personal information is protected by the student's UTRGV username and password. Students receive these as a part of the admissions process. For assistance, students may contact the [IT Help Desk](#) located in the Academic Services Building, Rm. 1.102.

Registration on the Web via ASSIST is available to currently enrolled students and students who apply by the published admission deadline. Academic advisement is mandatory to be eligible for registration. Students with admission, disciplinary, or financial holds will not be permitted to register until each hold has been cleared. Likewise, students on academic suspension without an approved appeal will not be permitted to register in the next long semester (fall or spring).

Students may make changes to their schedules prior to the beginning of the semester, or during the add/drop period at the beginning of each term as published in the academic calendar. Registration information is available online at www.utrgv.edu. Students who register after the first class day during the add/drop period will be assessed a late registration fee. Computers are available at [UCentral](#) on the Brownsville Campus and Edinburg Campus for web registration.

Registration Priority

Registration priority is given according to classification, and the university reserves the right to grant priority in registration to segments of the student population as deemed appropriate.

The following identifies classifications based on earned semester credit hours (SCH):

- Freshmen 0-29 SCH
- Sophomores 30-59 SCH
- Juniors 60-89 SCH
- Seniors 90 or more SCH

Dropping/Withdrawing

If a student chooses not to attend a class or classes s/he is responsible for officially dropping or withdrawing from the class(es). Students must drop their classes online in ASSIST by the posted deadline. Students wishing to withdraw from the university (drop all of their classes) must do so in person at [UCentral](#) on the Brownsville or Edinburg Campus. (See the sections on Dropping a Course and on Withdrawal from the University p. 71.) Students who decide not to attend and do not officially complete the drop or withdrawal process through the [Office of the Registrar](#) will be responsible for tuition, fees and any other consequences or financial penalties resulting from failure to officially drop or withdraw. Students must not assume that they will “automatically” be dropped from their classes if they do not attend or do not pay. (If a student has requested some form of financial assistance, payment may have been posted to his or her account.) Refer to the refund schedules published online for refund deadlines and details.

In accordance with Texas Education Code, 51.907, undergraduate students who first entered college in the Fall 2007 semester, or later, may not drop more than a total of six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. A student may appeal a drop, if s/he shows good cause. Contact the [Office of the Registrar](#) for details concerning the appeals process or visit [UCentral](#)).

Selection of Courses

During the freshman and sophomore years, the student should plan to satisfy not only the university core curriculum requirements for a bachelor's degree, but also any introductory or prerequisite courses in the major and minor field, as specified by the departments, in addition to language proficiency requirements. Although each of the departments of the university list many of the specific courses required in the major and minor areas, usually some choice of courses is permitted at the lower level, the advanced level or at both levels. Choice is permitted when hours are specified as elective hours.

The student should follow the list of required courses found in his/her degree plan. (See also Degree Requirements on pp. 84-89.)

Many courses listed in the catalog are not offered every semester. This is particularly the case with upper-level courses. In planning a program, the student should ascertain whether a particular course will be offered during the semester he or she plans to take it, and that prerequisites to the course will be satisfied prior to enrollment for the course.

When students enter this University with the expectation of subsequently transferring to another institution, they should be certain to obtain a copy of the catalog from that other institution and use it as a guide to select which UTRGV courses to register for. It is the student's responsibility to check the requirements.

Students who plan to graduate from UTRGV should consult DegreeWorks as well as the catalog sections concerning graduation and the specific requirements listed under their respective colleges and departments to ensure that all graduation requirements are met. The student's academic advisor, department chair, and dean can help clarify matters if the student has questions.

Prior to registering, students go through academic advisement to discuss the best selection of courses to complete their degrees in a timely manner. Doing so also helps students avoid financial penalties

associated with registering in an excess number of hours, and helps maximize students' options for financial aid. Students who have not met the [Texas Success Initiative](#) (TSI) requirement are advised at the [Academic Advising Center](#).

As all undergraduate students are encouraged to schedule a visit with an advisor in the [Academic Advising Center](#), some student populations are required to meet with an academic advisor for additional support, such as student athletes. Students may consult the Academic Advising Center's website, www.utrgv.edu/advising, to determine if an advising session is required before registration.

Registration Policies

Change of Major Policies

UTRGV students with 60 or more hours will be required to receive approval from an academic advisor to ensure that students are well informed of the implications of changing their major; if a change is requested after the Census Date published on the academic calendar, the change takes effect for the subsequent semester. The process for changing a major is outlined on the [Office of the Registrar](#) website.

Core Complete Status

Once a UTRGV student has been certified as "core complete," the student remains core complete even if s/he subsequently changes degree plans. Students will have to meet all the course-specific requirements of the new degree plan which may include courses that are typically taken to satisfy core requirements.

General Education Core Courses Toward Major and Minor Requirements

General education courses may count toward both the general education core requirements and the major and minor requirements. Students may take electives to complete the 120-hour requirement for a bachelor's degree provided their respective degree plans allow for it.

Dropping a Course

A student is "dropping" a class or classes if he or she remains enrolled in a minimum of one credit hour after all class drops have been completed. Students who drop all classes for which they are enrolled are considered to have withdrawn from the university for that semester. (For more information on Withdrawal, see the section below on Withdrawal from the University.)

To drop a class or classes after the official census date published in the academic calendar, a student must log in to ASSIST and request the drop by the deadline as listed in the university's academic calendar.

All class drops must be completed during the first 75% of the semester or term (refer to the [University Academic Calendar](#) in this catalog or [online](#) for deadline dates). Students dropping during this time will receive a grade of DR, and the drop will count against the six-course drop limit. After the deadline for drops and withdrawals, the student remains on the class roster and will receive the letter grade he/she earns.

Withdrawal from the University

To withdraw from the university (drop all classes), a student must complete a formal withdrawal process through UCentral by the deadline for drops and withdrawals posted on the academic calendar.

A student withdrawing during the first 75% of the semester or term will receive grades of W in the classes s/he was registered for in that term. After the deadline the student remains on the class roster and receives the letter grade s/he earns. Refer to the [UCentral website](#) for refund periods. Grades of W do not count toward the six-course drop limit

Transfer Student

Transfer students with 30 or more hours but without the University College-approved courses, or courses deemed comparable by The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, may take upper-division courses if otherwise qualified. Transfer students must also complete all University core curriculum requirements before graduation. Transfer students who lack six hours of freshman English or the equivalent and three hours of mathematics with a grade of at least C in each course should complete these requirements within their first two semesters at UTRGV. Students will be required to complete the Texas state-mandated coursework in U.S. history and political science if this has not already been completed at their prior institutions.

Auditing Classes

Students must obtain special permission from the instructor of record to audit or visit a class. Students who wish to audit graduate classes (5000-9000 level) must be eligible to enroll in the course for credit before they will be allowed to audit. Students auditing classes do not receive academic credit. One may enroll as an auditor no later than the Census Day of the term by:

1. Obtaining a "Class Audit" Form from the Student Services Center,
2. Having it approved by the instructor of the class to be audited,
3. Paying the required fee at the Office of Payments and Collections on or by the Census Day, and
4. Using the receipt as an admission card to the class.

Such approval may be granted only if space is available and if the instructor permits the student to audit the class. Instructors reserve the right to refuse any request to audit or visit a course. Enrollment as an auditor does not permit the enrollee to take examinations, to have tests or other papers checked by the instructor, or to participate in the class discussion. Audit fees (\$50 per course) are nonrefundable and may not be appealed. Individuals who are not regularly enrolled students at the university are also eligible to audit classes subject to the regulations stated above, although there will be no transcribed record of the individual having taken the class.

A person 65 years of age or older may enroll as an auditor without credit and without payment of an audit fee.

Residency

Residency for tuition purposes is determined by regulations set forth by the state of Texas. Students may be required to sign an oath of residency as part of the application process. Residency for tuition purposes will be based on this oath/or and other information submitted by the student through the admissions process or subsequent completion of the Core Residency Questionnaire. Residency determinations are made by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for applicants who have not yet started classes. Current students' residency determinations are evaluated by the Office of the University Registrar based on students' requests as submitted via the Core Residency Questionnaire. Texas residency requirements are outlined on p. 35 of the [Fiscal Policies](#) section of this catalog.

Other Procedures

Identification Cards

Every student enrolled at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley must possess an official identification card, issued by the university. The ID card remains the property of the university. The card must be presented for:

- Any University or department-sponsored activity.
- Admission to all intercollegiate athletic events.
- Identification for cashing checks on campus.
- Authorization to resell books to the University Bookstore or Student Book Exchange.
- Checking out equipment from the Office for Student Involvement and the Student Union Recreation Room.
- Identification for receipt of transcripts and other documents at UCentral.
- Identification for receipt of awards from Student Financial Services.
- Use of the university food service meal plans.
- Use of recreation facilities.
- Use of the Health Services.
- Purchase of campus parking permit.
- Campus library privileges.
- Voting in campus elections and referendums.
- Identifying oneself to a University official when requested to do so.
- Use of computer equipment in computer labs.

This card is non-transferable. Beginning freshmen and first-time entering transfer students will receive their original ID cards at no charge. A service charge of \$12 will be required for cards generated during subsequent semesters and for replacement cards. Worn cards can be replaced for \$5.00. Loss or mutilation of cards must be reported to the V OneCard Office in the Academic Services Building, Rm. 1.101 or call 956-665-7276. Fees are subject to change.

Students may not have in their possession more than one student ID card any one time.

Name Change

A student or former student may change the full, legal name on his/her permanent academic record by completing a [Change of Name Form](#) and submitting the appropriate documentation as follows to the UCentral:

1. **Misspelling:** Student must present a copy of the birth certificate.
2. **New Legal Name:** Student must present a copy of the signed court order showing the authorized new legal name.
3. **Marriage:** If a student wishes to assume his or her spouse's name, the student must present a copy of the marriage certificate along with either an updated government-issued photo ID or updated social security card.
4. **Divorce:** Students who wish to discontinue the use of a married name and resume the use of their former name, or another name, must present a divorce decree or signed court order showing court restoration of the former, or other, name. A copy of the first page of the decree is

required along with a copy of the page formalizing the name change (if not included on the first) and the page including presiding officials' signatures.

Change of Address and/or Telephone Number

If a student changes his/her address or telephone number, s/ he is expected to make the changes online in ASSIST. The student may also complete a Change of Information Form and email it to U Central or drop it off in person during business hours. The student will be held responsible for any communication from University offices sent to the address last provided.

No special consideration will be given to students who move and fail to receive official communication as a result of their failure to notify the university of her/his new address.

Official Means of Communication with Students and UTRGV

The official means of communication with students from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley regarding administrative issues is the UTRGV email address assigned by the university. Important information, such as financial aid award notification, billing notices, payment reminders, registration information, class wait list notifications, deadline reminders, and how to access grades, and apply for graduation, is sent to the student's UTRGV email address. It is the student's responsibility to activate this address upon admission and check it often.

Web-Based Services for Students

Admission, grade, registration and financial information can be accessed on the web at my.utrgv.edu.

Web services include:

- Admission Information
 - Apply for Admission
 - View Admission Status
- Registration (UTRGV username and password required)
 - Registration for classes
 - Change your class schedule (during the add/drop period published in the official calendar)
 - View class availability
 - Add your name to the waiting list for a closed class
 - Student Schedule (graphic)
 - Student Schedule (detailed)
 - View Fee Assessment
- Course Catalog
- Class Schedules
- Financial Aid Awards (UTRGV username and password required)
- University Catalogs
- Payment Services
 - Credit card
 - E-check
 - Emergency Loan Applications
 - Short Term Loan
 - Installment Plan
 - Student Refund-Direct Deposit
- Student Records (UTRGV username and password required)
 - View and update address
 - View and update phone numbers
 - View grades
 - Request and pay for official academic transcripts
 - View and print unofficial academic transcripts at no charge
 - View Account Summary
 - View Your degree plan via Degree Works
 - View progress towards degree via Degree Works

Enrollment Verification

Enrollment verification for lending agencies, employers, insurers and other parties should be requested from the National Student Clearinghouse at www.studentclearinghouse.org, Phone: 703-742-7791, Fax: 703-742-7792. Enrollment verifications for personal use (i.e., insurance companies, employment) can also be requested at the National Student Clearinghouse. Alternatively, students may print unofficial transcripts in ASSIST demonstrating enrollment in a given term.

- **Full-time Undergraduate:** An undergraduate student, who is enrolled for at least 12 credit hours during a regular semester or at least six hours of credit during a summer session, is considered full-time.
- **Half-time Undergraduate:** A half-time undergraduate student is one who is enrolled for 6 to 8 credit hours during the regular semester or three hours of credit during a summer session.
- **Three-Quarter time Undergraduate:** A three-quarter time undergraduate student is one who is enrolled for 9 to 11 credit hours during the regular semester.
- **Less than Half-time Undergraduate:** A less than half-time undergraduate student is one who is enrolled for 1 to 5 hours during a regular semester.
- **Full-time Graduate:** A graduate student who is enrolled for at least nine hours of credit during a regular semester, or six hours of credit during the summer sessions (six hours can be taken during one summer session or split between the two summer sessions). Graduate students in an accelerated online program are considered fulltime upon enrollment in six credit hours in any two seven-week accelerated modules that comprise a traditional academic semester (fall, spring or summer).
- **Half-time Graduate:** A graduate student who is enrolled for at least six hours of credit during a regular semester or three hours of credit during the summer sessions. Graduate students in an accelerated online program are considered part-time upon enrollment in three credit hours in any two seven-week accelerated modules that comprise a traditional academic semester (fall, spring or summer).

Transcripts

A student may secure an official transcript of his/her UTRGV academic record by presenting picture identification at UCentral, or by submitting a request on the web using the Transcript Request Form online. Transcripts will be issued at a cost of \$5 per transcript. The term "transcript of record" is understood to refer to the recorded results of the student's work in the classroom, and it is a comprehensive record of an individual's total academic progress at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. This transcript will contain all the important facts pertaining to the student's academic level and academic achievements. No partial or incomplete classroom records (for example, with grades of F omitted) will be given. Students who owe debts to the university, are delinquent or in default on a student loan, or owe a repayment on a student grant overpayment will have their official transcripts withheld until the university debts are paid or satisfactory arrangements have been made to repay the student loan or student grant over payment.

Holds related to outstanding balances for current and past terms are managed by Student Accounting Services, and any such holds must be cleared by their designated staff for release of official transcripts by U Central and the Office of the University Registrar.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Attendance

Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. Regular and punctual attendance of all scheduled classes is expected. Instructors report non-attendance following the census date of each term in accordance with federal regulations. Students reported as not attending classes may be responsible for returning financial aid disbursed to them for any class(es) the student is not attending. Reporting of non-attendance is also a requirement of instructors when reporting final grades. Instructors awarding failing grades are required to report the last day a student attended class, whether or not the student completed the class fully. Instructors may also request a student be dropped for excessive absences from class, in which case the student will receive a grade of DR and may be required to return financial aid disbursed.

Absences on Religious Holy Days

UTRGV will excuse students from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of religious holy days, including travel for that purpose. In addition, UTRGV will permit these students to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for the day of absence within a reasonable time after the absence if, not later than the census date of the term, students notify the applicable instructors that they will be absent for a religious holy day. A religious holy day is a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under 11.20 of the Texas Tax Code.

Absences for University-recognized Activities

UTRGV will also excuse students from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for active military service or authorized participation in officially sponsored University functions such as athletic events or academic activities. The student should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange with the instructor to make up missed work or examinations. Instructors will provide those students an opportunity to make up the work or otherwise adjust the grading to ensure that the student is not penalized for the absence. Failure to notify the instructor or failure to comply with the arrangements to make up the work will void the excused absence and could result in a failing grade.

Special Populations

Varsity Athletes

To be in compliance with NCAA Division I eligibility requirements for athletic participation and/or athletically-related financial aid, a student-athlete must meet University and NCAA admission requirements and “progress toward degree” requirements in addition to the university’s grade point progress requirements stated under Scholastic Probation and Suspension:

1. Enrollment during each regular semester must not drop below 12 hours.
2. Academic Year Requirements consist of both credit hour and grade point average minimums for each term of enrollment.

Veterans

The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) certifies veterans to receive educational benefits for attendance at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The MVSC is located on the UTRGV Edinburg Campus in the University Center, Rm. 113; Phone: 956-665-7934 and on the UTRGV Brownsville Campus at Main, Rm. 1.000; Phone: 956-882-8980 (Additional information about MVSC is on p. 115). Students receiving VA educational benefits must make progress toward a degree as specified in this catalog under Satisfactory Progress and Scholastic Probation and Suspension (see p. 79). Students receiving educational benefits must report any changes made to their schedule to the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#). Students who do not report changes in their schedule may be subject to repayment by the Veterans Administration.

Military Absence

Under certain circumstances, a student who is required to participate in active military service is excused from scheduled classes or other required activities and will be allowed to complete an assignment or exam within a reasonable time after the absence. The excused absence is permitted only if the student will not miss more than 25% of the total number of class meetings or the contact hour equivalent (not including the final examination period) for the specific course or courses in which the student is enrolled at the beginning of the period of active military service.

Readmission guidelines for a student who withdraws to perform active military services are as follows. These guidelines apply to a student who withdraws from an institution of higher education to perform active military service as a member of the U.S. armed forces or the Texas National Guard, except that this section does not apply to a student who withdraws from an institution solely to perform one or more training exercises as a member of the Texas National Guard. For any academic term that begins after the date a student is released from active military service but no later than the first anniversary of that date, the institution of higher education from which the student withdrew shall admit the student, without requiring re-application or charging a fee for readmission, if the student is otherwise eligible to register for classes at the institution. On readmission of the student under this subsection, UTRGV shall:

1. Provide the student any financial assistance previously provided by the institution to the student before the student's withdrawal if the student meets current eligibility requirements for the assistance, other than any requirement directly affected by the student's service, such as continuous enrollment or another similar training requirement.
2. Allow the student the same academic status that the student had before the student's withdrawal including any course credit awarded to the student by the institution.

UTRGV requires reasonable proof from a student of the fact and duration of the student's active military absence.

In accordance with Education Code Section 51.3042, eligible former members of the armed forces admitted as an undergraduate student or readmitted as an undergraduate student (after having withdrawn to perform military service) will be given course credit:

1. For all physical education courses The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley requires for an undergraduate degree and
2. For additional credit hours, not to exceed 12, to satisfy any elective course requirements for the student's degree program for courses outside the student's major or minor.

To be eligible, a veteran must have graduated from an accredited public or private high school or a high school operated by the U.S. Department of Defense, and be honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces after completing two years of service or discharged because of disability. To receive credit, a DD-214 verifying eligibility must be provided to the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#).

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley follows the guidelines established by the American Council on Education's Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the armed services to assess potential transferability of Military Occupational Specialties.

Acceptable forms of documentation include:

- AARTS Transcript (Army ACE Registry Transcript)
- CCAF Transcript (Community College of the Air Force transcript)
- SMART Transcript (Sailor/Marine ACE Registry Transcript)
- Form DD-214 (Report of Separation)
- Form DD-295 (Application for the Evaluation of Learning Experience During Military Service)

To be considered official, any of the credentials above (except Form DD-214) must be sent to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley directly from the issuing agency. Students/applicants may submit an original DD-214; a certified copy will be made for office use and the original returned.

Credentials (except form DD-214) should be sent to:

Office of Admissions	
1 st Floor Student Services Bldg. 1201 West University Drive Edinburg, Texas 78539	The Tower, Main 1.100 1 West University Boulevard Brownsville, Texas 78520

Unlike college or high school transcripts, submission of military credentials for potential transfer credit is optional and is neither required for undergraduate admission nor subject to admission deadlines. But any credit awarded counts toward admissibility, so official documents should arrive as early as possible.

Army ROTC – Department of Military Science

The Army maintains a senior division of the ROTC at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: four-, three- and two-year programs are available to interested students, male and female, graduate and undergraduate.

Army ROTC has unlimited two- and three-year tuition, books and fees scholarships for students with a 2.5 GPA or better who can pass fitness and background screening requirements. These scholarships are valued at about \$3,000 per or a living stipend of about \$2,800 per semester.

The four-year program consists of the basic course (freshman and sophomore) and the advanced course (junior and senior). Advanced instruction is oriented toward general military science and includes a four-week summer camp, usually at the end of the junior year or first year of graduate school.

Students who have successfully completed four years of Junior ROTC in high school may, at the discretion of the professor of military science, be given placement credit for two years of the basic course regardless of academic classification. Veterans also may be given advanced placement for the basic course, at the discretion of the professor.

Successful students are, upon graduation, commissioned as second lieutenants in the Active Army, the U.S. Army Reserve or U.S. Army National Guard. Students may elect to serve as reserve officers on active duty for an initial commitment period of three years or they may elect to serve for as little as three months of basic officer schooling followed by an extended tour with a Reserve or National Guard Unit.

During the course of instruction, the Army furnishes all required uniforms and military textbooks. Advanced course contracted students receive a tax-free monetary allowance of either \$450 or \$500 per month for each month of the academic year (10 months of each year).

A special two-year program is available for full-time students who have a minimum of two years remaining on a degree plan and who have not had prior military training or ROTC. This program consists of an intensified course of instruction in military subjects that will qualify the student for the advanced course. The course of instruction is normally taken in the summer between the sophomore and junior years. Students attend a four-week Basic Camp at Fort Knox, KY, and receive transportation allowance to and from the camp, uniforms, room and board and are paid approximately \$750 for the period. No military obligation is incurred by attendance at this camp.

Application for the two-year program must be completed during the spring semester so that attendance at Basic Camp may be arranged. To learn more, visit the [Department of Military Science](#), Lamar Building B, Rm. 103, or call 956-665-3601.

Continuous Enrollment

Academic Standards for Regularly Admitted Students

Undergraduate students are expected to meet certain minimal academic standards in work completed in postsecondary education. Students who fail to maintain these minimum standards will be placed on academic probation or academic suspension, as appropriate. In determining whether a student will be placed on academic probation or suspension, all grades earned by the student (only the last grade is used if the student has attempted the course more than once, regardless of whether the most recent grade is higher or lower than previously-earned grades) will be included in the computations of the GPA.

Scholastic Probation and Suspension Policy

The [Academic Probation and Suspension Policy](#) for undergraduate students at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is as follows:

1. Academic probation or suspension will be determined each regular (fall or spring) semester on the basis of the student's current semester and total Grade Point Average (GPA).
2. An undergraduate student will be placed on academic probation when his/her total GPA falls below 2.0.
3. An undergraduate student will be placed on academic suspension for one regular semester whenever the student enters a semester on academic probation and does not remove him/herself from academic probation (achieve a total GPA higher than 2.0). The student will continue on probation if the student's current semester GPA is 2.0 or above for a fall or spring semester.

Academic Status	GPA Criteria
Good Standing	total GPA is 2.0 or above

Academic Status	GPA Criteria
Placed on Academic Probation	total GPA has dropped below 2.0.
Continued on Academic Probation	Previously on Academic Probation, total GPA is below 2.0 and current semester GPA is 2.0 or above.
Academic Suspension	Previously on Academic Probation, total GPA is below 2.0 and current semester GPA is below 2.0.

4. A student on academic suspension may enroll for summer sessions for the purpose of raising the total GPA to the level required for good standing for the student's classification. (Once placed on suspension for a semester, the suspension cannot be removed or changed to probation on the basis that the current semester GPA is a 2.0 or higher.) Removal from suspension can be most efficiently accomplished by enrolling only for courses in which the student has previously earned a low or failing grade.
5. A student on academic suspension who raises the total GPA to the level required for good standing will be reinstated as a student in good standing.
6. If a student who has been suspended for failure to meet academic probation requirements feels that unusual circumstances warrant a review, the student may direct a written appeal to the University Academic Suspension Appeals Committee, in care of the [Office of the Registrar](#), by the deadline stated in the notification email. The appeal is submitted online through the [Enrollment Services Online Appeal Portal](#) according to instructions in the email notification. The appeal must detail the reasons for alleging that circumstances warrant special consideration and should articulate the student's plan for achieving academic success. The committee may reinstate a student who has not served the period of academic suspension when convinced the best interests of both the university and the student will be served by such action. Decisions will be made by the committee and communicated to students by email within thirty days of submission of the appeal.

All students are responsible for knowing whether they are eligible to continue at the university. An ineligible student who nevertheless registers or has registered prior to completion of the semester, in which academic standing is determined, shall be dropped and may not attend classes. Students will not receive special consideration for lack of knowledge of scholastic status, regardless of whether the student registered and paid fees.

Scholastic probation and suspension for graduate students are addressed in the [Graduate Catalog](#).

Academic Suspension for International Students

International students must comply with UTRGV's good academic standing during their academic studies in order to avoid being placed on academic suspension. If a student is placed on academic suspension, the student can appeal the academic suspension. The appeal does not guarantee that the student's appeal will be approved.

If the student fails to submit an appeal or the appeal is not approved regarding his/her academic suspension, the student will not be able to continue his/her studies at UTRGV. In order for F-1 students to maintain their immigration status, the student will need to transfer to another institution before the start of the next available term.

If a student is not allowed to register at UTRGV and cannot transfer to another institution due to timing constraints, the student will be considered to be out of status, and the SEVIS record would have to be terminated, with termination reason "Suspension."

Reduced Course Load for International Students

To maintain F-1 status, international students must be enrolled in a full course of study each fall and spring semester (summer enrollment is optional if it is not your first semester). For undergraduates full-time enrollment is considered to be 12 credits. For graduates full-time enrollment is considered to be 9 credits. Part-time undergraduate borders commuters must be enrolled for at least 6 hours and part-time graduate border commuters for at least 3 hrs.

There are only certain reasons which U.S. Immigration will accept for enrolling less than full-time. Some of the reasons include medical, academic, and last term of enrollment, please visit your international student advisor for more information. Please note that immigration regulations do not consider financial difficulties a valid reason for enrolling less than full time.

On-Site Classroom Component for International Student

Immigration regulations state: "For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one (1) class or three (3) credits per session, may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken online or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class." (8 C.F.R. § 214.2 (f)(6)(i)(G)) If student is enrolled in an online course which put them above and beyond their allowable limit, a blended or hybrid onsite class needs to be followed.

These are the requirements in order to qualify for an additional hybrid course:

1. The student must report in person to the professor of the specified online course no less than four times within that given semester.
2. The student must obtain signature from his/her professor after each meeting.
3. The student must obtain initial acknowledgement at the beginning of the semester and final approval at the end of the semester from an international student advisor at International Admissions and Student Services.

The instructor of the course has set up specific, recurring on-campus meetings required for international students enrolled in the course. This includes all examinations be taken on-site at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. In addition, the student must complete the On-Site Component Form in order to receive credit for the course to meet the full time enrollment requirement by US. Department of Homeland Security.

Texas Success Initiative

In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.3062, students who enter public institutions of higher education must take the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI Assessment) prior to enrolling in college-level courses. The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a state-mandated program designed to improve student success in college. There are two components of the program:

1. An assessment to diagnose students' basic skills in reading, mathematics, and writing, and
2. Developmental instruction to strengthen academic skills that need improvement.

All non-exempt students are required by law to take the TSI Assessment. It is the responsibility of the student to see that scores are sent to the university by the testing institution. TSI, in part, requires the following:

1. **Mandatory Testing and Assessment:** All students must take the TSI Assessment prior to enrolling in college level courses at a Texas public postsecondary institution.
2. **Mandatory Orientation:** All new students to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, must attend an orientation session prior to being allowed to register for classes. TSI information is disseminated at these orientation sessions.
3. **Mandatory Academic Advisement:** All students who have not passed all sections of the TSI Assessment must be advised prior to registration each semester.
4. **Mandatory Developmental Education or Interventions (if indicated by the TSI assessment):** The TSI Assessment concentrates on three basic skills: reading, mathematics and writing. The standards for passing the test represent the minimum knowledge students entering college in Texas should have in order to succeed academically. Developmental courses or interventions are provided to help students overcome deficiencies identified from the assessment. Students must remain in continuous developmental education or interventions until they pass all sections of TSI.

TSI Assessment Exemption Students

In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.3062, students in the following categories who enter public institutions of higher education a student may be exempt from TSI requirements.

The law allows for exemptions for the following categories of students:

1. For a period of five years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs at or above the following standards:
 - a. ACT: Composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both the English and mathematics tests (partial exemptions are allowed).
 - b. SAT: A combined verbal and mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on both the verbal and the mathematics tests.
2. For a period of five years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) with a minimum score of 2200 on the English Language Arts with a minimum writing subscore of a 3 and a minimum score of 2200 on the mathematics test (partial exemptions are allowed; students with STAAR EOCs should see an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Center](#) (AAC) about TSI exemption).
3. A student who has graduated with an associate or baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education in the state of Texas.
4. A student who transfers to an institution from a private or independent institution of higher education or an accredited out-of-state institution of higher education and who has satisfactorily completed college-level coursework as determined by the receiving institution.
5. A student who has previously attended any Texas institution of higher education and has been determined to have met readiness standards by that institution.
6. A student who is serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. armed forces, the Texas National Guard, or as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States and has been serving for at least three years preceding enrollment.

7. A student who on or after August 1, 1990, was honorably discharged, retired or released from active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States of the Texas National Guard or service as a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States.

Other TSI Rules

1. Students who fail one or more parts of the TSI Assessment must register for developmental courses or participate in interventions in the deficient area every semester until they meet standards for each part of the test. Standards are set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and are subject to change.
2. Students who have not passed all parts of the TSI Assessment may not register for any 3000- or 4000-level courses if the number of college hours they already earned plus the number of hours for which they wish to register totals 60 or more hours.
3. Concurrent Enrollment students and international students seeking a degree are subject to the same TSI requirements as all other students.
4. Test scores are considered official only if they are sent directly from the testing company to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, or if they appear on an official transcript from another Texas college or university.

Additional TSI information, including the rules adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and information about special provisions related to certain disabilities. Students needing more information on TSI rules or their TSI status can call 956-665-7120 or 956-665-2319.

The TSI Assessment Information is available from the [Testing Center](#), located at in Community Engagement & Student Services (CESS) Bldg., Rm. 1.101, 1407 East Freddy Gonzalez Dr., Edinburg, TX.

For more information, call 956-665-7570 (UTRGV Edinburg Campus) or 956-882-7581 (UTRGV Brownsville Campus).

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE INFORMATION

Degree Programs

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley offers the following types of undergraduate curricula:

1. Those leading to one of the following bachelor's degrees conferred by UTRGV:
 - Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS)
 - Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT)
 - Bachelor of Arts (BA)
 - Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)
 - Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)
 - Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS)
 - Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (BMS)
 - Bachelor of Music (BM)
 - Bachelor of Science (BS)
 - Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (BSCE)
 - Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)
 - Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (BSCJ)
 - Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE)
 - Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering (BSMFGE)
 - Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME)
 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
 - Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)
2. Those satisfying the requirements leading toward degrees offered at other institutions, such as curricula leading to degrees in law, pharmacy, medicine and other specialized fields.
3. Courses satisfying requirements for a minor field.
4. Courses meeting requirements for certification as a teacher.

A complete list of degrees UTRGV offered is located on pp. 5-110.

Students also may choose to graduate within the framework of honors studies. Requirements are listed on p. 20.

Requirements for a Bachelor's Degree

1. **Degree, minimum hours, and GPA:** Students who wish to pursue more than one major which fall under different disciplines must decide at the point of graduation the type of degree s/he will receive (BA, BS, etc., depending on the chosen majors). A minimum of 120 hours of work is required with a minimum total GPA of 2.0. Some major requirements exceed the minimum hours and/or may require a higher minimum grade point average.
2. **Major and Minor GPA:** A minimum total GPA of 2.0 in the required hours for both the major and minor fields, or for the broad-field major, is required. Some majors and/or minors may require a higher minimum grade point average.
3. **Core Curriculum Hours and GPA:** 42 hours of University core curriculum requirements must be satisfactorily completed with a minimum GPA of 2.0.
4. **Core First Year Writing Grade Requirement:** A minimum grade of C must be achieved in each of the required first year writing courses (ENGL 1301, 1302, or equivalent honors courses).
5. **Core Math Courses Grade Requirement:** A minimum grade of C must be achieved in approved math courses in the general education core.

6. **Advanced Hours Overall:** Must include a minimum of 42 hours of advanced-level (3000/4000) work. Some degrees require additional advanced hours.
7. **Major Requirements:** Coursework must include a minimum of the following: 30 hours of work in a major field of concentration, 15 of which must be advanced.
8. **Language Proficiency University Requirement:** A student graduating with a bachelor's degree from UTRGV is required to demonstrate language proficiency in a language other than English at the undergraduate level equivalent to a minimum of six credits. Individual degree programs may require a higher level of proficiency.

Language proficiency in a language other than English at the undergraduate level equivalent to six semester credit hours can be demonstrated by a college credit exam (e.g. AP, CLEP, International Baccalaureate), a placement test approved through the [UTRGV Department of Writing & Language Studies](#), and/or up to six credit hours of college-level language coursework.

Non-Credit Language Testing Options

- **TOEFL and IELTS:** Students who are native speakers of languages other than English may fulfill the second language requirement with the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or with the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), provided that it was an admissions requirement and the student met one of the following minimum scores:

TOEFL Paper Version	TOEFL Computer Version	TOEFL Internet Version	IELTS
500	173	63	6.0

WebCAPE: The WebCAPE Placement Exam is a computer adaptive placement examination approved by the [UTRGV Department of Writing & Language Studies](#) for demonstrating second language proficiency. To demonstrate proficiency for Spanish, French, or German through the WebCAPE exam, the following scores must be achieved:

Language Tested	CAPE Score (Partial Waiver)	CAPE Score (Proficiency Met)
Spanish	270 (SPAN 1311 waived)	345 (SPAN 1311 and 1312 waived)
French	260 (FREN 1311 waived)	336 (FREN 1311 and 1312 waived)
German	292 (GERM 1311 waived)	383 (GERM 1311 and 1312 waived)

If your second language is not listed above, contact the [Department of Writing & Language Studies](#) in order to obtain approval to utilize other language placement exams to demonstrate second language proficiency.

- **UTRGV Coursework**

If UTRGV coursework is desired to meet the second language proficiency requirement, courses may be chosen from those listed below or from other 6-hour same language combinations in more advanced courses than those listed below. Earning course credit through examination such as through CLEP tests may also be an option. Students may

consult the credit by examination choices available through the [UTRGV Testing Center](#).

- ARAB 1311 Beginning Arabic I and ARAB 1312 Beginning Arabic II
 - CHIN 1311 Beginning Chinese I and CHIN 1312 Beginning Chinese II
 - FREN 1311 Beginning French I and FREN 1312 Beginning French II
 - GERM 1311 Beginning German I and GERM 1312 Beginning German II
 - ITAL 1311 Beginning Italian I and ITAL 1312 Beginning Italian II
 - JAPN 1311 Beginning Japanese I and JAPN 1312 Beginning Japanese II
 - PORT 1311 Beginning Portuguese I and PORT 1312 Beginning Portuguese II
 - SGNL 1301 Beginning Sign Language I and SGNL 1302 Beginning Sign Language II
 - SPAN 1311 Beginning Spanish I and SPAN 1312 Beginning Spanish II
 - SPAN 2311 Intermediate Spanish I and SPAN 2312 Intermediate Spanish II
 - SPAN 2313 Spanish for Heritage Language Learners II and SPAN 2315 Spanish for Heritage Language Learners II I
 - SPAN 1387 Beginning Spanish I for Honors Students and SPAN 1388 Beginning Spanish II for Honors Students
 - SPAN 2317 Spanish for Healthcare Professionals I and SPAN 2318 Spanish for Healthcare Professionals II
 - COMD 1310 Beginning Sign Language and COMD 1320 Intermediate Sign Language
 - FORL 1391 Elementary Studies in Foreign Languages I and FORL 1392 Elementary Studies in Foreign Languages II (If taken in the same language)
9. **University Requirement – UNIV 1301 Learning Framework course:** As part of UTRGV's retention and graduation initiatives, entering freshmen and transfer students with fewer than 30 credit hours of college coursework⁴ will enroll in the UNIV 1301 – Learning Framework course during their first year as follows:
- **Mandatory Status:** Entering Freshmen (EF) with ACT score (or SAT equivalent) below 19 or a HS class rank below the top 25% will enroll in UNIV 1301 Learning Framework during the fall or spring semester of their first year at UTRGV.
 - **Provisional Status:** Entering Freshmen (EF) will not be required to enroll in UNIV 1301 during their first full term (fall for Fall EFs and spring for Spring EFs) if they are admitted with an ACT composite score of 19 or higher or SAT total equivalent, and are in the top 25% of their graduating class. If a student does not have a high school rank percentage, the test scores (ACT or SAT) will be the sole criteria. Otherwise, both criteria must be met.
 - **Continued Provisional Status:** Provisional status will be evaluated after the completion of the first full term (fall or spring). A student who earns 12+ credit hours and a 2.5 GPA during the first full term will not need to take UNIV 1301 during the next full term. Students who do not complete 12 credit hours and a 2.5 GPA during their first full term will need to enroll in the course during the next full term (or summer term) and/or before the end of the first year of enrollment.

⁴ College coursework includes Concurrent Enrollment at UTRGV only, not elsewhere, and does not include credit by examination (AP, CLEP, IB, etc.).

- **Waiver:** All students with Provisional Status will be re-evaluated at the end of the second full term. A student who has earned 24 credit hours and a 2.5 total GPA during the first two full terms will not need to take UNIV 1301.
- **Part-Time Students:** The same criteria will apply to part-time students, with the following exception:
 - The student must earn the same number of credit hours as attempted, rather than 12 credit hours required of full-time students.
- **Transfer Students:** If a transfer student has 15-30 college credit hours and does not have an ACT score and HS class rank available, then the transfer GPA must be a 2.5 or higher in order to be placed on provisional status and to be evaluated as described above. If the transfer GPA is below 2.5 then the student is considered “mandatory status” and will enroll in UNIV 1301 during the fall or spring semester of their first year at UTRGV.

Enrollment in the [UNIV 1301 Learning Framework](#) course is open to all undergraduate students. A student may choose to take the course at his/her discretion, even when s/he is not required to do so.

10. **Residency:** At least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree must be earned through instruction offered by UTRGV. Transfer students may be required to complete additional hours above those on their degree plan to meet this requirement. In this situation, students will work with the [Academic Advising Center](#) to select hours that support the student's academic and professional goals.
11. **“Re-Using” a Course:** A core curriculum course may be used to meet either a major or minor requirement. A course may not be used to satisfy a requirement for both a major and minor, or for two majors or for two minors.
12. **Teaching Certificates:** Requirements for teaching certificates in various fields or areas are shown in the respective academic sections of the catalog. Consult the Office of the Dean of [the College of Education & P-16 Integration](#) for full details on all certification requirements. All applications for teacher certification are processed through the Educator Preparation and Accountability Office. Degree plans for teacher certification contain a block of courses required for certification. If your degree plan does not contain these courses, notify the Office of the Registrar that a revised degree plan is needed.
13. **Degree Plan:** Degree plans are available online at the [Undergraduate Programs](#) page and via Degree Works in ASSIST upon declaration of a major.
14. **Graduation under a Specific Catalog:** The degree requirements that must be completed for graduation will be those in effect at the time the student begins his/her college career or those provided in a subsequent catalog. In any case, the catalog used to determine the degree requirements must not be more than seven years old. Any changes in the degree plan must be approved by the department chair and the dean of the college. For purposes of graduation requirements, this catalog expires August 2025.
15. **Substitutions/Waivers:** An online substitution or waiver form, initiated by the student with the help of an advisor, is required for any deviation from the degree plan and university requirements. Appeals for substitutions and/or waivers that involve the core curriculum (general education) require approval from the student's major department chair/school director, the dean of the college, and the Associate Vice President for Student Academic Success/Dean of the University College or designee. Appeals for substitutions/waivers for

general graduation requirements, such as total number of credit hours, grade point average and number of advanced credit hours, require approval from within the student's major department chair/school director, dean, and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Success, and P-16 Integration or designee. Appeals for substitution of courses within the major, minor or elective areas of a student's degree plan require the approval of the department chair/school director and the dean of the college only. Content of substituted courses must be consistent with approved degree/program requirements. Students should be prepared to provide supporting documentation for these requests, including but not limited to the course syllabus for the class taken and an official course description.

16. **Graduate Courses:** Graduate courses may not be used to satisfy any undergraduate graduation requirements for a bachelor's degree.
17. **Non-Traditional Credit:** A maximum of 45 hours of college credit will be accepted toward a bachelor's degree by any combination of extension, examination or correspondence, with an 18-hour limit on correspondence credit. No credit will be awarded for "life experience."

All course requirements for a bachelor's degree in any one of the several disciplines are formulated within the department in which the discipline falls, and are announced and listed elsewhere in the catalog by the respective departments of the university. Students should contact their major department and request a degree plan as soon as possible upon completion of their sophomore year.

Pursuing a Double Major

An undergraduate student may elect to pursue two majors by simultaneously completing the prescribed requirements for two majors. A student pursuing a double major must:

- 1) Complete all requirements for the primary major including all general education requirements, major requirements, and specified elective or support courses on the degree plan (sometimes listed as support courses, technical electives, restricted electives, or designated electives).
- 2) Complete all requirements for the second major, including prerequisites, and associated specified elective or support courses. Note that a course may not be used to satisfy a requirement for both majors unless otherwise specified in a formal double-major degree plan. However if the primary major requires a minor or free electives, those hours can be satisfied with course requirements from a second major.
- 3) Comply with all other requirements for graduation listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.

The student will indicate one of the majors as a "primary" major and will receive the degree associated with that major. The student's diploma will list both majors. For example, a student who indicates that his or her primary major is Biology who elects to also complete a second major in Art will receive a single diploma listing a B.S. in Biology with a second major in Art. Students are not permitted to pursue more than two majors. The student will receive one diploma.

Students wishing to pursue a double major must submit a Change of Major/Minor/Catalog Term form to declare the second major. Upon graduation, a student with a double major will be scheduled for the commencement ceremony corresponding with the student's primary major.

Subsequent Bachelor's Degrees

Students who received their first bachelor's degree from UTRGV or other regionally accredited institution may earn an additional bachelor's degree in a different major from UTRGV. Such students continue to be classified as undergraduates and must:

1. Complete all requirements for the additional major(s), as set forth in the catalog.
2. Complete an additional minimum of 30 hours of credit in UTRGV courses (of which at least 12 must be advanced and a minimum of 6 of these must be in the major field; in the case of a double major, a minimum of 6 advanced hours is required in each major field) for each bachelor's degree sought beyond the first.
3. Complete all requirements for the additional degree(s), including GPA requirements, any minor requirements, elective courses, and advanced courses, as set forth in the catalog.
4. Comply with all other regulations as stated under University core curriculum.

Completion of a baccalaureate degree at another accredited institution will fulfill UTRGV's general education (core curriculum requirements) exclusive of any state specified coursework. Students will be required to complete the Texas state mandated coursework in U.S. history and political science if this has not already been completed as part of their first degree. Students must also complete any other University and departmental requirements for the second degree as stipulated in the catalog.

Credit by Examination

UTRGV offers college credit by examination to qualified students through a variety of approved examinations. A student may receive up to 30 hours of undergraduate credit by examination through the following programs or methods:

- American College Testing (ACT) Program
- Departmental Credit by Examination
- College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB)
- Achievement Tests
- Advanced Placement (AP) Tests
- International Baccalaureate (IB) exams
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Test scores must be sent directly from the testing agency; student or hand-carried copies are not accepted.

Credit is posted on the student's permanent record (transcript) when the student officially enrolls at UTRGV. Credit by exam is accepted as credit only (a grade of CR) and does not affect the student's total GPA. Unsuccessful attempts to earn credit by examination are not recorded on the student's official transcript. Policies on credit earned by examination are reviewed every two years in conjunction with the publication of a new catalog.

For further information regarding credit by examination policies at UTRGV, visit the:

Office of the Registrar		
One West University Blvd. The Tower, Main, Rm. 1.101 Brownsville, TX 78520	1201 West University Dr. Student Services Bldg., 1 st Floor Edinburg, TX 78539	registrar@utrgv.edu Phone: 956-665-2201

For additional information regarding testing, contact:

Testing Center		
1601 Price Rd., Suite E Resaca Village Rm. 115 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-8875	1407 East Freddy Gonzalez Dr. CESS Building Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-7570	testing@utrgv.edu

Credit by examination at UTRGV is available as follows:

CEEB Advanced Placement (AP) Tests

If you are a high school student anticipating course credit through CEEB AP Tests, you should make arrangements to take the proper examination(s) with your high school counselor or AP coordinator. This should be done in time for your scores to be received and evaluated by UTRGV before you begin your first semester. Course credit or exemptions may be obtained in the subjects listed below:

CEEB Advanced Placement Tests Scores

AP Exam	UTRGV Course	Course Title	Min. Score	Hrs. Credit
Economics (Macro)	ECON 2301	Principles of Macroeconomics	3	3
Economics (Micro)	ECON 2302	Principles of Microeconomics	3	3
Computer Science (A)	CSCI 1370 CSCI 1170	Engineering Computer Science I Engineering Computer Science I Laboratory	3	4
Computer Science Principles	CSCI 1101	Introduction to Computer Science	3	1
Art History	ARTS 1301 ARTS 1303	Art Appreciation Art History I, Prehistoric to the 14th-Century	3	3
Studio Art - Drawing Portfolio	ARTS 1316	Drawing I	3	3
Studio Art - General Portfolio	ARTS 1311	Design I	3	3
Studio Art 2-D Design	ARTS 1311	Design I	3	3
Studio Art 3-D Design	ARTS 1312	Design II	3	3
Biology	BIOL 1406 BIOL 1407	General Biology I General Biology II	3	8

AP Exam	UTRGV Course	Course Title	Min. Score	Hrs. Credit
Chemistry	CHEM 1311 CHEM 1111 CHEM 1312 CHEM 1112	General Chemistry I General Chemistry I Lab General Chemistry II General Chemistry II Lab	3	8
Calculus (AB)	MATH 2413	Calculus I	3	4
Calculus (BC)	MATH 2413 MATH 2414	Calculus I Calculus II	3	8
Physics 1	PHYS 1401	General Physics I	3	4
Physics 2	PHYS 1402	General Physics II	3	4
Physics (B)	PHYS 1401 PHYS 1402	General Physics I General Physics II	3	8
Physics (C) - Mechanics	PHYS 1401 or PHYS 2425	General Physics I or Physics for Scientists and Engineers I	3	4
Physics (C) - Electricity & Magnetism	PHYS 1402 or PHYS 2426	General Physics II or Physics for Scientists and Engineers II	3	4
Environmental Science	ENVR 1401 ENVR 1402	Introduction to Environmental Science I Introduction To Environmental Science II	3	8
Statistics	MATH 1342 or PSYC 2302	Elementary Statistical Methods or Basic Statistics for Psychologists	3	3
English Language	ENGL 1301	Rhetoric and Composition I	3	3
English Literature and Composition	ENGL 2341	Introduction to Literature	3	3
U.S. History	HIST 1301	U.S. History I	3	3
U.S. History	HIST 1301 HIST 1302	U.S. History I U.S. History II	4	6
World History	HIST 2321	World History I	3	3
U.S. Government	POLS 2305	U.S. Federal Government & Politics	3	3
Comparative Government and Politics	POLS 2330	Introduction to Globalization	3	3
Psychology	PSYC 2301	General Psychology	3	3

AP Exam	UTRGV Course	Course Title	Min. Score	Hrs. Credit
French Language and Culture	FREN 1311 FREN 1312	Beginning French I Beginning French II	3	6
French Language and Culture	FREN 1311 FREN 1312 FREN 2311	Beginning French I Beginning French II Intermediate French I	4	9
French Language and Culture	FREN 1311 FREN 1312 FREN 2311 FREN 2312	Beginning French I Beginning French II Intermediate French I Intermediate French II	5	12
German Language and Culture	GERM 1311 GERM 1312	Beginning German I Beginning German II	3	6
German Language and Culture	GERM 1311 GERM 1312 GERM 2311	Beginning German I Beginning German II Intermediate German I	4	9
German Language and Culture	GERM 1311 GERM 1312 GERM 2311 GERM 2312	Beginning German I Beginning German II Intermediate German I Intermediate German II	5	12
Spanish Language <i>or</i> Spanish Literature	SPAN 1311 SPAN 1312	Beginning Spanish I Beginning Spanish II	3	6
Spanish Language <i>or</i> Spanish Literature	SPAN 1311 SPAN 1312 SPAN 2311	Beginning Spanish I Beginning Spanish II Intermediate Spanish I	4	9
Spanish Language <i>or</i> Spanish Literature	SPAN 1311 SPAN 1312 SPAN 2311 SPAN 2312	Beginning Spanish I Beginning Spanish II Intermediate Spanish I Intermediate Spanish II	5	12
Chinese, Japanese, Italian, or Latin Language and Culture	FORL 1391 FORL 1392	Elementary Studies in Foreign Languages I Elementary Studies in Foreign Languages II	3	6

NOTE: High school students anticipating college credit through College Entrance Examination Board Achievement, Advanced Placement Tests and/or International Baccalaureate should make arrangements to take the proper examination(s) with their high school counselors, AP or IB coordinators. This should be done in time for scores to be received and evaluated by UTRGV before students begin their first semester.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Tests

The International Baccalaureate (IB) tests are offered worldwide to students enrolled in programs affiliated with the IB program. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will grant credit on IB higher-level tests for the courses listed below. Please contact [Admissions and New Student Services](#) for additional information.

IB Course	UTRGV Course	Course Title	Required Score	Hrs. Credit
Anthropology Standard Level (SL)	ANTH 2351	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4	3
Biology Standard (SL) or Higher Level (HL)	BIOL 1406 BIOL 1407	General Biology I (lecture + lab) General Biology II (lecture + lab)	4	8
Chemistry Standard (SL) or Higher Level (HL)	CHEM 1311 CHEM 1111 CHEM 1312 CHEM 1112	General Chemistry I General Chemistry I Lab General Chemistry II General Chemistry II Lab	4	8
Computer Science Higher Level (HL)	CSCI 1380	Computer Science I	4	3
Computer Science Higher Level (HL)	CSCI 1170 CSCI 1370 CSCI 2380	Engineering Computer Science I Laboratory Engineering Computer Science I Computer Science II	6	7
Computer Science Standard Level (SL)	CSCI 1101	Introduction to Computer & Information Technology	4	1
Economics Higher Level (HL)	ECON 2301 ECON 2302	Principles of Macroeconomics Principles of Microeconomics	4	6
Economics Standard Level (SL)	ECON 2301	Principles of Macroeconomics	4	3
English A1 or A2 Standard (SL) or Higher Level (HL)	ENGL 1301 ENGL 2331	Rhetoric and Composition I Introduction to World Literature	4	6
Extended Essay in English Any Discipline	ENGL 1302*	Rhetoric And Composition II	A, B, C	3
French A1 or A2 Higher Level (HL)	FREN 1311 FREN 1312 FREN 2311 FREN 2312	Beginning French I Beginning French II Intermediate French I Intermediate French II	4	12
French A1 or A2 Standard Level (SL)	FREN 1311 FREN 1312	Beginning French I Beginning French II	4	6
Geography Higher Level (HL)	HIST 3302	Geography and Environment in History	4	3
Geography Standard Level (SL)	GEOG 2313	Principles of Geography Physics Elementary	4	3
History Americas Higher Level (HL)	HIST 1301 HIST 1302	U.S. History I U.S. History II	6	3
History Americas Standard Level (SL)	HIST 1301 HIST 1302	U.S. History I U.S. History II	6	3
History World Higher Level (HL)	HIST 2321 HIST 2322	World History I World History II	6	3

IB Course	UTRGV Course	Course Title	Required Score	Hrs. Credit
History World Standard Level (SL)	HIST 2321 HIST 2322	World History I World History II	6	3
Math Methods Higher Level (HL)	MATH 2412	Precalculus	4	4
Math Methods Higher Level (HL)	MATH 2413	Calculus I	5	4
Math Methods Standard Level (SL)	MATH 2412	Precalculus	5	4
Math Studies Higher Level (HL)	MATH 2412	Precalculus	4	4
Math Studies Higher Level (HL)	MATH 2413	Calculus I	5	4
Math Studies Standard Level (SL)	MATH 2412	Precalculus	5	4
Mathematics Higher Level (HL)	MATH 2412	Precalculus	4	4
Mathematics Higher Level (HL)	MATH 2413	Calculus I	5	4
Mathematics Standard Level (SL)	MATH 1314	College Algebra	4	3
Mathematics Standard Level (SL)	MATH 2412	Precalculus	5	4
Music Standard Level (SL)	MUSI 1306	Music Appreciation	4	3
Philosophy Standard Level (SL)	PHIL 1301	Introduction to Philosophy	4	3
Physics Higher Level (HL)	PHYS 1401 PHYS 1402	General Physics I General Physics II	4	8
Physics Standard Level (SL)	PHYS 1401	General Physics I	4	4
Psychology Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL)	PSYC 2301	General Psychology	4	3
Spanish A1 or A2 or B or AB Standard Level (SL)	SPAN 1311 SPAN 1312	Beginning Spanish I Beginning Spanish II	4	6
Spanish A1 or A2 or B Higher Level (HL)	SPAN 1311 SPAN 1312 SPAN 2311 SPAN 2312	Beginning Spanish I Beginning Spanish II Intermediate Spanish I Intermediate Spanish II	4	12

IB Course	UTRGV Course	Course Title	Required Score	Hrs. Credit
Theatre Arts Higher Level (HL)	THTF 1615	Summer Theatre Workshop	4	6
Theatre Arts Standard Level (SL)	THTF 1310	Theatre Appreciation	4	3
Visual Arts Option A Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL) Visual Arts Option B Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL)	ARTS 1301	Art Appreciation	4	3

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Students can earn course credit at UTRGV in a wide variety of subject areas through CLEP Subject Examinations, which are standardized 90-minute, multiple-choice tests.

UTRGV does not grant CLEP credit for a class in which the student has received a letter grade. Letter grades do not include courses in which a student has dropped or withdrawn. These exams are administered by the [UTRGV Testing Center](#) several times a month throughout the academic year. For available test dates, contact the:

Testing Center		
1601 Price Rd., Suite E Resaca Village Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-8875	1407 East Freddy Gonzalez Dr. CESS Building Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-7570	testing@utrgv.edu

Listed below are subject areas in which UTRGV credit can be earned through the CLEP testing program, along with the required minimum score for each test. (The minimum score usually represents successful completion of 35 to 50 percent of the questions on an examination.) UTRGV credit is posted to a student's transcript once the official score report is sent to UTRGV (approximately three weeks after exam) and after he or she officially enrolls at the university. CLEP credit cannot be used to clear financial aid deficiencies.

Students who do not plan to enroll at the university are also permitted to take CLEP tests at the [UTRGV Testing Center](#). However, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the institution at which she/he plans to enroll in order to verify which CLEP tests are accepted for credit.

In order to prepare for CLEP testing, students may purchase The Official Guide for the CLEP Examinations at the UTRGV Bookstore or order it from [The College Board](#) website at: www.collegeboard.com/clep. Students are also recommended to obtain an appropriate textbook and/or study guide for the specific test(s).

CLEP Subject Examination

CLEP Exam (Subject)	UTRGV Course	Course Title	Min. Score	Hrs. Credit
Principles of Accounting	ACCT 2301 ACCT 2302	Introduction To Financial Accounting Introduction To Managerial Accounting	53	6
Introductory Business Law	BLAW 3337	Business Law I	54	3
Info Sys and Comp Appl	INFS 1301	Computer Information Systems	51	3
Principles of Macroeconomics	ECON 2301	Principles of Macroeconomics	53	3
Principles of Microeconomics	ECON 2302	Principles of Microeconomics	53	3
Principles of Management	MGMT 3361	Principles of Management	53	3
Principles of Marketing	MARK 3300	Principles of Marketing	53	3
Biology	BIOL 1406 BIOL 1407	General Biology I (lecture + lab) General Biology II (lecture + lab)	50	8
Chemistry	CHEM 1311 CHEM 1111 CHEM 1312 CHEM 1112	General Chemistry I General Chemistry I Lab General Chemistry II General Chemistry II Lab	50	8
College Algebra	MATH 1314	College Algebra	50	3
Calculus	MATH 2413 MATH 2414	Calculus I Calculus II	50	8
Introductory Psychology	PSYC 2301	General Psychology	50	3
Human Growth & Development	PSYC 3337	Developmental Psychology: Lifespan	50	3
Analysis of Interp Lit	ENGL 2341	Introduction to Literature	50	3
American Literature	ENGL 2326	Introduction to American Literature	50	3
English Literature	ENGL 2321	Introduction to British Literature	50	3
History of the U.S. I	HIST 1301	U.S. History I	50	3
History of the U.S. II	HIST 1302	U.S. History II	50	3
American Government	POLS 2305	U.S. Federal Government & Politics	50	3
Introductory Sociology	SOCI 1301	Introduction to Sociology	50	3
French Lang	FREN 1311	Beginning French I	50	3
French Lang	FREN 1311 FREN 1312	Beginning French I Beginning French II	52	6
French Lang	FREN 1311 FREN 1312 FREN 2311	Beginning French I Beginning French II Intermediate French I	65	9
French Lang	FREN 1311 FREN 1312 FREN 2311 FREN 2312	Beginning French I Beginning French II Intermediate French I Intermediate French II	75	12

CLEP Exam (Subject)	UTRGV Course	Course Title	Min. Score	Hrs. Credit
German Lang	GERM 1311	Beginning German I	50	3
German Lang	GERM 1311 GERM 1312	Beginning German I Beginning German II	52	6
German Lang	GERM 1311 GERM 1312 GERM 2311	Beginning German I Beginning German II Intermediate German I	65	9
German Lang	GERM 1311 GERM 1312 GERM 2311 GERM 2312	Beginning German I Beginning German II Intermediate German I Intermediate German II	75	12
Spanish Lang	SPAN 1311	Beginning Spanish I	50	3
Spanish Lang	SPAN 1311 SPAN 1312	Beginning Spanish I Beginning Spanish II	52	6
Spanish Lang	SPAN 1311 SPAN 1312 SPAN 2311	Beginning Spanish I Beginning Spanish II Intermediate Spanish I	65	9
Spanish Lang	SPAN 1311 SPAN 1312 SPAN 2311 SPAN 2312	Beginning Spanish I Beginning Spanish II Intermediate Spanish I Intermediate Spanish II	75	12

Local Advanced Standing Examinations-For Credit

Students may acquire college credit through local departmental examinations at UTRGV. Local examinations may not be taken for courses for which an approved CLEP subject examination exists. Students are encouraged to contact the individual academic departments for more information regarding the availability of local examinations, requirements and fees.

Other Exams

In addition to the exams listed above, COLLEGE BOARD also offers the following exams: College Composition, College Composition Modular, Natural Science, Humanities, Human Growth & Development, Social Sciences & History, College Mathematics, and Financial Accounting. Although these exams are not currently accepted at UTRGV they may still be administered at our campus and transferred to another institution.

Graduation Policies and Procedures

Diploma Language

UTRGV diplomas will only document the degree and major(s) earned along with honors designations including Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude. However, completion of approved minors, concentrations and certificates will be noted on the transcript.

Application for Degree

Students will be eligible to apply for graduation online upon completion of 90 credit hours and achievement of a minimum total GPA of 2.0 or higher. Their degree plans will be audited, and students

will be notified of outstanding deficiencies prior to graduation. Students who wish to have a maiden or other previous name added to their diploma must notify the [Office of the Registrar](#) prior to graduation. Only the student's official full name according to her or his academic record will be printed on the diploma.

Graduation Fee

A nonrefundable graduation fee of \$32 is charged for each undergraduate and graduate degree a student seeks. This fee will be charged to the student's UTRGV online account. This fee is applied towards costs associated with processing of applications for graduation, auditing for degree completion, publication and shipment of diplomas, and musicians and facilities for the Commencement ceremony along with several other expenses.

Transfer of Graduation Date

Prospective graduates who have submitted their Application for Degree Form online and do not meet graduation requirements for that graduation date must "transfer" their application to a later graduation date.

Commencement Exercises

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley holds commencement exercises and confers degrees two times each year in December and May.

All students participating in the commencement ceremony are required to purchase the proper graduation regalia from the University Bookstore. (No students will be permitted to participate without the proper regalia.)

Correspondence

In order to ensure that information regarding graduation requirements, deficiencies and commencement exercises are received on a timely basis, the student's correct address must be on file with the [Office of the Registrar](#). Prospective graduates will not receive special consideration for lack of knowledge of graduation requirements, deficiencies or deadlines.

Honors

Upon graduation, a student receiving a bachelor's degree is designated as graduating with "Honors" in accordance with the following standards based on his/her final total Grade Point Average:

- Summa Cum Laude GPA of 3.9 to 4.0
- Magna Cum Laude GPA of 3.7 to 3.89
- Cum Laude GPA of 3.5 to 3.69

Honors are listed in the commencement program based on the student's GPA following the last semester full completed, and prior to completion of his/her last semester of coursework. An honors listing in the program does not guarantee graduation with honors upon calculation of the total GPA after the student's last semester has been completed. Honors achieved are noted on the student's diploma based on the final total GPA.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Academic Advising Center

As an admitted undergraduate student, you can visit the [Academic Advising Center](#) to build your overall understanding of your educational pathway at UTRGV and learn how to be successful. As you consider your pathway, you will have a safe, respectful and welcoming learning environment to discover your interests, identify your skills and talents and guide you to make well-informed decisions about your education. Along the way, you will embark on new academic adventures and craft an educational experience unique to you.

While all undergraduate students are encouraged to schedule a visit with an advisor in the [Academic Advising Center](#), some student populations are required to meet with an academic advisor for additional support. Together, you will receive the knowledge that will get you to graduation, provide context for your academic journey and connect you to valuable resources for your success. Keeping with the Vaquero tradition of excelencia, you are asked to rise up and embrace the knowledge required to manage your own academic journey to graduation.

In partnership with an advisor, undergraduate students are encouraged to stop by the Academic Advising Center to make use of the following services:

- Academic Recovery Programs and Services
- Academic Skills Development and Assistance
- Advising for Admitted Transfer Students
- Graduation Planning
- Major and Career Exploration
- Referrals to Academic and Campus Resources
- TSI Advising
- Workshops and Seminars

Students interested in visiting or scheduling a session with the [Academic Advising Center](#) may contact the in person, via phone, via email or via the web.

Academic Advising Center		
1201 West University Drive Southwick Hall, Rm. 101 A Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-7120	One West University Drive Main, Rm. 1.400 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-7362	academicadvising@utrgv.edu

Career Center

The UTRGV Career Center provides assistance to undergraduates, graduate students and alumni who seek help in formulating and implementing career plans. Various programs and workshops are offered each semester to assist students who are selecting a major or trying to relate educational experiences to employment opportunities. Our office provides students with essential services to help them in their career endeavors. Whether finding a major, critiquing résumés or preparing for an interview, we are here every step of the way.

Services we offer include:

- Career Assistance
- Student Employment
- Career Development
- Employment Opportunities
- Job Expos
- Resource Library and Computer Lab
- Graduate School Opportunities

Career Center

One West University Blvd.
Cortez Hall, Rm. 129
Brownsville, TX 78520
Phone: 956-882-5627

1201 West University Dr.
Student Services Bldg., Rm. 2.101
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-665-2243

careercenter@utrgv.edu
utrgv.edu/careercenter

The Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning

The [Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning \(ES&L\)](#) supports student learning experiences beyond the classroom by integrating hands-on learning opportunities into their academic experience. These experiential learning opportunities, such as service learning, research, or creative works, can help students excel in school, succeed in class, and graduate! Students that commit to experiential learning often connect more deeply to their work, get experience in field-related activities, and make professional career connections. Each year, ES&L presents multiple workshops, provides funding opportunities, hosts an annual conference called the Engaged Scholar Symposium (ES²).

The Office of Engaged Scholarship & Learning

One West University Blvd.
Student Union, Rm. 2.10B
Brownsville, TX 78520
Phone: 956-882-8208

1201 West University Dr.
Student Academic Center, Rm. 3.106
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-665-2585

engaged@utrgv.edu
utrgv.edu/engaged

Language Institute

The [Language Institute](#) provides English language instruction to students, professionals, and other individuals whose first language is not English; enhances ESL students' ability to participate and integrate successfully in the American culture; and academically prepares students to pursue a degree at an American university. In order to meet the needs of the Rio Grande Valley, The Language Institute has instructional sites in the UTRGV Edinburg Campus and in the UTRGV Brownsville Campus.

Language Institute

1601 E. Price Rd, Suite "E" Resaca
Village Plaza
Brownsville, TX 78521
Phone: 956-882-4178

1407 East Freddy Gonzalez Dr.
CESS Bldg., Rm. 1.700
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-665-2133

li@utrgv.edu

The Learning Center

The goal of the [UTRGV Learning Center](#) (LC) is to assist students by promoting academic success at all levels from freshman core courses all the way through upper-level and graduate courses. Our tutors and peer leaders are recommended and hand selected by our faculty based on their content knowledge as well as their ability to work with students who are at various levels of their academic career. The following academic support services are available for Tutoring and Peer Collaborative Learning programs: one-to-one, small group, study group, workshop, and online. The LC is made up of various units on both the UTRGV Edinburg Campus and UTRGV Brownsville Campus which consist of the same services. These services include all tutorial centers, tutoring at residence halls - [Casa Bella](#) and [Unity Hall](#), embedded tutoring, online tutoring, Supplemental Instruction (SI), and Peer-led Team Learning (PLTL).

Our purpose is to help students work towards becoming independent learners. Everyone in The Learning Center works towards ensuring our students succeed by providing them with various support services in a welcoming friendly environment. What we enjoy the most is seeing the lightbulb in our students' heads go off, that "AHA!" moment. To reach us for connections to any of these services in Edinburg please call 956-665-2585 or stop by our main office located in the Learning Center Building (ELCTR), Rm. 100. At the UTRGV Brownsville Campus, you may call 956-882-8208 or stop by our main office located in the Music, Science, and Learning Center (BMSLC) building A second floor Rm.2.118. Stop by at either location and let us know how we can help you reach your goals. Detailed information is also available on our website at www.utrgv.edu/tutoring.

The Learning Center

One West University Blvd.
Music, Science, and Learning
Center Bldg. A, (BMSLC) 2.118
Brownsville, TX 78520
Phone: 956-882-8208

1201 West University Dr.
Learning Center Bldg., (ELCTR)
Rm. 100
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-665-2585

utrgv.edu/tutoring

Tutoring

Working in a small group, on an individual basis, within selected classes, or online, tutoring helps students improve their comprehension of coursework and develop successful academic skills and practices by providing them with support provided by professional staff and peer tutors. Tutoring is available in the subject areas of:

- American Sign Language
- French
- Spanish
- History
- Political Science
- Psychology/Sociology
- Philosophy
- Statistics
- Engineering
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Math
- Accounting
- And more

Embedded tutors are available in some courses, such as developmental, large section College Algebra, Elementary Statistics, and the competency based BioMed courses. Embedded tutoring is oriented toward increasing student success in students' courses so that they may successfully transition into their subsequent courses and program of study in a timely manner. This is accomplished by providing embedded tutors to improve the faculty-student course ratio and improve student engagement during class time.

Online tutoring offers students the same benefits as traditional tutoring but is done in a technology-based learning environment, such as Blackboard Collaborate. Students can access highly qualified "live" online tutors in the evenings and on the weekends from the comfort of their own homes. The online tutors provide immediate feedback and work with students one-on-one or in small groups on similar problems in an online tutoring environment. Online tutoring is offered for a variety of general education courses.

Residence tutoring is offered in a variety of courses at Unity Hall.

The Learning Center has 21st century technology that can be used to enhance learning, such as large screen TV's for groups to work collaboratively on projects, iPads to record and review ASL and pronunciation in foreign languages or communication courses, and 3D-VR/AR for STEM.

Peer Collaborative Learning (PCL) programs

Supplemental Instruction (SI) offers weekly review sessions for students enrolled in historically difficult courses. These sessions, facilitated by trained SI Leaders, are opportunities for you to get together with students in your class to organize your material, compare notes, discuss important concepts, develop strategies for studying the subject, and be well prepared for taking your tests and exams.

Peer-led Team Learning (PLTL) is an embedded academic support model that encourages active and collaborative learning in a structured manner. PLTL involves mandatory attendance for all students below a predetermined cutoff. Unlike tutoring, PLTL targets courses rather than students. PLTL workshops are strategically paired with courses that have historically high failure and high student withdrawal rates.

University Library

The [University Library](http://www.utrgv.edu/library) serves as the chief information center on campus for students during their time at the university. Librarians provide both one-on-one and group instruction helping students navigate academic research and assignments. The library provides physical and electronic access to books, articles, and course reserve materials. In addition, equipment such as laptops, tablets, calculators and digital cameras are available for check out. The library has over 300 computers for student use provides assistance to UTRGV students with multimedia production and poster printing needs for class related projects and presentations. The library has individual and group study spaces and is open 24 hours during final exams.

Detailed information about hours and services may be obtained through the Library Web site at www.utrgv.edu/library, or by calling 956-665-2005 (UTRGV Edinburg Campus) or 956-882-7205 (UTRGV Brownsville Campus).

University Libraries		
One West University Blvd. Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-7205	1201 West University Dr. Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-2005	utrgv.edu/library

Writing Center

[The Writing Center](http://www.utrgv.edu/writingcenter) (WC), located on the UTRGV Brownsville Campus in 3.206 of the University Library and on the UTRGV Edinburg Campus in 3.119 of the Student Academic Center, offers UTRGV students assistance with academic writing in all disciplines. Peer consultants, certified by the College Reading and Learning Association, assist students throughout all stages of their writing process. Individual writing consultations may include the following: clarifying an assignment; assisting with the drafting process from ideas, notes and outlines; revising and editing an essay for effective organization, clarity, and word choice; creating appropriate voice and tone; identifying errors and methods for correction; assisting with all documentation styles; and assisting with incorporating source materials. In addition to offering face-to-face individual and small group consultations, the WC offers online support via synchronous Skype and asynchronous weekend writing consulting. The WC also has computers for student drop-in use.

Writing Center		
One West University Blvd. University Library, Rm. 3.206 Phone: 956-882-7065	1201 West University Dr. Student Academic Center, Rm. 3.119 Phone: 956-665-2538	utrgv.edu/writingcenter

STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

Dean of Students

The role of the [Dean of Students](#) is to ensure that individual and collective student issues are properly addressed. Students are encouraged to have the most enriching college experience possible and to prepare themselves with the leadership skills for life during their student careers and beyond UTRGV. This can be accomplished by offering meaningful educational, social, cultural, wellness and leadership programs which encourage self-fulfilling goals achievement and improve self-esteem.

Dean of Students		
One West University Blvd. Cortez Hall, Rm. 204 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-5141	1201 West University Dr. University Center, Rm. 323 Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-2260	dos@utrgv.edu utrgv.edu/dos

Child Development Center

The [Child Development Center](#) provides students, faculty, and staff with access to affordable child care and early education for their children, ages 3 months to 5 years old. The Child Development Center offers full-time care between the hours of Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Student parents are enabled to achieve their pursuit for academic and career success with confidence that their child is receiving quality childcare and education.

To help students stay focused on their studies and graduation goals, the U.S. Department of Education awarded the Child Development Center the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant, which assists Pell Grant-eligible, low-income UTRGV students with the cost of childcare services.

Child Development Center	
800 West Van Week St. Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-2469	utrgv.edu/childcare

Counseling Center

The [UTRGV Counseling Center](#) is a place that provides free and confidential counseling services to address mental health concerns and to promote personal growth for currently enrolled UTRGV students. Counseling services are provided by either licensed mental health professionals or graduate-level interns under the supervision of a licensed counselor.

Students being seen for counseling may work on a wide variety of issues. Examples include: Stress, Family Problems, Depression, Sexual Assault, Anxiety, Abuse, Eating Disorders, Grief/Loss, Self-Esteem, Anger Management, Sexuality, Parenting, Divorce, Academic Difficulties, Harassment, Partner/Relationship Problems, Suicidal Ideation, Domestic Violence, Health Issues, Post-Traumatic Stress, Substance Abuse, and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. In some cases, such as with more severe or complex conditions, a student may be referred out for additional or more appropriate treatment options.

Counseling Center		
Student Union 2.10 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-3897	1201 West University Dr. University Center, Rm. 109 Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-2574	counseling@utrgv.edu utrgv.edu/counseling Vaqueros Crisis Line 956-665-5555 24/7 phone counseling

UTRGV Collegiate Recovery Program

The [Collegiate Recovery Program](#) offers services to help students work through the process of recovery from addiction/substance use disorder or other addictive behaviors. It is an opportunity to find support by connecting with fellow students who are also going through recovery. It is also a way to connect with professional help if needed. We offer peer-to-peer support groups, 12-step meetings, SMART Recovery groups, and groups for students who may be struggling with a loved one's substance use.

UTRGV Collegiate Recovery Program		
One West University Blvd. BSTUN, Rm. 2.10 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-7283	1201 West University Dr. University Center, Rm. 102 Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-2674	utrgv.edu/recovery

Health Services

The clinic offers the same types of services available from the student's family doctor and much more. Services include general medical care as well as specialty clinics in women's wellness, skin care and STD screening. Routine immunizations and tuberculosis (TB) testing are also available. Office visits are free of charge as are most educational services. [Health Services](#) offers low-cost charges for medicines, supplies and any needed lab tests. The Class D pharmacy can fill most prescriptions written in the clinic and carries a selection of over-the-counter items. Health Services is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Students can use our online portal to make appointments and fill out required forms. Go to <https://onlinestudenthealth.utrgv.edu>. Log-in with UTRGV username and password and select options on the left side of the screen.

Health Services		
One West University Blvd. Cortez Hall, Rm. 237 Phone: 956-882-3896	613 North Sugar Rd. Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-2511	healthservices@utrgv.edu utrgv.edu/healthservices

Services Offered

- **Eligibility Payments:** Registered students pay a Medical Service Fee each semester, which entitles them to a wide variety of Health Services. With a validated UTRGV ID, they are entitled to office visits to see a health care provider as many times per semester as they need with no office visit charge. There are charges for many services and procedures to diagnose and treat illnesses and injuries, such as for laboratory and pharmacy services, but these charges are much lower than those for comparable services provided elsewhere. Services rendered may be paid by cash, check, and most credit cards. Payment arrangements are available.

- **General Medicine:** Students with common medical problems are diagnosed and treated on a limited walk-in basis; however, appointments are preferred and necessary for students requesting elective procedures. Referrals to outside providers are made when necessary.
- **Physical Exams:** UTRGV students requiring a physical exam prior to admittance to a school program can have a physical exam done at Health Services for a nominal fee. Call [Health Services](#) to schedule an appointment.
- **Pharmacy:** A fully licensed Class D pharmacy is conveniently available on the UTRGV Edinburg campus. The pharmacy carries both prescription and over-the-counter medications. The costs of medications are greatly reduced compared to retail prices.
- **Laboratory:** A full-service, economical lab is equipped to do routine procedures as well as specimen collections for more sophisticated procedures that must be sent to a reference lab for testing.
- **Women Wellness Clinics:** These services include Pap smears, family planning education and counseling, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy testing and other women's health issues.
- **HIV Testing:** Free confidential HIV testing and counseling is available weekly. Call for scheduled days.
- **Other Services:** Health education resources, nutritional counseling, vision screenings, and weight and blood pressure screenings are also available.

Important Information about Bacterial Meningitis

The 77th Texas Legislature (2001) required all public institutions of higher education in Texas to notify all new students about bacterial meningitis (Chapter 51, Education Code, Section 51.9191; Chapter 38, Education Code, Section 38.0025).

This information is being provided to all new college students in the state of Texas. Bacterial meningitis is a serious, potentially deadly disease that can progress extremely fast, so take utmost caution. It is an inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. The bacteria that causes meningitis can also infect the blood. This disease strikes about 3,000 Americans each year, including 100-125 on college campuses, leading to 5-15 deaths among college students every year. There is a treatment, but those who survive may develop severe health problems or disabilities.

What Are The Symptoms?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • High fever | • Stiff neck |
| • Severe headache | • Confusion and sleepiness |
| • Rash or purple patches on skin | • Nausea |
| • Vomiting | • Lethargy |
| • Light sensitivity | • Seizures |

There may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots caused by bleeding under the skin. These can occur anywhere on the body. The more symptoms, the higher the risk. When these symptoms appear seek immediate medical attention.

How Is Bacterial Meningitis Diagnosed?

Diagnosis is made by a medical provider and is usually based on a combination of clinical symptoms and laboratory results from spinal fluid and blood tests. Early diagnosis and treatment can greatly improve the likelihood of recovery.

How Is It Transmitted?

The disease is transmitted when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing, or by sharing drinking containers, utensils, cigarettes, toothbrushes, etc.) or come in contact with respiratory or throat secretions.

How Do You Increase Your Risk Of Getting Bacterial Meningitis?

- Exposure to saliva by sharing cigarettes, water bottles, eating utensils, food, kissing, etc.
- Living in close conditions (such as sharing a room/suite in a dorm or group home).

What Are The Possible Consequences Of The Disease?

- Death (in 8 to 24 hours from perfectly well to dead)
- Permanent brain damage
- Kidney failure
- Learning disability
- Hearing loss, blindness
- Limb damage (fingers, toes, arms, legs) that requires amputation
- Gangrene
- Coma
- Convulsions

Can The Disease Be Treated?

Antibiotic treatment, if received early, can save lives and chances of recovery are increased. However, permanent disability or death can still occur.

Vaccinations are available and should be considered for:

- Those living in close quarters
- College students 25 years old or younger

Vaccinations are effective against 4 of the 5 most common bacterial types that cause 70% of the disease in the U.S. (but does not protect against all types of meningitis). Vaccinations take 7-10 days to become effective, with protection lasting 3-5 years. The cost of vaccine varies, so check with your health care provider. Vaccination is very safe. Most common side effects are redness and minor pain at injection site for up to two days. Contact [Health Services](#) at 956-665-2511 (UTRGV Edinburg campus) or 956-882-3896 (UTRGV Brownsville Campus) for details about vaccination.

How Can I Find Out More Information?

- Contact your own health care provider.
- Contact Health Services at: 613 North Sugar Road, Edinburg, TX 78539 or Health Services at Cortez Hall 237, Brownsville, TX 78520.
- Contact the regional Texas Department of Health office at: Health Service Region 11: Harlingen, 601 W. Sesame Drive; Harlingen, TX 78550, Mail Code 1907; Phone: 956-423-0130; Fax: 956-444-3298
- Contact websites: CDC Disease Information www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/American or College Health Association www.acha.org/

Immunization Requirement For Students

Senate Bill 62 (SB62) was passed during the 2013 legislative session and signed into law. For incoming students to UTRGV, this new law, effective January 1, 2014, requires that all entering students 21 years of age and younger attending an institution of higher education in the state of Texas, including transfer students, show evidence of having received the Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccination no more than 5 years and no less than 10 days prior to the start of the semester or 10 days prior to the student taking up residence in on-campus housing. The law also allows for exemptions on medical grounds or reasons of conscience, including religious belief.

Students must return the Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccination Requirement Form along with one of the following documents:

- A "Bacterial Meningitis Immunization Record" signed by a health practitioner evidencing that the student has been vaccinated against bacterial meningitis or any other official state or local immunization record. Confirmation of the MCV4 (Menactra or Menveo) vaccine will satisfy as the requirement. The MPSV4 (Menomune) vaccination may be accepted if administered or boosted within the past 5 years. Vaccinations must be administered no fewer than 10 days prior to the first day of the semester for which the student is enrolling.
- A "Refusal of Immunization for Medical Reasons" signed by a physician who is licensed and registered to practice medicine in the United States which states the physician's opinion that the required vaccination would be injurious to the health and wellbeing of the student. A "Texas Department of State Health Services Conscientious Exemption" signed by the student stating that the student has declined the vaccination for reasons of conscience, including religious belief.

Students who fail to satisfy this requirement will not be able to attend the university. Failure to submit documentation of the required vaccination does not alleviate the student's responsibility under any contractual relationship with the university. The Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccination Requirement Form and documentation can be mailed, faxed, emailed or hand delivered to the [Office of the Registrar](#). The immunization waiver received from the Texas Department of State Health Services must be mailed or hand delivered.

For questions about the vaccination requirement, please contact:

Office of the VP for Strategic Enrollment

One West University Blvd.
The Tower, Main, Rm. 1.101
Brownsville, TX 78520

1201 West University Dr.
Visitors Center, Rm. 1.113
Edinburg, TX 78539

Phone: 1-888-882-4026

Communicable Diseases

Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, measles, influenza, viral hepatitis-A (infectious hepatitis), viral Hepatitis-B (serum hepatitis), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV infection), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), leprosy, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), and tuberculosis. Educational pamphlets on HIV infection developed by the Texas Department of Health are available to students at all Health Services locations.

Students with communicable diseases, whether acute or chronic, are subject to the following provisions:

1. The information that a student has a communicable disease shall be confirmed when the student brings the information to the attention of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and the student confirms the information when asked. If the university president or designee has reasonable cause to believe that a student has a communicable disease, the student may be asked to submit to a college-funded medical examination (a) to determine whether the student's physical condition interferes with participation in an educational program or activity, or poses a threat to self or others or (b) a test or medical examination is necessary to manage accidental exposure to blood or other bodily fluids or airborne pathogens (but only when the test or examination is conducted in accordance with the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act (Article 4419(b)-1, Section 902(d) of Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes of the State of Texas).
2. The results of such examination shall be kept confidential in accordance with the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act, (Article 4419(b)-1, Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes of the State of Texas), except that the president or designee shall be informed of restrictions and necessary accommodations. Health care and safety personnel may also be informed to the extent appropriate if the condition is one that might require emergency treatment.

Immunizations

Immunization is required for admission to certain programs of study at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley unless the student submits to the admitting official at least one (1) of the following:

- An affidavit or a certificate signed by the student's physician (M.D. or D.O.) who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States and who has examined the student.
- An affidavit signed by the student or, if a minor, the student's parent or guardian stating that the student declines immunization for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief.
- Proof that he or she is currently up to date with required immunizations.
- Serological proof of immunity to specific diseases

The Texas Board of Health immunization requirements apply to all students enrolled in health-related courses that will involve direct patient contact in medical or dental care facilities and to veterinary medical students whose course work involves direct contact with animals or animal remains as required by the Texas Board of Health, Education Code 51.933; 25 TAC 97.64. The following immunizations are required for these students:

- **Tetanus/diphtheria:** One dose of vaccine within the past 10 years.
- **Hepatitis B:** At least two doses of the three-dose series. The third dose must be received before the student completes the first professional semester. Students may also show serologic confirmation of immunity to the hepatitis B virus via appropriate documentation.
- **Varicella:** One dose, for students who received this vaccine prior to 13 years of age, or two doses, for students who were not vaccinated before their 13th birthday. A history of varicella illness (chicken pox), validated by serologic confirmation of immunity, is acceptable in lieu of vaccination.

Texas Administrative Code Section 21.610 et seq.: Information to students consistent with regulations newly enacted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board pertaining to immunization requirements for students who reside or who have been approved to reside in campus housing.

Housing and Residence Life

[The Department of Housing and Residence Life](#) provides convenient and affordable housing to students attending the university. Living on campus is a great way for you to get connected, meet friends, and be involved. UTRGV Housing and Residence Life offers a wide array of housing options designed to meet your needs and provides an environment that supports academic growth and community respect by offering opportunities for leadership, involvement, and connections for residents that live it up on campus. Students living on campus will also be able to participate in social and educational events hosted by the Residence Life staff.

UTRGV Residence Life will offer student housing at the UTRGV Brownsville Campus featuring apartment style living at [Casa Bella](#). At Edinburg, TX we have three Residence Halls: [Unity](#), [Heritage & Troxel](#) and [The Village Apartments](#).

Residence halls provide an opportunity for you to meet people and get involved in a close-knit community that combines all the comforts of home with all the excitement of the traditional college experience.

Apartments provide an opportunity for you to live a more autonomous lifestyle with the opportunity to still be involved in campus life, stay connected to campus resources and the apartment community while living only minutes from your classes. [Residence Life](#) offers both traditional residence hall and apartment style housing that is located in close proximity to university resources such as the University Library, Wellness Recreation Sports Complex, and classrooms. Students who live on campus will also have a meal plan that will provide meals at the University Dining Hall or other on-campus venues through the use of Dining Dollars.

Scholarships, grants and loans are available through the [Financial Aid Office](#) to assist you in your housing cost. Our office offers affordable pricing and payment plans with no credit checks to meet your financial needs. Our contracts work with the academic year and semesters so that you are only in housing while attending classes.

Steps to apply:

1. Visit my.utrgv.edu and Log in with your UTRGV Credentials.
2. Click on the Student Housing Icon which will reroute you to the StarRez Housing Portal
3. Click on the Application Link and select the terms you wish to live on campus
4. Complete all 15 sections and submit application.
5. A \$100 refundable deposit and \$50 application fee will be posted to your student account.
6. Wait for email from home@utrgv.edu on room assignments and further instructions.

If you have trouble with the Residence Life Application Portal or if you are an individual with disabilities who requires assistance or special accommodations, please contact 956-665-3439 or email home@utrgv.edu.

The [Department of Housing and Residence Life](#) can be referenced in the [Resident Handbook](#). The Resident Handbook can be downloaded from our website at www.utrgv.edu/housing or you can pick up a copy at any of our offices.

UTRGV First and Second Year Student

On Campus Residence Requirement Effective Fall 2018

Description:

In support of the educational mission of the university and the value of on campus residency to the academic success and social development of students, the university requires students to live on campus university housing facilities for the first two academic years if there are vacancies. Compliance with the university housing policy is a condition of enrollment. All first year students at UTRGV, who graduated from high school within the preceding 12 months of the semester of their admission, are required to live on campus. All second year students at UTRGV are required to live on campus.

Exemptions:

Students who meet one or more of the following criteria are exempt from the first and second year housing requirement, subject to verification and authorization by the university.

1. First and second year students are highly encouraged to live on campus but is not required for those that reside in the established primary residence of her/his parents (or legal guardian) and residence is located in either county listed below:
 - a. Cameron County, Texas
 - b. Hidalgo County, Texas
 - c. Starr County, Texas
 - d. Willacy County, Texas
2. Married or has dependent children living with the student
3. A student presents sufficient evidence of an extreme medical condition, as documented by her/his treating physician for which on-campus accommodations cannot be made.
4. A student presents sufficient and satisfactory evidence of extreme or unusual financial hardship that will be intensified by living in the residence halls.
5. At least 20 years of age or over on or before the first day of classes of the initial semester of enrollment.
6. For first year student, completed over 30 semester credit hours (excluding Dual Enrollment and AP credit hours)
7. For second year students, completed over 60 semester credit hours (excluding Dual Enrollment and AP credit hours)
8. A student enrolled in less than 12 credit hours in fall or spring semester
9. Other (Note: Please provide a detailed explanation and appropriate supporting documentation that demonstrates your need to be exempted from the mandatory First Year Housing Policy)

All students requesting exemption must submit a Housing Policy Exemption Request form no later than August 1 of every academic year. Requests to be exempted from the First and Second Year Housing Policy must be supported through documentation.

Housing and Residence Life

2651 FJRM Ave.
Casa Bella
Brownsville, TX 78520
Phone: 956-882-7191

1201 West University Dr.
University Center, Rm. 305
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-665-3439

home@utrgv.edu
utrgv.edu/housing

Student Accessibility Services

Student Accessibility Services exists to facilitate students' equal access to university programs and services, promote student learning and development, foster independence and self-advocacy, promote an environment that is free of physical and attitudinal barriers, and provide leadership to the campus on disability and accessibility issues.

Students with disabilities: To receive services from UTRGV Student Accessibility Services, the student, according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), must have a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. These disabilities can include, but are not limited to learning, hearing, visual, psychiatric, psychological, health and physical disabilities. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. Temporary accommodations may be provided for a limited time, depending on the severity of the impairment. Documentation of a disability is required.

For pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, and parenting accommodations: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex—including pregnancy and parental status—in educational programs and activities. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information or to schedule an intake appointment.

Individualized accommodations are provided to students where their ability to fully participate in course requirements and university experiences is impacted by a documented disability, pregnancy or parenting. Individualized accommodations are provided to students where their ability to fully participate in course requirements and university experiences is impacted by a documented disability, pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting.

Student Accessibility Services

One West University Blvd.
Cortez Hall, Rm. 129
Brownsville, TX 78520
Phone: 956-882-7374

1201 West University Dr.
University Center, Rm. 108
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-665-7005

ability@utrgv.edu
utrgv.edu/accessibility
Video Phone:
956-683-6003 or
1-877-570-7645

Student Involvement

Student Involvement is the heart of campus life and campus involvement at UTRGV. We offer students the opportunity to build skills, challenge themselves, engage with people from diverse perspectives, cultivate a competitive edge, form a network, and connect to university resources. The following departments are part of Student Involvement.

Leadership and Mentoring: Vaqueros can participate in leadership development opportunities and get involved with the community. First year students are able to find support and guidance from a mentor. Students can form networks by joining student organizations, fraternities, and sororities or represent the student body in the Student Government Association. Explore issues of social justice and diversity through the intercultural program offerings.

Student Activities: Vaqueros can participate in university traditions such as Best Week Ever, UTRGV Madness, Week of Welcome, Homecoming, and Charreada and become civically engaged in the community through the Vaqueros Vote and the It Takes One civic engagement initiatives. Join the Campus Programming Board, a student-led organization that brings entertainment, movies, cultural events, and road trips to the student body. Be loud and proud right alongside the Spirit Programs by representing UTRGV pride through cheer, dance, the Vaquero mascot, and The Herd spirit organization.

Student Media: Vaqueros can stay informed and connected by reading The Rider newspaper, listening to UTRGV Radio, watching UTRGV-TV, and reading Pulse magazine. Student participants gain valuable insight and experience for media professions.

Visit V-Link (www.utrgv.edu/vlink) to get involved and stay up-to-date with student life. Students can search for student organizations to join, events to attend, and keep track of their involvement. The Corq app can be used to connect to V-Link through a mobile device.

Leadership and Mentoring		
One West University Blvd. Student Union, Rm. 1.28 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-5111	1201 West University Dr. University Center, Rm. 205 Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-2660	involvement@utrgv.edu utrgv.edu/involvement/leadership-and-mentoring
Student Activities		
One West University Blvd. Student Union, Rm. 1.28 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-5111	1201 West University Dr. University Center, Rm. 215 Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-2660	studentactivities@utrgv.edu utrgv.edu/involvement/student-activities
Student Media		
One West University Blvd. Student Union, Rm. 2.16 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-5143	1201 West University Dr. ELABS, Rm. 170 Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-5085	studentmedia@utrgv.edu utrgv.edu/studentmedia

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) office educates students of their rights and responsibilities as community members, to help them understand the balance between individual and community rights, and to foster a community atmosphere conducive to academic success. Our goal is to create a learning environment that ensures a fair and objective process that upholds behavioral and academic standards expressed in the student code of conduct. Staff members are also trained to assist students with the resolution of complaints and with assistance in filing grievances.

Vaqueros Report It! (www.utrgv.edu/ReportIt) are online forms that can be used to report any behaviors of concern that occur involving UTRGV students, whether these behaviors occur inside or outside of the classroom setting, on or off-campus. Reportable behaviors may include Student Code of Conduct concerns, Academic Integrity violations, Sexual Harassment or Sexual Misconduct or concerns about student well-being. In addition, this form can be used for students to report complaints about UTRGV faculty, staff or departments.

Student Rights and Responsibilities		
One West University Blvd. Cortez Hall, Rm. 204 Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-5141	1201 West University Dr. University Center, Rm. 315 Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-5375	srr@utrgv.edu utrgv.edu/reportit utrgv.edu/srr

Student Union

The [Student Union](#) is a community center of the university, serving students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests. The buildings hosts numerous campus events and provide services for students.

The Brownsville Union has dining options inside the Plains Capital Bank El Comedor, including SubConnection and Pizza Hut. Amenities at El Comedor include wireless printing, cell phone charging stations and microwaves. Students looking get involved in campus activities can visit the Student Involvement Office on the 1st floor. La Sala is also available for students to study or just meet up with friends. The PlainsCapital Bank Gran Salon is located on the 2nd floor and hosts numerous campus wide events and other annual traditions such as the Breakfast Wrangler, Picnic with the President and The Best Week Ever. A Game Room is located on the 1st floor, offering billiards and video games (OPENING SOON).

The Edinburg Student Union also has a Food Court offering El Pato, Su Café (Starbucks coffee), Chick-fil-A, Pizza Hut, and SubConnection. The Plains Capital Bank Theater hosts university events year round such as film showings, campus speakers, departmental presentations and many other performances.

If you need assistance, you can stop by the Information Desk to ask a question. You can also check out one of the Study Rooms and borrow equipment for your student organization events. Other amenities at the Edinburg Union include an ATM machine, wireless printing, cell phone charging stations, a convenience store, TV lounge areas and study rooms. Meeting rooms are also available for all registered student organizations and departments.

Student Union One West University Blvd. Student Union Brownsville, TX 78520	1201 West University Dr. Student Union Edinburg, TX 78539	studentunion@utrgv.edu Phone: 956-665-7989
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University Recreation

University Recreation is committed to positively engaging every member of the university community and supporting academic productivity by promoting active healthy lifestyles through dynamic programs that provide holistic personal growth. Programs offered include Intramurals Sports, Sport Clubs, Group Exercise, Personal Training, Fitness Assessments, Aquatics Programs, Outdoor Adventures, Wellness Programming, and Open Recreation.

University Recreation 2000 West University Blvd. Brownsville, TX 78520 Phone: 956-882-7176	615 North Sugar Rd. Edinburg, TX 78539 Phone: 956-665-7808	urec@utrgv.edu utrgv.edu/urec
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UTRGV Edinburg Campus

The University Recreation Building (EUREC) is a state-of-the-art facility that opened in August 2007, and includes the following facility spaces: main gym, multipurpose gym, racquetball courts, weight room, dance studios, climbing wall, indoor track (1/10th mile), classroom/ audiovisual theater, relaxation lounges, wellness energy zone, and a fitness assessment room. The outdoor area includes a swimming pool, hot tub, basketball courts, beach volleyball courts, tennis courts, palapa/barbecue area, softball field, and intramural sports fields. Students also have access to the HPE-1 indoor swimming pool during rec-swim hours.

UTRGV Brownsville Campus

The Recreation, Education, and Kinesiology Center (BREKC) is a state-of-the-art facility that opened in August 2008. The facility is owned and operated by Texas Southmost College, but is accessible to all UTRGV students. The facility includes the following facility spaces: main gym, racquetball courts, weight room, dance studio, and swimming pool. Students also have access to programmed activities that take place at the Soccer Complex and Garza Gym.

Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC)

The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) is dedicated to serving student veterans, guardsmen, reservist and their dependents. The MVSC serves as a liaison between students receiving military educational benefits and the Department of Veteran Affairs and assists students in the pursuit of their educational goals.

The MVSC assists students in certifying education benefits, advocating for services, developing projects to unite the university with our local community, provides counseling services specifically for veterans and promotes student involvement through the Student Veterans of America National Organization. We are proud to serve those who have served our country and are committed to helping military students and their dependents start or continue their education.

Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC)

One West University Blvd.
Cortez Hall, Rm. 224
Brownsville, TX 78520
Phone: 956-882-8980

1201 West University Dr.
University Center, Rm. 113
Edinburg, TX 78539
Phone: 956-665-7934

veteranservices@utrgv.edu
utrgv.edu/veterans

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Purchase of Textbooks

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley advises students that they are not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer including an online retailer. (Texas Education Code, Section 51.9705; 19 TAC 4.215). Information regarding textbooks and supplemental materials for specific courses including the International Standard Book Number and retail price information is included in the course schedule which can be accessed through my.utrgv.edu.

Student Travel

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has set forth University rules and procedures regarding student and pre-college University program participant travel and to comply with The University of Texas System policy and State Law (Texas Education Code, Section §51.950) relating to student travel. University students may travel off campus when representing a student organization, University department or engaging in intercollegiate competition or academic activities. Examples of student travel include, but are not limited to, class field trips and assignments; attendance at scholarly or professional conferences; University-funded student organization travel; class trips for educational or cultural enrichment; athletic, student publication, dramatic, music or forensic competition or performances; student leadership conferences; placement forums; and graduate school visits. All student travel must be registered with and approved by the dean of students or his or her designee.

Vehicle Registration and Parking Permits

All students, whether full- or part-time, who operate a motor vehicle on campus must register the vehicle with the University Parking and Transportation Department. A repositionable permit to be placed on the vehicle indicating the permit number and parking zone will be provided upon payment of the appropriate fee. All vehicles parking on campus must have a current parking permit properly displayed at all times. Citations apply to those vehicles lacking a permit or improperly parked. A complete list of all permit fees, citations, and regulations is available at the Parking and Transportation Department or at www.utrgv.edu/parking.

Note: A disabled veteran with a disabled veteran license plate may park with a free University permit in a disabled parking space.

Annual Security and Fire Safety Report

The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (previously known as the Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act) is required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act and the Higher Education Reauthorization Act and contains critical information you should familiarize yourself with about campus safety and security. Described in detail is the University Police Department; law enforcement arrest authority; crime reporting policies, procedures and responses; working relationships with state and local police; encouragement of prompt reporting of crimes; building access and control procedures. Additionally, there is information concerning drug and alcohol abuse prevention and sexual assault information.

The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report contains data about crime statistics for the three previous calendar years detailing Clery reportable crimes that occurred on property owned by the University and on public property or property immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campuses.

This information is provided by The University Police Department and can be found on the department's website or a hard copy will be provided upon request to the Police Department or the Office of the Dean of Students.

During emergency situations, the [University Police Department](#) can be reached at 956-882-4911. All crimes reported to the UTRGV Police Department can be viewed on the daily crime log.

Any law enforcement information provided by state law enforcement agencies concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained from the [University Police Department](#) at 956-882-7777.

Annual Fire Safety Report

The [UTRGV Department of Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management](#) (EHSRM) is charged with oversight of the Fire Safety Program which ensures compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) mandates and Best Management Practices associated with fire and facilities safety in an institutional environment. All faculty, staff and students are required to comply with these specific mandates. In accordance with the HEOA, UTRGV publishes an Annual Fire Safety Report (included with the Annual Security Report), which outlines key information relating to the fire safety related systems associated with UTRGV campus housing. Included in the report is a description of the fire safety system for each on-campus student housing facility, the number of fire drills held the previous year, UTRGV's policies or rules on portable electrical appliances, smoking, and open flames, procedures for student housing evacuation, policies for fire safety education and training programs, reporting mechanisms in the event of a fire, and plans for future improvements in fire safety. Also included in this report are Fire Safety Statistics, which outline the number of fires and the cause of each fire, the number of injuries or deaths, and the value of any property damage. In addition to the Annual Fire Safety Report, a Fire Log is maintained by the EHSRM in conjunction with University Police which lists any fires that occurred in an on campus housing facility. For each fire, information regarding the location of the fire, the nature of the fire, the date the fire occurred, and the time of day the fire occurred is included.

A hard copy of the Annual Fire Safety Report and the Fire Log is available at the following locations:

Edinburg Campus Police Station

Academic Support Facility
501 N. Sugar Road
Edinburg, TX 78539

Brownsville Campus Police Station

2671 FJRM Ave.
Brownsville, TX 78520

Harlingen Campus

2102 Treasure Hills Blvd.
Harlingen, Texas 78550

In addition, a copy of the report can be accessed at
<https://www.utrgv.edu/police/crime/information/campus-safety-report/index.htm>.

Making a False Alarm or Report

Pursuant to section 42.06 of the Texas Penal Code, it is a state jail felony to report a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that a person knows to be false relating to an institution of higher education.

Important Phone Numbers

Department	UTRGV Brownsville Campus	UTRGV Edinburg Campus
University Police-Emergency	956-882-4911	956-882-4911
University Police-Non-Emergency	956-882-7777	956-882-7777
Dean of Students	956-882-5141	956-665-2260
Counseling Center	956-882-3897	956-665-2574
Health Services	956-882-3896	956-665-2511
Student Rights and Responsibilities	956-882-5141	956-665-5375
Student Accessibility Services	956-882-7374	956-665-7005
Title IX/Sexual Misconduct	956-665-2103	956-665-2103
Substance Abuse/Recovery Services	956-882-3897	956-665-2574

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) specifies The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley requirements for hate crime reporting, emergency response and evacuation procedures, as well as missing student notification and fire safety related issues for UTRGV's on campus housing facilities.

Emergency Response and Evacuation

The Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) is charged with the Emergency Response Program on the UTRGV campus. The program's primary goal is to ensure that, in the event of an emergency, the UTRGV responds in a manner that protects the lives and health of the UTRGV community and any visitors; protects university facilities, property and equipment; and provides for the restoration of university facilities, functions and services. It is vital that all faculty, staff and students be familiar with emergency procedures associated with a man-made or natural disaster that may occur on campus. In accordance with the HEOA, UTRGV has developed a policy statement that outlines Emergency Response and Emergency Notifications utilized to immediately notify the campus community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation. The procedures include a list of organizations responsible for carrying out the emergency process, a description of the process the institution will use to determine the extent of the emergency, who to notify, the content of the notification, and the mechanisms used to initiate the notification system. In addition, procedures are also included for disseminating the emergency information to the larger community.

The Emergency Operations Plan and information on Emergency Notifications is available by visiting the OEP website at: <http://www.utrgv.edu/emergencypreparedness/index.htm>

Gang-Free Zones

Premises owned, rented or leased by The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and areas within 1,000 feet of the premises are “gang-free” zones. Certain criminal offenses, including those involving gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next highest category of offense if committed in a gang-free zone by an individual 17 years or older. See Texas Penal Code, Section 71.028.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. §1232g, and the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code §552.001 et seq., are respectively federal and state laws that provide for the review and disclosure of student educational records. In accordance with these laws, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has adopted the following policy. Individuals are informed of their rights under these laws through this policy, which is included in the [UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures STU 03-700](#) and this catalog.

The University will not permit access to or the release of personally identifiable information contained in student education records without the written consent of the student to any party, except as follows:

1. To appropriate University officials who require access to educational records in order to perform their legitimate educational duties.
2. To officials of other schools in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, is enrolled in or receives services from, upon request of these officials.
3. To federal, state or local officials or agencies authorized by law.
4. In connection with a student’s application for, or receipt of, financial aid.
5. To accrediting organizations or organizations conducting educational studies, provided that these organizations do not release personally identifiable data and destroy such data when it is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was obtained.
6. To the parents of a dependent student as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.
7. In compliance with a judicial order or subpoena provided a reasonable effort is made to notify the student in advance, unless such subpoena specifically directs the institution not to disclose the existence of a subpoena.
8. In an emergency situation if the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of students or other persons.
9. To an alleged victim of any crime of violence, the results of the alleged perpetrators disciplinary proceeding may be released.

Additionally, any law enforcement information provided by state law enforcement agencies concerning registered sex offenders may be released from the [University Police Department](#). General questions can be directed to the police department at 956-882-7777 and for emergencies at 956-882-4911. The University will release information in student education records to appropriate University or University of Texas System officials as indicated in number 1 above when there is a legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the university in an administrative, supervisory, academic or

research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the university has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor or collection agent); a person serving on The University of Texas System Board of Regents; or a student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the university discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Where required by regulations, a record of requests for disclosure and such disclosure of personally identifiable information from student education records shall be maintained by the custodian of the public record for each student and will also be made available for inspection pursuant to this policy. If the university discovers that a third party who has received student records from the university has released or failed to destroy such records in violation of this policy, the university will determine any future access by that third party and may take further appropriate action. Respective records no longer subject to audit nor presently under request for access may be purged according to regular schedules.

Directory Information

At its discretion, the university may release directory information, which shall include:

- Name, address, telephone number
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Dates of attendance
- Most recent previous educational institutions attended
- Classification
- Degrees and honors received
- Date of graduation
- Physical factors (height and weight) of athletes
- Institutional e-mail address
- Photographs

Students may withhold directory information by submitting appropriate documentation to the [Office of the Registrar](#) in writing. The institution will honor requests for nondisclosure until the student grants permission in writing, to release the information.

Access to File

Upon written request, the university shall provide a student with access to his or her educational records. The Registrar at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has been designated by the institution to coordinate the inspection and review procedures for student education records, which include admissions files, academic files and financial files. Students wishing to review their education records must make written requests to the Registrar listing the item or items of interest.

Education records covered by the Act will be made available within 45 days of the request. A list of education records and those officials responsible for the records shall be maintained at the Office of the Registrar. This list includes:

Academic Records

Department	UTRGV Brownsville Campus	UTRGV Edinburg Campus
Office of Undergraduate Admissions	BMain 1.100	ESSB, 1st floor
Office of the Registrar	BMain 1.100	ESSB, 1 st floor

Department	UTRGV Brownsville Campus	UTRGV Edinburg Campus
Graduate College	BSABH 1.202	EMASS 1.158
Health Services	BCRTZ 206	ESTHC 1.105
Counseling Center	Student Union 2.10	EUCTR 109
Learning Center	BMSLC 2.118	ELCTR 100
Dean of Students	BCRTZ 204	EUCTR 323
Residence Life	Casa Bella	EUCTR 315
Career Center	BCRTZ 129	ESSB 2.101

Educational Records do not include:

- Financial records of the student's parents or guardian.
- Confidential letters of recommendations that were placed in the educational records of a student prior to January 1, 1975.
- Records of instructional, administrative and educational personnel that are kept in the sole possession of the maker and are not accessible or revealed to any other individual.
- Records of law enforcement units.
- Medical and psychological records.
- Records that only contain information about an individual built or acquired by the university after the individual is no longer a student at the institution.

Challenge to Record

Students may challenge the accuracy of their educational records. Students who believe that their educational records contain information that is inaccurate or misleading, or is otherwise in violation of their privacy or their rights, may discuss their problems informally with the department that generated the record in dispute. If an agreement is reached with respect to the student's request, the appropriate records will be amended. If an agreement is not reached, the student will be notified within a reasonable period of time that the records will not be amended, and he or she will be informed by the head of that department of his or her right to a formal hearing.

A student's requests for a formal hearing must be made in writing to the Registrar who, within a reasonable period of time after receiving such requests, will inform the student of the date, place and the time of the hearing. Students may present evidence relevant to the issues raised and may be assisted or represented at the hearings by one or more persons of their choice, including attorneys, at the student's expense. The hearing officer who will adjudicate such challenges will be appointed by the vice president for business affairs in non-academic matters and by the provost/vice president for academic affairs in academic matters.

Decisions of the hearing officer will be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing, will consist of the written statements summarizing the evidence and stating the reasons for the decisions, and will be delivered to all parties concerned. The education records will be corrected or amended in accordance with the decision of the hearing officer, if the decision is in favor of the student. If the decision is unsatisfactory to the student, the student may place with the education records statements commenting on the information in the records or statements setting forth any reasons for disagreeing with the decision of the hearing officer, or both.

The statements will be placed in the education records, maintained as part of the student's records and released whenever the records in question are disclosed. Students who believe that the adjudications of their challenges were unfair or not in keeping with the provisions of the Act may request, in writing, assistance from the president of the university.

Copies

Students may access their academic records using ASSIST. Furthermore, students may have copies of documents included in their educational records and this policy. These copies will be made at the student's expense at rates authorized in the Texas Public Information Act. (There is no charge for student transcripts.) Official copies of academic records or transcripts will not be released for students who have a delinquent financial obligation or financial "hold" at the university.

Complaints

Complaints regarding alleged failures to comply with the provisions of the FERPA may be submitted in writing to the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is a drug-free school and complies with the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1990. The Drug Free School and Communities Act of 1989 requires institutions of higher education to adopt and implement programs to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. Information concerning these programs must be distributed to students annually. For information regarding these policies please refer to the following: Drug Free School and Communities Act provided by the Dean of Students at www.utrgv.edu/dos.

UTRGV is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for the campus community. Alcohol and other drugs should not interfere with the university's educational mission. All UTRGV students, faculty members, staff members, administrators and visitors are subject to local state and federal laws regarding the unlawful possession, distribution, or use of alcohol or illegal drugs.

The following university policies can be found in the [UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures](#). The possession, transportation, and/or consumption of alcohol by individuals less than 21 years of age is strictly prohibited. University police privileges, the minimum penalty shall be suspension from the institution for a specified period of time; and/or suspension of rights and privileges.

Hazing

Hazing in state educational institutions is prohibited by both state law (Sections 51.936 & 37.151 et seq., Texas Education Code) and by the Regents' Rules and Regulations (Rule 50101). Individuals or organizations engaging in hazing could be subject to fines and charged with criminal offenses. Additionally, the law does not affect or in any way restrict the right of the university to enforce its own rules against hazing.

Individuals

A person commits an offense if the person: engages in hazing; solicits, encourages, directs, aids or attempts to aid another engaging in hazing; Recklessly permits hazing to occur; or Has firsthand

knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution, or has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution.

Organizations

An organization commits an offense if the organization condones or encourages hazing or if an officer or any combination of members, pledges, or alumni of the organization commits or assists in the commission of hazing.

Definition

The term “hazing” is broadly defined by statute to mean any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization. Hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.
- Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subject the student to unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity involving the consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subdivision.
- Any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.

The fact that a person consented to or acquiesced in a hazing activity is not a defense to prosecution. The University of Texas System Board of Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Rule 50101, Sec. 2.8 provides that, “Any student who, acting singly or in concert with others, engages in hazing is subject to discipline. Hazing in state educational institutions is prohibited by state law (Texas Education Code, Section 51.936). Hazing with or without the consent of a student whether on or off campus is prohibited, and a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to discipline. Initiations or activities of organizations may include no feature that is dangerous, harmful, or degrading to the student, and a violation of this prohibition renders both the organization and participating individuals subject to discipline.”

Hazing with or without the consent of a student is prohibited by the System, and a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to discipline. Initiations or activities by organizations may include no feature which is dangerous, harmful, or degrading to the student, and a violation of this prohibition renders both the organization

and participating individuals subject to discipline. Activities which under certain conditions constitute acts that are dangerous, harmful, or degrading, in violation of Rules include but are not limited to: calisthenics, such as sit-ups, push-ups, or any other form of physical exercise; total or partial nudity at any time; the eating or ingestion of any unwanted substance; the wearing or carrying of any obscene or physically burdensome article; paddle swats, including the trading of swats; pushing, shoving, tackling, or any other physical contact; throwing oil, syrup, flour, or any harmful substance on a person; rat court, kangaroo court, or other individual interrogation; forced consumption of alcoholic beverages either by threats or peer pressure; lineups intended to demean or intimidate; transportation and abandonment (road trips, kidnaps, walks, rides, drops); confining individuals in an area that is uncomfortable or dangerous (hot box effect, high temperature, too small); any type of personal servitude that is demeaning or of personal benefit to the individual members; wearing of embarrassing or uncomfortable clothing; assigning pranks such as stealing; painting objects; harassing other organizations; intentionally messing up the house or room for clean up; demeaning names; yelling and screaming; and requiring boxing matches or fights for entertainment.

Immunity

In an effort to encourage reporting of hazing incidents, the law grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to any person who reports a specific hazing event in good faith and without malice to the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution and immunizes that person for participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from that report. Additionally, a doctor or other medical practitioner who treats a student who may have been subjected to hazing may make a good faith report of the suspected hazing activities to police or other law enforcement officials and is immune from civil or other liability that might otherwise be imposed or incurred as a result of the report. The penalty for failure to report is a fine of up to \$1,000, up to 180 days in jail, or both. Penalties for other hazing offenses vary according to the severity of the injury, which results and include fines from \$500 to \$10,000 and/or confinement for up to two years.

Student Conduct

The University of Texas Rio Grande considers cultivation of self-discipline by its students to be of great importance in the development of responsible citizens. Therefore, the university expects its students to maintain standards of personal discipline that are in harmony with the education goals and purpose of the university. Although the university is committed to the full support of the constitutional rights of its students, including due process, it also has an equal obligation to protect its educational purpose and the interest of the student body. The University must therefore be concerned with the actions of individuals or groups that are in conflict with the welfare and integrity of the institution or in disregard of the rights of other students or faculty.

Attendance at a tax-supported educational institution of higher learning is optional and voluntary. By such voluntary entrance into the academic community of the university, students voluntarily assume the obligations of performance and behavior imposed by the university relevant to its lawful missions, processes, and functions. When students enter the university, it is assumed that they have a serious purpose and a sincere interest in their own social and intellectual development. They are expected to learn to cope with problems with intelligence, reasonableness, and consideration for the rights of others; to obey laws and ordinances of the nation, state, and community for which they, as well as the

university, are a part. As students prize rights and freedoms for themselves, they are expected to respect the rights and freedoms of others.

The administration of student discipline at the university is a responsibility shared by students, faculty, and administrative staff. In many cases, peer group influence, counseling, admonition, and example may resolve problems of student conduct. Where these preferred means fail, resort is made to disciplinary procedures. Any academic or administrative official, faculty member, or student may file a complaint against any student for misconduct. A student may be penalized herein, even though he or she is also punished by state or federal authorities for the same act.

Students are subject to federal, state, and local laws as well as University rules and regulations. Students are subject to reasonable disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion in appropriate cases, for breach of federal, state, or local laws or University rules and regulations. Individuals who are not currently enrolled at the university remain subject to the disciplinary process for conduct that occurred during any period of enrollment, and for statements, acts, or omissions related to application for enrollment or the award of a degree.

Rules and regulations relating to the students of the university are enacted with the view towards protecting the best interests of the individual, the general welfare of the entire student body, and the educational objectives of the university. These rules and regulations are few, and most students will not find them unduly restrictive. Violations of institutional rules and regulations, including those, which may subsequently be enacted, may subject a student to disciplinary action.

The Student Conduct Code and the student disciplinary hearing and appeals procedure can be found in the [UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures](#).

Copyrighted Material

Using peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing applications to illegally share copyrighted music and movies is the number one way students violate federal copyright law. Students, faculty and staff are all obligated to comply with federal law and university policy regarding appropriate use of information technology and avoiding copyright infringement.

Bandwidth

The university enforces network policies regarding bandwidth usage and limits, including the blocking of network traffic to peer to peer applications/sites. Under some circumstances, the university may activate monitoring tools designed to detect abnormal or potentially infringing traffic in order to determine its appropriateness and, if necessary, initiate disciplinary procedures.

Copyright Complaints and Legal Content Alternatives

If you copy and distribute copyrighted material without legal permission, you may be found liable for civil or criminal copyright infringement. Civil penalties for Federal Copyright infringement range from \$750 per song to \$150,000 in damages for each willful act. Criminal penalties can run up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

The university cannot protect you from a copyright complaint. The university may also be required by law to disclose information about you to a complainant for use in pursuing legal action against you. The process for handling DMCA notices received by the university is outlined in the Digital Millennium

Copyright Act (DMCA) policy. If a complaint is received, the user of the device will be blocked from accessing the network until the issue is resolved through the Dean of Students. The penalties for violation of copyright law can range from university sanctions to civil and criminal prosecution.

You are not protected from financial penalty just because you received material at no cost or are distributing material with no charge. Your only protection is to not possess or distribute any unlicensed copyrighted material. There are many Web sites that provide legal online music, movies, and other content. Refer to the Keep It Legal page for a list of services that comply with the DMCA.

Peer-to-peer Software

Peer-to-peer (P2P) applications such as BitTorrent, BearShare, Limewire, Morpheus, iMesh and KaZaA make it easy for you to share files, and there are legitimate uses for this class of software. However, please keep the following guidelines in mind.

Network Bandwidth

Most P2P applications are configured so other users can access your hard drive and share your files all the time. This constant file transfer can degrade your computer's performance and generate heavy traffic loads on the university network. The university's network bandwidth consumption is monitored and blocked for P2P applications without prior approval. If your usage impacts the overall performance of the network, your computer may be blocked. If you use a P2P application to share content legally, you should know how to control or disable the application.

Privacy

If you are running a P2P application, you may be inadvertently sharing personal information, such as e-mail messages or credit card information. You need to make sure you know which files and data the application is sharing. You should know how to control or disable your P2P application to ensure that you are not inadvertently sharing personal information.

Security

Viruses are easily spread using P2P applications. Many P2P applications include "malware" in the download, so you may be unintentionally infecting your computer. To protect your computer, keep your anti-virus program up-to-date and only install programs acquired from reputable sources. You can download anti-virus software on the UTRGV Downloads site.

Resource Use

Some P2P applications use your computer as a computational or storage resource for another organization's use. This may not be an acceptable use of state-owned resources such as the university network or university-owned computers. Do not permit any such use of your system without the consent of the university. For assistance, please contact the Information Security Office at ciso@utrgv.edu.

University Policy and Assistance

By running a P2P application, you may be consuming excessive network bandwidth and/or violating copyright law, both of which are violations of the university's rules for acceptable use of information technology. You may also be sharing confidential information and/or making your computer insecure.

If you have questions about P2P applications, please call the [IT Help Desk](#) at 956-665-2020 or 956-882-2020.

Sexual Assault

UTRGV is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SAVE Act).

UTRGV does not tolerate sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Not only is sexual harassment and sexual violence impermissible pursuant to UTRGV's sex discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct policies, UTRGV [ADM 03-100](#) and [ADM 03-300](#), but also by federal and state law.

Reporting Sexual Misconduct

All Vaqueros are encouraged to report sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and discrimination. If prior to making a report, you would like to speak to someone confidentially, UTRGV confidential resources are available, such as, the Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention ([OVAVP](#)), the [Vaqueros Crisis Line](#) and the [Counseling Center](#). Any faculty or staff member who receives a report of sexual misconduct, and who is not bound by professional confidentiality (advocates, counselors, spiritual advisors, and healthcare providers are confidential resources), is encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator.

At UTRGV, students, faculty and staff have many reporting options:

The Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity

Attention: Title IX Coordinator

Office: (956) 665-2452

Direct: (956) 665-2103

oie@utrgv.edu

Please contact **911**, if a situation poses an immediate risk to health, life, property, or environment. Most emergencies require urgent intervention to prevent a worsening of the situation.

When making a verbal report, please include the following information, if available:

- Your name and contact details
- Names of the implicated persons (complainants & respondents)
- Approximate date and time that the incidence(s) occurred
- Where the incidence(s) occurred
- What happened or what you think happened (if you, or someone you know, was asleep or incapacitated)
- Whether you are seeking immediate help from the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, such as with a no contact order or a housing accommodation.

- Whether you made an earlier report and to whom

You can also complete the [Vaqueros Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity Report It](#) and email it to oe@utrgv.edu or send it to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, Attn: Title IX Coordinator, 1201 W. University Drive, Edinburg, Texas 78539.

If you choose, you can make an anonymous verbal or written report to the Title IX Coordinator or a [Title IX Deputy Coordinator](#).

Title IX Responsible Employees

You can also inform a Title IX Responsible Employee. UTRGV is committed to maintaining an environment free of sex discrimination, and many employees are designated as Title IX Responsible Employees. If you wish confidentiality, ask if the person you are speaking with is a Title IX Responsible Employee. Title IX Responsible Employees are mandated reporters who must inform the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Coordinator whenever they receive a report of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct.

Vaqueros Report It

[Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) provides an online reporting system, called [Vaqueros Report It](#), which allows students, staff and faculty a way to report violations of the Student Code of Conduct, sexual misconduct, sexual discrimination, discrimination and other matters of concern.

Compliance Hotline

The [Compliance Hotline](#) is another available UTRGV resource for complainants, witnesses and others that wish to report sexual misconduct or discrimination anonymously. The Hotline is available 24/7. Calls can be taken in English or in Spanish.

Toll Free Hotline: (877) 882-3999

Law Enforcement

- Call 9-1-1 (if an emergency) or contact local law enforcement.
- UTRGV Police Department ([University Police](#)): (956) 882-4911 (emergency line)
- UTRGV Police Department ([University Police](#)): (956) 882-7777 (information line)
- City of Edinburg Police ([Edinburg Police](#)): (956) 289-7700
- City of Brownsville Police ([Brownsville Police](#)): (956) 548-7000

If you wish, the Title IX Coordinator and Title IX Deputy Coordinators can help you contact these law enforcement agencies. Reporting the incident does not mean that the survivor must proceed with prosecution. Survivors may also use a pseudonym to protect their identity.

Victims of sexual assault are not required to file criminal charges or seek judicial actions through UTRGV's disciplinary process. Survivors are encouraged to report.

If you have protective or restraining orders relevant to a UTRGV report of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, we encourage you to provide a copy to University Police.

External Reporting:

- Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Texas Workforce Commission, Civil Rights Division

Support Resources for Students, Faculty and Staff

UTRGV Confidential Support Services (for students)

- Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention ([OVAVP](#)) (956) 665-8287 / (956) 882-8282
- [Counseling Center](#) (956) 665-2574 / (956) 882-3896
- [Vaqueros Crisis Line](#) (956) 665-5555
- [Health Services](#) (956) 665-2511 / (956) 882-3896
- [Spiritual Support](#) (pastors and ministers, verify with your religious advisor)

UTRGV Confidential Support Services (for faculty and staff)

- Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention ([OVAVP](#)) (956) 665-8287 / (956) 882-8282
- [UTRGV Employee Assistance Program](#) (800) 346-3549

Rio Grande Valley Community Support Services (confidential and non-confidential)

- [Mujeres Unidas in Hidalgo County](#) (800) 580-4879
- [Friendship of Women](#) (956) 544-7412
- [Family Crisis Center in Rio Grande Valley](#) (956) 249-6452
- [Safe H.A.V.E.N at Doctor's Hospital Renaissance](#): (956) 362-7774
- [Valley Baptist Medical Center \(Harlingen\): Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner](#) (956) 389-1100

If you have been sexually assaulted, Safe H.A.V.E.N at Doctor's Hospital Renaissance and Valley Baptist Medical Center have dedicated SAFE nurses (SAFE = Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner) available, 24/7. Compassionate medical professionals conduct the sexual assault exams in private dedicated locations. Agreeing to a sexual assault exam does not obligate a survivor to proceed with prosecution. These exams are stored for two years should a survivor wish to proceed with prosecution later in time. University Police and OVAVP advocates can assist with transport for the exam. The hospital will not charge a victim or survivor for the cost of the sexual assault exam.

Complaint Process & Rights of Participants

UTRGV will take appropriate action(s), to resolve complaints of sexual misconduct, to prevent any recurrence and, as appropriate, to remedy any effects. UTRGV's Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity reviews all sexual misconduct reports. Depending on the nature of the report, the report may result in a formal investigation. Each party to a complaint can have an advisor support them. Investigative findings are available for review to the parties when an investigation concludes, if initiated. Each party can respond to the investigative findings in writing. Based on the available record, a designated University official will render a final determination. Any adverse action threatened or taken against someone because the individual has filed, supported, provided information in connection with a complaint of sexual misconduct or engaged in other legally protected activities is prohibited. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, intimidation, threats or harassment against any complainant, witness or third party.

For a detailed description of the complaint processes, please see [ADM 03-100](#) and [ADM 03-300](#).

Disciplinary Process

Disciplinary action against faculty and employees is pursuant to UTRGV's policies for discipline and dismissal of faculty and employees. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, written reprimands, the imposition of conditions, reassignment, suspension, and dismissal. The Dean of Students or designee will impose disciplinary action, if any, against a student under UTRGV's student disciplinary procedures. Student disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Parties to a complaint are entitled to an advisor during any disciplinary proceedings. Parties are informed of disciplinary proceeding outcomes.

Sexual Misconduct Educational and Prevention Programs

UTRGV's commitment to raising awareness of the dangers of sexual misconduct includes offering ongoing education through annual training and lectures by faculty, staff, mental health professionals, or trained UTRGV personnel. UTRGV periodically educates and trains employees and supervisors regarding the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct policy and conduct that could constitute a violation of the policy. Preventive education and training programs are provided to UTRGV administrators, faculty, staff, and students and includes information about risk reduction, including bystander intervention. UTRGV departments that provide training throughout the year on sexual misconduct prevention include:

- **The Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity** provides diversity, inclusion, nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct and accessibility training to faculty, staff and students.
- **Student Rights and Responsibilities** provides training on active bystander intervention, healthy relationships, what to do if you are a victim of sexual assault and assault awareness programs.
- **The Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention** provides specialized violence prevention and sexual assault awareness trainings and hosts an annual conference, CAVE (Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation).

- **University Police Department** offers violence prevention programs and offers specialized sexual misconduct discussions for campus groups.

Solicitation on Campus

The University's policy on solicitation is outlined in the [UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures Section ADM 10-104](#). The term solicitation means the sale, lease, rental or offer for sale, lease, rental of any property, product, merchandise, publication, or service, whether for immediate or future delivery; an oral statement or the distribution or display of printed material, merchandise or products that is designed to encourage the purchase, use or rental of any property, product, merchandise, publication or service; the receipt of or request for any gift or contribution; or the request to support or oppose or to vote for or against a candidate, issue or proposition appearing on the ballot at any election held pursuant to state or federal law or local ordinances. Solicitation is prohibited on any property, street, or sidewalk, or in any building, structure, or facility owned or controlled by the university or the University of Texas System. Please refer to the policy for a list of permissible activities.

STUDENT ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPEALS

Academic Responsibilities

Students are expected to inform themselves thoroughly concerning the regulations of the university and the course requirements for degrees, and to make inquiries in case of doubt.

Regulations will not be waived, nor exceptions to requirements made, on a plea of ignorance of the regulations and requirements. Students, therefore, should become familiar with all of the information related to the program contained in the [University Catalog](#), on the university website, and in other official publications.

Each student, by registering, enters an academic college of the university and is under its jurisdiction with regard to the student's program of study and degree requirements. For questions regarding waivers to course requirements and options, deficiencies, degree plan and special regulations, students should work directly with the person in their major who is assigned the responsibility of supervising their programs or seek assistance from their Academic Advisor. Requests to waive regulations and/or requirements should be directed in writing to the dean of the college.

Academic Appeals

Students wishing to appeal final grades or decisions regarding academic standards should first discuss the matter with the instructor of the class. If no resolution occurs, and the student wishes to pursue the matter further, the student may appeal in writing to the appropriate department chair within one long semester after the disputed grade or decision is issued. The department chair will respond in writing to the student within 14 calendar days (excluding holidays) of the receipt of the student's written appeal.

Pursuant appeals will be written and directed within 14 calendar days (excluding holidays) of the date of the department chair's decision to the school, college, or division. College Academic Appeals Committee. The committee will consist of a panel of three faculty members, two of whom may not be from the department in which the appeal originated. The dean or director will appoint the panel members upon receipt of the written appeal and notify the student in writing of the date, time and location of the hearing and the names of the members of the panel. The student and the faculty member involved may appear in person before the panel and present evidence. The hearing will be closed to the public, and no person other than the student, the faculty member involved and panel members may be present. No person may represent the student or the faculty member except in the event that the instructor is unavailable for an extended period of time (such as due to death, serious illness, or termination of employment with UTRGV). In those cases, the faculty member may be represented by the appropriate department chair.

After the College Academic Appeals Committee has heard the appeal, it will deliberate and come to a decision. The committee's decision will be written, mailed, emailed, or delivered in person, to the student and faculty member within three class days of the close of the hearing. The student may appeal in writing within 14 calendar days to the dean/director (excluding holidays). The dean's/director's decision will be final, and it must be mailed, emailed, or delivered in person to the student within 14 calendar days (excluding holidays) of the receipt of the student's written appeal.

Note that a transcript notation that the student dropped or withdrew from a course is not subject to academic appeal through this process. That notation is an indication of enrollment status, not academic performance. Students believing that such a notation is incorrect who wish to appeal can do so through the UTRGV Strategic Enrollment appeals portal, enrollment.utrgv.edu/appeals.

Student Complaint Procedures

Purpose

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley endeavors to provide fair and objective procedures for hearing student complaints. Students are protected from coercion, intimidation, interference, harassment, retaliation, or discrimination for filing a complaint or assisting in an investigation.

Student Advisement for Concerns/Complaints

University policies and procedures direct students about how to file a complaint. The applicable policy will depend on the nature of the complaint. If a student has questions about the applicable policy, the Office for Student Rights and Responsibilities, located in the University Center, Rm. 315, on the UTRGV Edinburg Campus and in Cortez Hall, Rm. 204 on the UTRGV Brownsville Campus, can assist a student who has questions regarding existing policies and procedures. Methods to file complaints are outlined more fully in the [UTRGV Handbook of Operating Procedures](#).

UTRGV Complaint Processes

(compliant with DOE “Program Integrity” Regulations)

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Texas Administrative Code ([19 TAC § 1.110-1.120](#)) require The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to provide a student complaint procedure that complies with the U.S. Department of Education’s “Program Integrity” regulations as part of UTRGV’s eligibility for Title IV federal funds. The THECB complaint process may be found [here](#).

Students wishing to file a formal complaint under the THECB process must ensure they have first brought their complaint to UTRGV’s attention through UTRGV’s complaint processes. Students may submit complaints through [Vaqueros Report It](#). If the matter is unresolved after exhausting UTRGV’s complaint processes, the student may then file a formal complaint with THECB.

Students making a complaint to the THECB may submit [required forms and supporting documentation](#) in PDF format by email to studentcomplaints@theqb.state.tx.us, or by regular mail to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Office of General Counsel, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, TX 78711-2788. Original documents should not be submitted, as the THECB cannot return documents received.

Accreditation-related complaints regarding UTRGV’s accreditation may be made to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) under its [complaint procedures](#). A complainant should complete SACSCOC’s Complaint Form and send two signed copies to the President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097. The details of the SACSCOC complaint process explain that it is intended to address significant, documented, alleged non-compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards, policies, or procedures. Complainants are expected to have attempted to resolve the issue through UTRGV’s complaint processes before filing a complaint with SACSCOC.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accreditation — College or University

A college or university in the United States is considered accredited if it is recognized by one of the following regional accrediting agencies:

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
- Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Accreditation — High School

A high school in Texas is considered accredited if it is recognized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). High schools outside of Texas are considered accredited if they are recognized by their state accreditation agency.

Advanced-level Work

Courses numbered 3000-4000 are advanced or upper-division courses. Courses numbered 3000 are designated as junior level, and 4000-numbered courses are designated as senior level. Approval of the department chair or dean of the college is required for enrollment in advanced-level courses by students who have not reached junior standing. Students who have not passed all portions of the TSI exam may not enroll in any advanced-level coursework if, upon completion of the work, the student would have completed 60 or more hours.

Attempted Hours

Attempted hours are the total number of hours for courses that a student has attempted, including failing grades such as "F," "DF" and "WF."

Census Date

The official census date is the 12th class day for regular fall and spring semesters or the fourth class day for summer sessions. Dates for traditional programs are found in the [Academic Calendar](#). Census dates for non-traditional students (online-accelerated programs) will be published by the [Office of the Registrar](#).

Common Course Number

If the course is generally equivalent to other lower-division courses taught at universities and community colleges within the state, the Texas Common Course Number is shown in the course description for informational purposes. See Texas Common Course Numbering System on p. 29 for further information.

Coursework in Residence

Coursework in residence refers to coursework actually completed on one of the UTRGV campuses or through credit by examination offered by UTRGV academic departments. Extension, credit by

examination offered by external agencies (e.g. IB, CLEP, AP), and transfer credit may not be used to complete the residency requirement for graduation.

Dean's List

After each regular semester, a dean's list is published listing the names of all undergraduate students enrolled in a minimum of 12 college-level hours who have a grade point average of 3.5 or better for courses taken that semester. A dean's list is not produced during the summer sessions.

Restrictive Electives

Students have choices within the category of restrictive electives but must complete the required number of courses or hours from those specified.

Elective Hours

Required credit hours for which specific courses are not prescribed are listed as elective hours.

Entering Freshman

A student admitted as an entering freshman has not attended any accredited college or university.

Full-time Graduate

A graduate student who is enrolled for at least nine hours of credit during a regular semester, or a total of six hours of credit during the summer sessions, is considered full-time.

Full-time Undergraduate

An undergraduate student who is enrolled for at least 12 credit hours during a regular semester, or at least six hours of credit during a summer session, is considered fulltime.

Half-time Graduate

A half-time graduate student is one who is enrolled for six to eight hours of credit during the regular semester or three hours of graduate credit during a summer session.

Half-time Undergraduate

A half-time undergraduate student is one who is enrolled for six to 11 credit hours during the regular semester or three hours of credit during a summer session.

Three-Quarter Time Undergraduate

A three-quarter time undergraduate student is one who is enrolled for nine to 11 credit hours during the regular semester.

Hours

College credit at UTRGV is measured in terms of credit hours. Ordinarily, a class that meets one 50-minute period per week for a regular semester will carry a credit of one hour. The majority of classes meet three periods or their equivalent each week and carry three hours of credit. Two or three laboratory hours per week are usually required for one hour of laboratory credit.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Students whose native language is not English and students who studied outside the U.S. will be expected to provide test scores for either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Leveling Work

Coursework designed to eliminate deficiencies in educational background of students admitted or being considered for admission to a graduate program is called leveling work. (Graduate programs are designed on the assumption that students have a common body of knowledge.)

Maximum Course Load

The maximum load for a full-time undergraduate student is 18 hours in a regular semester and 7 for each summer session. Students may be permitted to enroll for additional hours with the approval of his or her undergraduate academic advisor and the dean of the college.

Post-baccalaureate Student

A student holding at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution who does not wish to enter the graduate school may be permitted to register as a special student in one of the undergraduate colleges and is subject to all rules and regulations of that college.

Prerequisite

A course listed with a prerequisite means that specified requirements must be met before one can enroll in the course. Specific prerequisites are listed in course descriptions.

Probation

Students are placed on scholastic probation when they fail to achieve the required overall grade point average. Students may be placed on disciplinary probation for infraction of any University regulation. In either case, they must satisfy specific requirements before they can return to a non-probationary status. For further information, refer to the sections on scholastic probation and suspension in the undergraduate and graduate catalogs. Student Conduct is discussed on p. 125.

Regular Semester

A regular semester is any 15-week fall or spring semester.

Returning Student

A student whose last institution attended was UTRGV is admitted as a returning student after an absence of one year.

Semester

(See Regular Semester)

Summer Session

As part of its regular program, the university offers two summer sessions, each five-and-one-half weeks long.

Transfer Students

Students admitted as transfer students have last attended an accredited college or university other than, or in addition to, UTRGV.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

Students whose native language is not English and students who studied outside the U.S. will be expected to provide test scores for either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Upper Division

(See Advanced-level Work)

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FACULTY LISTING

A

- Aada, Khalid, Lecturer II, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Foreign Languages Pedagogy; EdD, University Cesuver & Monterrey, 2014.
- Abdel-Raheem, Mohamed, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering; Civil Engineering; PhD, University of Central Florida, 2011.
- Abdelbary, Bassent, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Epidemiology; PhD, The University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston, 2016.
- Abebe, Michael A., Associate Professor, Department of Management; Business Administration; PhD, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, 2008.
- Abraham, Jaya S., Clinical Instructor, School of Nursing; Adult Health Nursing; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2010.
- Abraham, John, Full Professor, Department of Computer Science; Health & Physical Education; EdD, University of Houston, 1986.
- Abrego, Jesus "Chuey", Associate Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Leadership; EdD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.
- Acebedo, Janie C., Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; PhD, The University of Texas at Tyler, 2016.
- Acevedo, Linda G., Lecturer II, School of Accountancy; Accounting; MACC, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.
- Acosta, Greg I., Lecturer 1, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; MSE, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2017.
- Adams, Russell P., Associate Professor, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.
- Adefuye, Ifelayo, Lecturer 1, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Applied Drug Discovery; MS, University of Kent, 2014.
- Adhikari, Ananta, Lecturer 1, Department of Physics and Astronomy.
- Adhikari, Binay K., Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Finance; PhD, The University of Alabama, 2015.
- Agbese, Aje-Ori, Associate Professor, Department of Communication; Communication Studies; PhD, Bowling Green State University, 2004.
- Aguilar, Dr. Jair, Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education; PhD, University of Texas at Austin, 2017.
- Aguilera, Juan G., Lecturer I, Department of Health and Human Performance; Education (Kinesiology and Health Promotion); MA, University of Texas - San Antonio, 2003.
- Aguilera, Lydia L., Clinical Associate Professor, Cooperative Pharmacy Program; Pharmacy; Pharm.D., University of Florida, 2008.

Aguir, Wael, Assistant Professor, School of Accountancy; Business Administration Accounting; PhD, The University of Texas - San Antonio, 2011.

Aguirre, Antonio, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; Doctoral Student, The University of Texas - Pan American.

Aguirre, Maria T., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Biology; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2008.

Ahluwalia, Punit, Associate Professor, Department of Information Systems; Computer Information Systems; PhD, Georgia State University, 2006.

Ahmad, Hassan, Full Professor, Department of Chemistry; Biochemistry; PhD, Aligarh Muslim University, 1983.

Akindayomi, Akinloye, Associate Professor, School of Accountancy; Management; PhD, University of Calgary, 2006.

Al-Shalash, Aws, Lecturer 1, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; MS, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 2017.

Alcocer, Manuel, Lecturer I, Department of Information Systems; Industrial Engineering; MS, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 1992.

Alcoutlabi, Mataz, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Polymeric and Composite Materials; PhD, National Institute of Applied Sciences of Lyon, 1999.

Alessandri, Mariana, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2010.

Alianak, Sonia, Full Professor, Department of Political Science; Government; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1987.

Allison, Leslie, Clinical Faculty, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Almaguer, Isela, Full Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Curriculum and Instruction; EdD, The University of Houston, 2003.

Almasay, Laura, Clinical Full Professor.

Alonzo, Noelia, Lecturer 1, Department of Social Work; Social Work; MSSW, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2010.

Altecor, Tatiyana G., Lecturer III, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Business Administration; MBA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2006.

Altema McNeely, Natasha, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, The University of Iowa, 2013.

Alvarado, David, Lecturer 1, Department of Information Systems; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, 2017.

Alvarado, Michelle, Lecturer III, University College; Student Affairs and Administration in Higher Education; MS, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1997.

Alvarado, Victor, Full Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counseling - Personnel; EdD, Western Michigan University, 1976.

Alvarez McHatton, Patricia M., Full Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Special Education and Urban Education; PhD, University of South Florida, 2004.

Alvarez, Carlos, Visiting Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Industrial Engineering; D.Eng, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, 1979.

Alvarez, Stephanie, Associate Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Engagement; Spanish; PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 2006.

Amado Pineda, Andres R., Assistant Professor, School of Music; Music; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2013.

Ambriz, Frank, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2006.

Amorim, George, Associate Professor, School of Music; Double Bass Performance; DMA, The University of North Texas, 2009.

Anabila, Andrew A., Associate Professor, School of Accountancy; Business; PhD, Columbia University, 2003.

Anckle, Stephanie, Lecturer 1, Department of Teaching and Learning; Education (Teaching, Learning and Culture); PhD, Claremont Graduate University, 2016.

Andersen, Mark, Full Professor, Department of Biology.

Anderson-Mejias, Pamela, Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English Education/Applied Linguistics; PhD, Indiana University - Bloomington, 1980.

Andoh-Baidoo, Francis K., Associate Professor, Department of Information Systems; Business Information Systems; PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2006.

Andrade, Juan-Pablo, Associate Professor, School of Music; Music; DMA, University of North Carolina, 2008.

Anger, Evamaria, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy.

Anshen, David, Assistant Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Comparative Literature; PhD, Stony Brook University, 2004.

Aparicio, Vicente, Assistant Professor, Cooperative Pharmacy Program; Pharmacy; Pharm.D., The University of Texas at Austin, 2016.

Aponte Martínez, Gerardo J., Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education; PhD, Michigan State University, 2017.

Appiahene-Gyamfi, Joseph, Full Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminology; PhD, Simon Fraser University, 2000.

Arambula, Eduardo, Lecturer 1, Department of Health and Human Performance; Sport-Exercise Psychology; MA, Argosy University, 2011.

Ardalani, Elvia, Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish; MA, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 1995.

Armianu, Irina, Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; French Studies; PhD, Rice University, 2010.

Armstrong, Russell, Lecturer I, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Arredondo, Sonja, Lecturer II, Department of Social Work; Social Work; MSW, Our Lady of the Lake University, 1974.

Arthur, Bruno R., Lecturer III, Department of Economics and Finance; Agricultural Economics; PhD, University of Kentucky, 2013.

Arya, Rector, Assistant Professor of Research, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Biological Anthropology; PhD, University of Kansas, 1999.

Ashley, Deborah, Lecturer I, University College; Counseling Psychology; MS, Alabama A&M University, 2009.

Askar, Shane M., Lecturer 1, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; MS, The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, 2015.

Ater, Brandon, Assistant Professor, School of Accountancy; Business; PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 2015.

Atesin, Abdurrahman C., Lecturer III, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, University of Rochester, 2008.

Ateşin, Tülay A., Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, University of Rochester, 2007.

Atik, Deniz, Assistant Professor, Department of Marketing; Consumer Behavior; PhD, Bocconi University, 2006.

Atisa, George, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies; Public Affairs; PhD, Florida International University, 2014.

Atkins, Sandra, Lecturer I, University College; Educational Psychology; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Austin, Charles I., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Avila, Mayra L., Lecturer II, Department of History; History; MA, The University of Texas - El Paso, 2013.

Avila, Rolando, Lecturer II, Department of History; Educational Leadership; EdD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

Ayaburi, Emmanuel, Assistant Professor, Department of Information Systems; Business Administration (Information Technology); PhD, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2017.

Ayati, Marziehossadat, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science.

Azim, Zohra, Lecturer 1, Department of Chemistry; Food Science; MS, University of Guelph, 2010.

B

Badenhorst, Pauli, Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning.

Baesa, Hilda R., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2016.

Bailey, Guy, President, Department of Organization and School Leadership; English; PhD, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, 1979.

Baker, Will R., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Medical Science (Rural Primary Care); MS, Alderson-Broadbent College, 1999.

Balci, Tamer, Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, Claremont Graduate University, 2007.

Balogh, Andras, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Texas Tech University, 1997.

Balogh, Erika, Lecturer I, School of Art; Art; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

Bandyopadhyay, Debasish, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, University of Calcutta, 2004.

Banu, Jameela, Associate Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Special Zoology; PhD, University of Madras, 1991.

Barnes, Kelli O., Lecturer 1, Department of Social Work; English; MA, Northern Arizona University, 2010.

Barrios, Nayelly, Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, McNeese State University, 2014.

Barros, Joy Y., Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Health Education/Promotion; PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2017.

Barrow, Clyde W., Full Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, University of California, Los Angeles, 1984.

Bautista, Beatriz G., Clinical Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing Practice; DNP, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, 2008.

Bauza, Gabriel, Lecturer I, School of Music; Music; MM, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Beardwood, Norma L., Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Business Administration; MBA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Becker-Chambless, Amy, Lecturer III, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; American Multicultural Literature and Film; PhD, Texas Tech University, 2006.

Belau, Linda, Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Comparative Literature; PhD, State University of New York at Binghamton, 2000.

Bello, Andres, Lecturer I, School of Accountancy; Accounting; MACC, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2015.

Ben Ghalia, Mounir, Full Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Engineering with concentration in Electrical Engineering; PhD, Tennessee Technological University, 1995.

Benacquista, Matthew J., Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, Montana State University, 1988.

Benavente, Karen P., Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Romance, Languages and Literatures; PhD, Harvard University, 2000.

Benavides, Jude A., Associate Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Environmental Science and Engineering; PhD, Rice University, 2005.

Benham, Grant, Full Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, 2000.

Benitez, Rogelio, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, Texas A&M University, 2015.

Benton, Franklin, Lecturer 1, Department of Biology; Administration and Supervision-Higher Education; PhD, University of Houston, 1992.

Berg, Karl S., Assistant Professor, Department of Biology; Neurobiology; PhD, Cornell University, 2011.

Berger, Marc, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Berget, Peter B., Lecturer 1, Department of Biology.

Bernard, John E., Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Education (Mathematics Education); PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 1978.

Bessett, Ryan M., Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish; PhD, University of Arizona, 2017.

Bhat, Narayan G., Full Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, University of Poona, 1982.

Bhatta, Dambaru, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Applied Mathematics; PhD, Dalhousie University, 1995.

Bhatti, Muhammad, Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, University of Notre Dame, 1987.

Biggs, Kyle, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Birk, Megan, Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, Purdue University, 2008.

Black, Sara C., Lecturer 1, Department of Biology; Zoology; MS, Texas A&M University, 2004.

Blakemore, T. Mark, Associate Dean, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Law; JD, University of Miami, 1979.

Blanco, Eluterio, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Clinical Psychology; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2007.

Blangero, John, Full Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute.

Blankenship, Dianna, Lecturer III, Department of Criminal Justice; JD, Texas Wesleyan University, 1995.

Block, Steven, Full Professor, School of Music; Music Theory & Composition; PhD, University of Pittsburgh, 1981.

Bostic, Amie, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, Duke University, 2016.

Botello, Rolando, Lecturer 1, Department of Psychological Science.

Bouniaev, Mikhail M., Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; D.Sc., USSR Council of Ministers, 1992.

Bowe, George, Lecturer I, Department of Criminal Justice; Police Science & Police Administration; MA, Sam Houston State University, 1975.

Bowles, David, Assistant Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Educational Leadership; EdD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Bracken, Paul, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Applied Mathematics; PhD, University of Waterloo, 1995.

Bradley, Don, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy; Occupational Therapy; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 2009.

Bradley, Robert, Associate Professor, School of Art; Art History and Archaeology; PhD, Columbia University, 2005.

Braithwaite, Jean, Associate Professor, Creative Writing Program; English; PhD, University of Missouri - Columbia, 2004.

Braun, Jakob, PhD Candidate, Department of Marketing; Business Administration; MBA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2014.

Breen, Michael J., Clinical Full Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Breier, John A., Associate Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Marine Science; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2006.

Briones, Beverly, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Health Sciences (Health Care Administration); MS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2016.

Britten, Thomas A., Full Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, Texas Tech University, 1994.

Broussard, Jared, Assistant Professor, School of Music; Music; DMA, The University of Texas at Austin, 2015.

Brown, Ben T., Full Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Sociology; PhD, Kansas State University, 1995.

Brown, Peter E., Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Modern Languages & Literatures; PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1991.

Brownlow, Art A., Full Professor, School of Music; Music; DMA, The University of Texas - Austin, 1994.

Bruehoefener, Friederike, Assistant Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014.

Brush, Tim, Full Professor, Department of Biology; Zoology; PhD, Rutgers University, 1985.

Buchberger, Erica, Assistant Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, University of Oxford, 2013.

Buhidar, Patricia K., Lecturer 1, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Education Curriculum and Instruction; MEd, The University of Texas - Arlington, 2011.

Bullard, James M., Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry; Microbiology; PhD, The University of Montana, 1996.

Bussert-Webb, Kathy M., Full Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Language Education; PhD, Indiana University - Bloomington, 1997.

Butler, Alley, Full Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, Purdue University, 1992.

Butler, Charles, Senior Lecturer, Department of Communication Disorders.

Butler, Michael, Lecturer 1, Department of Philosophy.

C Cabrera, Lilia, Lecturer I, School of Art; Art Education; MA, Texas Tech University, 2007.

Camacho, Caleb D., Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Creative Writing; MFA, University of Texas Pan American, 2012.

Cameron, Ed, Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Comparative Literature; PhD, State University of New York at Binghamton, 2001.

Campion, Michael C., Assistant Professor, Department of Management.

Campney, M. S., Associate Professor, Department of History; American Studies; PhD, Emory University, 2007.

Canchola, Jorge L., Lecturer I, Department of Biology; Medicine; MD, Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas, 2012.

Cano, Jaime, Lecturer I, Department of Psychological Science; Counseling & Guidance; MEd, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 1995.

Cano, Lawrence, Lecturer I, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; MSE, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2015.

Cantos, Arturo L., Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, State University of New York at Stony Brook, 1989.

Cardenas, Gilbert, Lecturer I, Department of Economics and Finance; Labor and Industrial Relations; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 1977.

Carlson, Don, Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy; Medicine; MD, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 1994.

Carlson, Ralph, Full Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Psychology; PhD, The University of Houston, 1974.

Carmona, Christopher R., Assistant Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Engagement; English; PhD, Texas A&M University, 2012.

Carren, David, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre; Writing; MFA, Spalding University, 2005.

Carren, Marilyn, Lecturer I, School of Art; Interdisciplinary Arts; MFA, Goddard College, 2011.

Carreon-Martinez, Lucia B., Lecturer I, Department of Biology; Environmental Science; PhD, University of Windsor, 2012.

Caruntu, Dumitru, Full Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Technical Sciences; PhD, Politehnica University of Bucharest, 1999.

Castañeda, Maria T., Lecturer II, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; PhD, Facultad de Medicina de Granada Espana, 2009.

Castillo, Gerardo, Lecturer 1, School of Nursing.

Castillo, Lucas, Lecturer 1, Department of Civil Engineering; Civil Engineering; MS, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2015.

Castro, Veronica, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counselor Education; PhD, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, 2005.

Cavazos, Alyssa G., Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Rhetoric and Composition; PhD, Texas Christian University, 2012.

Cavazos, Javier J., Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counselor Education; PhD, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, 2012.

Cavazos-Gonzalez, Cythnia, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Cerroni, Alyssa, Lecturer II, Department of Communication; Education Technology; MEd, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, 2018.

Chakraborty, Santanu, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Statistics; PhD, Indian Statistical Institute, 2002.

Chamberlain, Steven P., Full Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Special Education; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1999.

Chandrashekhar, Lakshman, Assistant Professor, Department of Management; Business Administration; PhD, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, 2003.

Chang, Wan-Lin, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication; Communication; PhD, George Mason University, 2015.

Chang, Yanrong, Full Professor, Department of Communication; Communication Studies; PhD, The University of Iowa, 2002.

Chapa, Sonia L., Lecturer I, Dance Program; Speech Communication; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2001.

Chapman, Angela M., Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum & Instruction (Teaching and Learning in Science); PhD, University of South Florida, 2013.

Chapman, Charles W., Lecturer I, Department of Political Science; Government; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1980.

Charak, Ruby, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Clinical and Developmental Psychology; PhD, Vrije Universiteit University Amsterdam, 2015.

Charlton, Colin, Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; PhD, Purdue University, 2005.

Chavarria, Nikita E., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Education; Microbiology and Cell Science; PhD, University of Florida, 2013.

Chavez-Palacios, Elizabeth, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

Chen, Po-Yi, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological Science.

Chen, Roy K., Full Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counselor Education; PhD, Michigan State University, 2006.

Chen, Xi, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; Planning, Governance, and Globalization; PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 2007.

Chen, Zhixiang, Full Professor, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; PhD, Boston University, 1995.

Cheng, Benxu, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Cheng, Chu-Lin, Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering; PhD, Iowa State University, 2009.

Chew, Sue Anne, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Bioengineering; PhD, Rice University, 2010.

Chineke, Chinwendu M., Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; DNP, Touro University, 2016.

Chipara, Dorina M., Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, University of Bucharest, 1998.

Chipara, Mircea, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, Institute of Atomic Physics, 1996.

Cho, Sunyoung, Assistant Professor, Department of Information Systems; Computer Information Systems; PhD, Georgia State University, 2007.

Choi, Yoonsu, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical and Computer Engineering; PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2005.

Chomsky, Daniel, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, Northwestern University, 1999.

Choutapalli, Isaac, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, Florida State University, 2007.

Christensen, Matthew, Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Comparative Literature; PhD, University of California, Los Angeles, 2002.

Christoffersen, Bradley O., Assistant Professor, Department of Biology; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; PhD, University of Arizona, 2013.

Christoffersen, Katie O., Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Second Language Acquisition and Teaching; PhD, The University of Arizona, 2015.

Chu, (Mark) Yul, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Computer Engineering; PhD, University of British Columbia, 2001.

Cintra-Buenrostro, Carlos E., Full Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Geosciences; PhD, The University of Arizona, 2006.

Clark, Douglas N., Assistant Professor, School of Art; Art; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Clua-Losada, Monica, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; Politics; PhD, The University of York, 2011.

Coberly, Rebecca, Associate Professor, School of Music; Vocal Music Performance; DMA, Texas Tech University, 2009.

Collard, Michael, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Colon-Gonzalez, Maria, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Colwell, Seth M., Lecturer II, School of Accountancy; Taxation; MTAX, Baylor University, 2000.

Comminos, Alex N., Lecturer 1, School of Art; Art; MFA, The University of Texas - San Antonio, 2012.

Conatser, Phillip K., Associate Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Education - Physical Education; PhD, University of Virginia, 1999.

Conrad, Sarah, Lecturer 1, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, University of North Texas, 2015.

Contreras, Salvador, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Economics; PhD, Claremont Graduate University, 2007.

Corbeil, Joseph Rene, Full Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; EdD, The University of Houston, 2003.

Corbeil, Maria Elena, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum & Instruction; EdD, The University of Houston, 2005.

Cordoba Kisee, Michelle, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Corpuz, Edgar D. G., Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, Kansas State University, 2006.

Corpuz, Ma Aileen, Lecturer II, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Science Education; MS, De La Salle University, 1998.

Cortez, Constance, Full Professor, School of Art.

Cortez, Nabor, Lecturer 1, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Administration; EdD, Texas Southern University, 1996.

Cortina, Guadalupe, Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Spanish; PhD, The University of Arizona, 1996.

Couture Gagnon, Alexandre, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies; Public Policy; PhD, Carleton University, 2013.

Coyle, Tom T., Associate Professor, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Creighton, Teviet, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, California Institute of Technology, 2000.

Crews, Gordon A., Full Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Elementary Education; PhD, University of South Carolina, 1995.

Cripps, Cynthia, Full Professor, School of Music; Instrumental Performance; DMA, University of Miami, 2006.

Crown, Stephen, Full Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, Iowa State University, 1993.

Croyle, Kristin, Full Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, The University of Montana, 2000.

Crutchfield, Ruth, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Disorders; Speech/Language Pathology; SLP.D., Nova Southeastern University, 2010.

Cruthirds, Kevin, Associate Professor, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; International Business; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2007.

Cummins, Amy, Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, University of Kansas, 2004.

Curiel, Emily S. L., Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Educational Studies (Special Education); PhD, Ohio State University, 2015.

Curiel, Hugo, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological Science.

Curran, Joanne E., Full Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Molecular Genetics; PhD, Griffith University, 2002.

D

Dabrowski, Peter, Full Professor, School of Music; DMA, Northwestern University, 1998.

Dadashvand, Neda, Lecturer 1, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, Wesleyan University, 2015.

Daniel, Clay, Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1988.

Dantzker, M.L., Full Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Clinical Psychology (Licensure); PhD, Walden University, 2010.

Darcy, John W., Full Professor, School of Accountancy; PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 2002.

Darsow, Fred, Associate Professor, Dance Program; Dance/Choreography; MFA, Arizona State University, 1998.

Davila, Mario A., Full Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice; PhD, Sam Houston State University, 2005.

Dávila-Montes, José M., Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Translation and Interpretation; PhD, Autonomous University of Barcelona, 2008.

Davis, Naomi, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Davis, Virginia, Full Professor, School of Music; Music; PhD, The University of Arizona, 2005.

Davis, Wendell, Full Professor, School of Music; Voice; DMA, Indiana University - Bloomington, 1985.

Dawadi, Mahesh, Lecturer 1, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, The University of Akron, 2014.

Dawkins, Marika, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice; PhD, Prairie View A&M University, 2013.

de Erausquin, Gabriel, Clinical Full Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology.

de la Cruz, Edgar Z., Lecturer III, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2008.

De La Trinidad, Maritza, Associate Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Engagement; History; PhD, The University of Arizona, 2008.

De Leon Escobedo, Laurie, Lecturer 1, School of Nursing; Graduate Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner); MSN, Maryville University of St. Louis, 2016.

De Los Santos, Denise, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

De Luna, Celeste, Lecturer 1, School of Art; Art; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

De Souza, Roberto R., Associate Professor, School of Art; Art History; PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2009.

Dean, Frank B., Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry; Biochemistry; PhD, University of Chicago, 1984.

Dearth, Robert, Associate Professor, Department of Biology; Veterinary Anatomy; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2003.

Degnon, Christine, Associate Professor - Clinical, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Del Rio, Eduardo, Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1996.

Delacruz, Thomas, Lecturer II, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Creative Writing; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

DeLeon, Denise, Lecturer I, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2015.

Deleon, Jesse, Lecturer 1, Department of Biology; Pharmacology; PhD, University of Michigan, 1996.

Deleon, Leticia, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; EdD, The University of Houston, 2005.

DeLor, Michael J., Lecturer I, Department of Political Science; Public Administration/Public Affairs; PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 2014.

Dennett, Christopher, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, University of Texas Pan American, 2014.

DeSantis, Anthony J., Lecturer I, Department of Philosophy.

Devanaboina, Madhavi, Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 2004.

Deven Hernandez, Elizabeth M., Lecturer I, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice; MSCJ, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2004.

DeWitt, Marguerite, Lecturer II, Department of Criminal Justice; Law; JD, University of Maine School of Law, 1999.

DeYoe, Hudson, Full Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Biological Sciences; PhD, Bowling Green State University, 1991.

Dhevan, Vijian, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery.

Diallo, Abdoulaye, Associate Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counselor Education; PhD, Michigan State University, 2010.

Diamond, Summer, Lecturer I, Department of Criminal Justice; Justice Policy; MS, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2014.

Diaz, George, Assistant Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, Southern Methodist University, 2010.

Diaz, Maria E., Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; EdD, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2011.

Diaz, Mario C., Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, University of Cordoba Argentina, 1987.

Diaz, Mary, Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Higher Education (Nursing Education); EdD, Nova Southeastern University, 1993.

Diaz, Richard, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing Science; DNP, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, 2009.

Diaz, Sylvia, Lecturer II, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; MA, The University of Texas - Austin, 2000.

Diaz, Walter, Full Professor.

Diaz, Zulmaris, Associate Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2004.

Diaz-Rios, Kristan, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Dibrell, Norma, Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies.

Diego, Vincent P., Assistant Professor of Research, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Anthropology, Human Statistical Genetics; PhD, State University of New York at Binghamton, 2005.

Dietrich, Gustavo, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science; Electrical Engineering; MS, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 1988.

Dimakis, Nicholas, Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, Illinois Institute of Technology, 1997.

Dingle, Arden D., Clinical Full Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Dirrigl, Frank, Associate Professor, Department of Biology; Anthropology; PhD, University of Connecticut, 1998.

Domijan, Alexander, Full Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering.

Dominguez, Diana V., Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, Texas Tech University, 2004.

Dong, Wenjie, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; PhD, University of California, Riverside, 2009.

Donner, William, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, University of Delaware, 2007.

Dooley, Sheila A., Associate Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Linguistics; PhD, Carolinæ Lund University, 1991.

Douglass, Gene (informal) F., Lecturer 1, Department of Chemistry; Fiber and Polymer Science; PhD, North Carolina State University, 2010.

Downey, Clara, Associate Professor, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Driggers, Kristopher, Lecturer I, School of Art.

Duggirala, Ravindranath, Full Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Anthropology; PhD, University of Kansas, 1995.

Duke, Guy S., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Anthropology; PhD, University of Toronto, 2017.

Dulgheru, Emilia, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Duran, Jorge, Lecturer 1, Department of Biology; Human Genetics; PhD, University of Guadalajara, 2009.

Dyer, Thomas D., Full Professor of Research, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Computer Science; PhD, The University of Texas - San Antonio, 2002.

E

Eanes, Linda, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Administration and Supervision; EdD, The University of Houston, 1996.

Ebaseh-Onofa, Benjamin O., Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Statistics; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1988.

Ebrahim, Waleed, Lecturer 1, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Edinbarough, Immanuel A., Full Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, Bharathiar University, 1996.

Edmonson, Richard, Lecturer I, Department of Theatre; Theatre; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Egle, David, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science; Mathematics; Doctoral Student, Texas A&M University - College Station.

Eisenman, Russell, Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, The University of Georgia, 1966.

Ekoumou, Martin, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; General Surgeon; MD, Universidad De Montemorelos, 1991.

Elizondo, Omar R., Assistant Professor in Practice, Department of Biology; Biology; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Elnahas, Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance.

English, Linda, Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 2005.

Enriquez, Enedina, Lecturer II, Department of Social Work; Social Work; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2007.

Eom, Minhee, Associate Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Teaching & Learning (Foreign Language & ESL Education); PhD, The University of Iowa, 2006.

Ermolinsky, Boris, Lecturer I, Department of Biology; Chemistry; PhD, Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology Russian Academy of Science, 2000.

Ernest, Andy N.S., Full Professor, Department of Civil Engineering; Civil Engineering; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1991.

Escalona, Cristel, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Pediatrics.

Escamilla, Marianita, Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Creative Writing; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2014.

Escobar, Romeo, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work; Leadership Studies; PhD, Our Lady of the Lake University, 2013.

Escobari, Diego, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Economics; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2008.

Esparza, Aracely, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish; PhD, Texas Tech University, 2009.

Espinosa-Dulanto, Miryam, Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, The University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1999.

Espinoza, Lucas E., Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Sociology; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 2016.

Espinoza, Michael, Lecturer 1, Department of Political Science; History; PhD, University College London, 2016.

Esquierdo, Joy, Associate Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Educational Psychology; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2006.

Esquivel, Johanna, Assistant Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies.

Estrada, Veronica L., Full Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Education Studies; PhD, The Ohio State University, 1997.

Ethridge, Philip A., Associate Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice; PhD, Sam Houston State University, 1990.

F Falk, Louis K., Full Professor, Department of Communication; Communication; PhD, The University of Southern Mississippi, 1991.

Fang, Xiaoqian, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Farooqi, Ibrahim H., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Medicine and Surgery; MD, Osmania University, 1977.

Farooqi, Mohammed Junaid, Lecturer 1, Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Farooqi, Mohammed Y. H., Full Professor, Department of Biology; Entomology; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 1979.

Farris, M.C., Associate Professor, School of Art; Art Education; MAE, Texas Tech University, 2006.

Fatehi, Shervin, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, University of California, Berkeley, 2010.

Fatica, Patrick M., Lecturer I, School of Art; Photography; MFA, Ohio University, 2008.

Faubion, Michael, Associate Professor, Department of History; 20th century U.S. (Diplomatic and military), Economic, Environmental, and Methods; PhD, Texas Tech University, 1993.

Faulkes, Zen, Full Professor, Department of Biology; Biology; PhD, University of Victoria, 1996.

Faust, John A., Lecturer II, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Science/Math; MSIS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2010.

Faver, Catherine, Full Professor, Department of Social Work; Social Work and Sociology; PhD, The University of Michigan, 1979.

Fearnley Hardage, Sarah M., Lecturer I, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Geology; MS, University of New Orleans, 2004.

Feize, Leyla, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work; Social Work; PhD, University of Utah, 2015.

Feldman, Ph.D, Janis B., Associate Professor, Department of Social Work; Social Work; PhD, Barry University, 1997.

Felix, Reto, Assistant Professor, Department of Marketing; Management; PhD, University of St. Gallen, 1999.

Felix-Ethridge, Carolina, Lecturer 1, School of Art; Art; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2006.

Feng, Baofeng, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Engineering; PhD, Kyoto University, 2000.

Feng, Zhaosheng, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2004.

Feria Arroyo, Teresa, Associate Professor, Department of Biology; Biology; PhD, University of Missouri - St. Louis, 2007.

Fernandez De Larrea, Santiago, Lecturer 1, Department of Health and Human Performance; Coaching and Athletic Administration; MA, Concordia University, 2012.

Fernandez, Francisco, Full Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology; MD, Tufts University School of Medicine, 1979.

Fielding, Cheryl, Full Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Special Education (Supervision); PhD, Texas Woman's University, 2000.

Fierro Cabo, Alejandro, Associate Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Plant Biology; PhD, Universite Laval, 1998.

Figueroa Monsivais, Ivan, Lecturer I, Department of Health and Human Performance.

Figueroa, Andres, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; PhD, University of California, Riverside, 2004.

Figueroa, Diego F., Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Oceanography; PhD, Oregon State University, 2010.

Filsoofi -, Raheleh T., Assistant Professor, School of Art; MFA, Florida Atlantic University, 2014.

Firat, A. Fuat, Full Professor, Department of Marketing; Management; PhD, Northwestern University, 1978.

Fischer, Jerry, Full Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation; PhD, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, 1992.

Fischer, Lynn K. K., Lecturer II, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Education; PhD, University of Idaho, 2008.

Fisher, David C., Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, Indiana University - Bloomington, 2003.

Flores, Shoney, Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Creative Writing; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Fofana, Demba, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Economics; PhD, University of Memphis, 2017.

Foltz, Heinrich D., Full Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 1993.

Ford, Kay E., Lecturer II, Department of Political Science; Political Science; MA, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 2003.

Foreman, John O., Associate Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Linguistics; PhD, University of California, Los Angeles, 2006.

Forman, Tracia M., Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Nursing; PhD, The University of Texas at Tyler, 2014.

Forst, Arno, Assistant Professor, School of Accountancy; Business (Accounting); PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2009.

Foy, Steven L., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, Duke University, 2013.

Frazier, Amy, Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 1995.

Freeman, Robert A., Full Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, University of Florida, 1985.

Fresno Canada, Nazaret, Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Translation and Cross-Cultural Studies; PhD, Autonomous University of Barcelona, 2014.

Frost, Brielle M., Lecturer 1, School of Music; Flute Performance; DA, University of Northern Colorado, 2016.

Frost, James E., Associate Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1997.

Fu, Bin, Full Professor, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; PhD, Yale University, 1998.

Fu, Jiajia, Assistant Professor, School of Accountancy; Accounting; PhD, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, 2017.

Fuentes, Arturo, Full Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, Rice University, 2000.

Fuentes, Lilia A., Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; DNP, The University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston, 2009.

Fuller, Donald R., Full Professor, Department of Communication Disorders; Audiology and Speech Science; PhD, Purdue University, 1987.

Funk, Merrill, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Health and Exercise Science (Health Promotion); PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 2014.

G

Gabler, Christopher A., Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; PhD, Rice University, 2012.

Galaviz, Kevin L., Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2017.

Galke, Curtis, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Galle, Courtney, Lecturer 1, Department of Biology.

Galstyan, Anahit, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, University of Cincinnati, 2005.

Galvan, Cynthia W., Lecturer I, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; EdD, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2011.

Galvan, Marlene, Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Literature and Cultural Studies; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2010.

Galy, Edith A., Associate Professor, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; International Business; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2003.

Gambacorta, Daniel, Lecturer I, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, New Mexico State University, 2015.

Garber, Alexey, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, 2009.

Garcia de Mueller, Genevieve I., Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English Language and Literature/Letters; PhD, University of New Mexico, 2015.

Garcia, Alejandro, Assistant Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Leadership; EdD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Garcia, Bonnie, Lecturer II, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2012.

Garcia, Carmela, Lecturer II, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish; MAIS, Pan American University, 1986.

Garcia, Christen, Assistant Professor, School of Art.

Garcia, Criselda, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Educational Leadership; EdD, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 2006.

Garcia, Juan O., Assistant Professor in Practice, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Leadership; EdD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Garcia, Juliet V., Full Professor, Department of Communication.

Garcia, Kim M., Lecturer III, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Educational Technology; MEd, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2003.

Garcia, Laura E., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Garcia, Nereida, Lecturer 1, School of Music; Performance; MM, University of North Texas, 2015.

Garcia, Roel, Lecturer 1, Department of Occupational Therapy; Occupational Therapy; OTD, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, 2015.

Garcia, Sergio, Lecturer I, Department of Information Systems; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, 2015.

Garcia, Sonio, Lecturer I, Department of Health and Human Performance.

Garcia, Vanessa L., Lecturer I, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

Garcia-Cáceres, Carmen, Lecturer III, Department of Teaching and Learning; Multicultural Education; EdD, University of San Francisco, 1981.

Garrett, Terence M., Full Professor, Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies; Political Science; PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 1997.

Garza, Amando, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Garza, Celina, Lecturer I, Department of Social Work; Social Work; MSSW, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Garza, Dennis, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Garza, Esmeralda, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2000.

Garza, Gavino, Lecturer II, Department of Health and Human Performance; Kinesiology; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2004.

Garza, Guillermo, Lecturer I, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematical Sciences; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Garza, Joel A., Lecturer I, Department of Communication; Communication; MA, University of Texas Pan American, 2015.

Garza, Juliann, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Rehabilitation Counseling; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2015.

Garza, Laura P., Lecturer III, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Spanish; PhD, The University of Houston, 2012.

Garza, Lily, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Disorders; Communication Sciences and Disorders; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Garza, Marco E., Lecturer I, Department of Management; Education Human Resource Development; PhD, Texas A&M University, 2015.

Garza-Tamez, Jesus, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Gasquoin, Philip, Full Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Neuropsychology; PhD, City University of New York, 1983.

George, Deepu, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Gephart, Laura, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Ghaddar, Suad, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; International Business; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2003.

Gil, Edgar A., Lecturer 1, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

Gil, Mario, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Neuroscience - Psychology; PhD, Florida State University, 2010.

Gilbert, Robert, Associate Professor, School of Art; Art; MFA, California State University - Los Angeles, 1995.

Giles, Erica, Lecturer I, University College; Education; MEd, Southern Arkansas University, 2008.

Gilkerson, Robert, Associate Professor, Department of Biology; Biology; PhD, University of Oregon, 2002.

Gilson, Greg D., Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, The University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1998.

Gise, Lawrence J., Lecturer I, Department of Theatre; Art; MFA, The University of Texas at Arlington, 2011.

Gkioulekas, Eleftherios, Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Applied Mathematics; PhD, University of Washington, 2006.

Glazyrin, Alexey, Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Physico-Mathematical Sciences; PhD, MV Lomonosov Moscow State University, 2010.

Gleason, James A., Lecturer III, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Political Science; PhD, Purdue University, 2016.

Glynn, Kathleen, Lecturer I, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; MA, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2012.

Godinez, Michell, Lecturer II, Department of Communication; Communication; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2012.

Godreau, Ayleen, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Goins, John D., Lecturer II, Department of History; History; PhD, The University of Houston, 2014.

Goldberg, Elizabeth, Assistant Professor in Practice, Department of Biology; Science Education; MA, The University of Texas - Austin, 2013.

Gomez, Yolanda, Clinical Full Professor, Department of Pediatrics.

Gonchoroff, Tim D., Lecturer 1, School of Art; Sculpture; MFA, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, 2015.

Gonzales, Christina G., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, 2007.

Gonzales, Jimmy, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

González Núñez, Gabriel, Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Translation Studies; PhD, Catholic University of Leuven, 2014.

Gonzalez, Anna, Assistant Professor in Practice, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Elementary Education; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Gonzalez, Deborah, Lecturer II, School of Accountancy; Accounting; Master in Professional Accounting, The University of Texas - Austin, 1987.

Gonzalez, Irasema, Associate Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Bilingual Education; EdD, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 2009.

Gonzalez, Jesus, Lecturer I, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Materials Science and Engineering; PhD, University of Sheffield, 2015.

Gonzalez, John, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work; Social Work; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2008.

Gonzalez, Jorge A., Associate Professor, Department of Management; Management; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2001.

Gonzalez, Juan, Associate Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Exercise Physiology; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1995.

Gonzalez, Juan L., Associate Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Earth and Environmental Science; PhD, Tulane University, 2008.

Gonzalez, Miguel A., Full Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Industrial Engineering; PhD, The University of Houston, 1995.

Gonzalez, Rene, Associate Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Psychology; PhD, The University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2009.

Gonzalez, Rigoberto A., Lecturer I, School of Art; Painting; MFA, New York Academy of Art, 2004.

Gonzalez-Gorman, Sylvia, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, Texas Tech University, 2014.

Gonzalez-Wright, Matiana, Clinical Assistant Professor.

Gordon, William A., Lecturer I, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, New School for Social Research, 2009.

Goren, Allan, Lecturer I, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, University of Washington, 1999.

Göring, Harald H. H., Full Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Statistical Genetics; PhD, Columbia University, 2000.

Graf, Noreen, Full Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation; PhD, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1995.

Graham, Margaret A., Full Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Anthropology; PhD, Michigan State University, 1991.

Gray, Joshua, Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Creative Writing; MFA, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, 2014.

Grewal, Parwinder, Full Professor.

Griffen, Marsha, Full Professor - Clinical, Department of Pediatrics.

Grigorian, Sergey, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics; PhD, University of Cambridge, 2009.

Grizzell, Saara T., Assistant Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Disability Disciplines; PhD, Utah State University, 2015.

Groves, Pamela, Assistant Professor in Practice, Department of Biology; Curriculum and Instruction; MEd, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2011.

Guadarrama Beltran, Seratna, Lecturer 1, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Microbiology; PhD, University of Dublin - Trinity College, 2013.

Guajardo, Francisco, Full Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Administration; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2003.

Guerra, Fred, Assistant Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Leadership; EdD, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 2009.

Guerra, Ramon, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Anthropology; PhD, Southern Methodist University, 1989.

Guerrero, Maria C., Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Latin American Studies: Literature, Film and History; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2005.

Guerrero, Michael, Full Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Psychological Foundations of Education; PhD, University of New Mexico, 1994.

Guerrero, Tomas, Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies.

Guetzow, Judith K., Lecturer I, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Rehabilitation Counseling; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2001.

Guevara, Natalia V., Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Biophysics; PhD, Moscow State University, 1989.

Guist, Jonathan, Associate Professor, School of Music; Clarinet; DMA, Eastman School of Music - University of Rochester, 2004.

Gunn, Bonnie, Lecturer II, Department of Biology; Biology; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 1997.

Gunn, Scott, Full Professor, Department of Biology; Zoology; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1986.

Guo, Chiquan, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing; Business Administration; PhD, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, 2002.

Gupta, Yash, Dean.

Gutierrez, Jose, Full Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, The University of Texas - Dallas, 2002.

Gutierrez, Marion, Lecturer I, School of Accountancy; Taxation; MTAX, Florida Atlantic University, 2012.

Gutierrez-Leal, Silvia, Lecturer I, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; MS, University of Texas Pan American, 2014.

Guzman Gonzalez, Manuel, Lecturer I, Department of Management; Business Administration; MBA, Hult International Business School, 2005.

Guzman, Dahlia, Lecturer I, Department of Philosophy.

H

Hagerty, Marilyn J., Lecturer I, University College; Guidance and Counseling; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 1998.

Han, Yiwei, Assistant Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering.

Hanke, Andreas, Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Theoretical Physics; PhD, Bergische Universitat Gesamthochschule Wuppertal, 1998.

Hanley, James F., Clinical Full Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Hansmann, Sandy, Associate Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Special Education; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2000.

Haraway, Britt, Assistant Professor, Creative Writing Program; English (Creative Writing); PhD, The University of Southern Mississippi, 2006.

Harden, Wesley, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Harp, Jamalin R., Lecturer I, Department of History; History; PhD, Texas Christian University, 2017.

Harrison, Cheryl S., Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences.

Hartley, Deborah J., Full Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice; PhD, Sam Houston State University, 2008.

Haugeberg, William J., Assistant Professor, School of Music; Music Performance; DM, Florida State University, 2012.

Hawkins, Tekla A., Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2015.

Hawks, Stephen, Lecturer II, School of Art; Studio Art; MFA, Florida State University, 2010.

Hay, Amy M., Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, Michigan State University, 2005.

Hazarika, Gautam, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Economics; PhD, University of Rochester, 1998.

Heath, Timothy R., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Hebbard, Marcela, Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English as a Second Language; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2012.

Heise, Elizabeth, Associate Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Geology; PhD, Texas A&M University, 2001.

Heller, William H., Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, University of Maryland - College Park, 1991.

Helsley-McGinley, Sharon, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing (Critical Care); MSN, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 1992.

Hernandez, Fernando, Lecturer I, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Reading; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2003.

Hernandez, Jose E., Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish & Portuguese; PhD, University of New Mexico, 2004.

Hernandez, Rebecca M., Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Family Nurse Practitioner; MSN, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2015.

Hernandez, Rosalinda, Associate Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 1996.

Hernandez, Saul, Lecturer I, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice; MSCJ, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

Hernandez, Yanina, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish; MA, University of New Mexico, 2003.

Herrera, M. Miriam, Lecturer II, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1981.

Herrera, Roberto, Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2012.

Herrera-Erdem, Orelia, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing Practice; DNP, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, 2012.

Herring, Pamela J., Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, Northern Arizona University, 1993.

Herweck, Stefanie, Lecturer II, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2000.

Hicks, David W., Full Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Quantitative Biology; PhD, The University of Texas - Arlington, 1999.

Hidalgo, Humberto, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics.

Hilmy, Ashraf, Full Professor - Clinical, Department of Surgery.

Hinojosa, David, Lecturer I, Department of Communication; Communication; MA, Lasalle University, 2013.

Hinojosa, Servando Z., Full Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Anthropology; PhD, Tulane University, 1999.

Hinthorne, Jim R., Lecturer 1, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Geology; PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1974.

Hinton, Kip Austin, Associate Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Education; PhD, University of California, Los Angeles, 2011.

Hirai, Michiyo, Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, Virginia Tech, 2002.

Ho, Jungseok, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering; Engineering; PhD, University of New Mexico, 2006.

Hobosyan, Mkhitar, Lecturer 1, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; MS, University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2013.

Hodgson, Nikkie S., Assistant Professor, Department of Communication; Leadership Studies; PhD, Our Lady of the Lake University, 2007.

Hollinger, Andrew S., Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Creative Writing; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2012.

Hoppens, Robert, Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, University of Washington, 2009.

Hosseini, Majid, Lecturer I, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Engineering - Chemical; PhD, The University of Akron, 2013.

Hou, Wanrong, Associate Professor, Department of Management; Management Science; PhD, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, 2012.

Hovey, Joseph D., Full Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, University of Michigan, 1997.

Howard, Tom, Clinical Full Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Huber, Timothy, Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 2007.

Huerta, Carolina G., Full Professor, School of Nursing; Adult Education; EdD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1990.

Huggenvik, Jodi, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Hughes, Jerald, Associate Professor, Department of Information Systems; Business; PhD, The Graduate Center - The City University of New York, 2006.

Hughes, Velma, Lecturer 1, School of Nursing.

Hunter-Holly, Daniel, Associate Professor, School of Music; Music; DMA, The Ohio State University, 2007.

Huq, Hasina F., Full Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; PhD, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, 2006.

Hurley-Glowa, Susan M., Associate Professor, School of Music; Music; PhD, Brown University, 1997.

Ibrahim, Amin E., Full Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, Mississippi State University, 1995.

Imperial, Joanna S., Lecturer 1, School of Nursing; Nursing (Midwifery); MSN, University of Pennsylvania, 1997.

Infante, Irma, Lecturer III, University College; Bilingual/Bicultural; MEd, Pan American University, 1984.

Innis, Wendy, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Iqbal, Samir, Full Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical and Computer Engineering; PhD, Purdue University, 2007.

Irish, Rodger, Lecturer 1, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; MS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2017.

Isbell, John, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; French; PhD, Cambridge University, 1990.

Isbell, Margarita, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; French; MA, Indiana University - Bloomington, 2015.

Islam, Nazmul, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; PhD, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, 2007.
Iyer, Pramod, Assistant Professor, Department of Marketing; Marketing; PhD, University of North Texas, 2016.

J

Jackson, Dave O., Full Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Business Administration; PhD, Florida Atlantic University, 2002.
Jain, Shashi, Lecturer 1, Department of Chemistry; Physics; PhD, India Institute of Technology, 1985.
Jaison, Jolly, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing Education; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2014.
Janssen, Tido, Lecturer II, School of Music; Cello Performance; DMA, The University of North Texas, 2003.
Jauregui, John A., Lecturer 1, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Leadership; EdD, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 2007.
Jauregui, Lorena, Lecturer 1, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Reading; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.
Javadi, Siamak, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Business Administration (Finance); PhD, Oklahoma State University, 2014.
Jaworski, Michael D., Lecturer III, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, The Ohio State University, 2010.
Jenet, Fredrick A., Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, California Institute of Technology, 2001.
Jenkinson, Christopher, Full Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Biochemistry; PhD, University of Otago, 1993.
Jewett, Laura M., Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, Louisiana State University, 2006.
Jia, Oliver, Lecturer I, School of Music; Music Performance (Piano); DMA, University of Michigan, 2017.
Jia, Ying, Lecturer I, Department of Biology; Crop Genetics and Breeding; PhD, Nanjing Agriculture University, 1999.
Jiang, Lin, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work; Social Work; PhD, University of Denver, 2016.
Jiang, Zhengjun, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, King's College, 2008.
Jobson, Krista, Associate Professor, School of Music; Flute Performance; DMA, University of Missouri - Kansas City, 2011.
John, Betty, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Psychiatric Nursing; MSN, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, 2001.
Johnson, Jennie, Associate Professor, Department of Management; Human Development; PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 2007.
Johnson, Matt P., Associate Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Molecular Genetics; PhD, Griffith University, 2005.
Johnson, Randall, Lecturer I, Department of Health and Human Performance; Health, Physical Education and Recreation; PhD, Ohio State University, 1990.

Johnson, Robert, Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; American Literature; PhD, University of Southern California, 1994.

Jojo, Pauline, Lecturer 1, School of Nursing; Nursing Education; MSN, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2014.

Jones, Audrey, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Osteopathy; DO, University of North Texas Health Science Center, 1988.

Jones, Bob E., Full Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Engineering; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1990.

Jones, Cynthia M., Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; PhD, University of Missouri - Columbia, 2001.

Jones, Irma S., Full Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Administration and Supervision; EdD, The University of Houston, 1996.

Jordan, Mary, Lecturer II, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice (Investigative Criminology); MA, Seattle University, 2013.

Jorgensen, Paul D., Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 2011.

Jose, Daliya D., Lecturer 1, School of Nursing; Nursing Education; MS, Grand Canyon University, 2015.

Joseph, Harriett D., Full Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, North Texas State University, 1976.

Joseph, Keith G., Lecturer 1, Department of Physician Assistant; Medicine; MD, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 2016.

Jou, Jerwen, Full Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, Kansas State University, 1990.

Jung, Joo Y., Full Professor, Department of Management; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, University of Connecticut, 1992.

Jupp, James C., Full Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2006.

K

Kachiraju, Satya, Lecturer I, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; MS, The University of Alabama, 2011.

Kallumadanda, Sunand, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Kambara, Hitomi, Assistant Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum; PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 2016.

Kanaan, Hazem, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Kang, Jihoon, Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Soil Science; PhD, North Carolina State University, 2007.

Karabulut, Murat, Associate Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Exercise Physiology; PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 2008.

Karabulut, Ulku, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Education; PhD, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, 2009.

Kariyat, Rupesh, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology; Plant Biology; PhD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2012.

Kaswan, Mark J., Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, University of California, Los Angeles, 2010.

Kaynak, Hale, Full Professor, Department of Management; Production and Operations Management; PhD, University of North Texas, 1996.

Kazansky, Alexander V., Associate Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; PhD, Koltsov Institute of Developmental Biology, 1997.

Keck, Michelle L., Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, Texas Tech University, 2010.

Keniry, Megan, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology; Biology; PhD, University of Oregon, 2002.

Kershisnik, William, Lecturer I, Department of Theatre.

Keskin, Tayfun, Assistant Professor, Department of Information Systems; Information, Risk, and Operations Management; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2010.

Khan, Fitra, Full Professor, Department of Computer Science; Electrical Engineering; PhD, The University of Texas - Arlington, 1987.

Khraiche, Maroula, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Economics; PhD, University of Connecticut, 2010.

Kiersey, Nicholas, Full Professor, Department of Political Science.

Kiker, John M., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Kim, Dae J., Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Kim, Dongchul, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; PhD, The University of Texas - Arlington, 2014.

Kim, Dongkyu, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, The University of Iowa, 2015.

Kim, HyeongJun, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Kim, Hyung, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics Education; PhD, University of New Hampshire, 2013.

Kim, Incheol, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Business Administration (Finance); PhD, University of South Florida, 2013.

Kim, Jong min, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering; Civil Engineering; PhD, Virginia Tech, 2010.

Kim, Jooyoung, Lecturer I, School of Music.

Kim, Mi-son, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, The University of Iowa, 2015.

Kim, Min, Associate Professor, Dance Program; Dance Choreography; MFA, Arizona State University, 2005.

Kim, Myoung-Hwan, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, 2011.

Kinsella, Brendan M., Associate Professor, School of Music; Piano Performance; DMA, University of Missouri - Kansas City, 2008.

Kinsella, Shoko N., Lecturer II, School of Music; Piano Performance; DMA, University of Missouri - Kansas City, 2010.

Kline, Richard J., Associate Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Marine Science; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2010.

Knight, Thomas, Associate Professor, Department of History; American History; PhD, University of Oxford, 2005.

Knobel, Roger, Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1991.

Knox, Marisa P., Assistant Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, University of California, Berkeley, 2013.

Koonce, Jacqueline B., Assistant Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Curriculum Instruction and Teacher Education Language and Literacy Education; PhD, Michigan State University, 2014.

Kos, Mark Z., Assistant Professor of Research, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Biological Anthropology; PhD, University of Kansas, 2008.

Kotsikorou, Evangelia, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 2006.

Kranz, Peter L., Full Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Psychology; PhD, Utah State University of Agriculture and Applied Science, 1969.

Krishnaswami, Janani, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Kroll, Mark J., Full Professor, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Management; DBA, Mississippi State University, 1983.

Kronholm, Brandt, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, University of Albany, 2010.

Krouse, Helene J., Full Professor, School of Nursing; Educational Psychology; PhD, Boston College, 1984.

Krouse, John, Full Professor, Department of Surgery.

Kuang, Weidong, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; PhD, University of Central Florida, 2003.

Kuhn, Lisa, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Medical Science; Master of Medical Science, Nova Southeastern University, 2004.

Kuiate Sobngwi, Christian, Assistant Professor, School of Accountancy; Business Administration; PhD, University of Houston, 2014.

Kumar, Sanjeev, Full Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Computer Engineering; PhD, North Carolina State University, 1995.

Kumar, Satish, Assistant Professor of Research, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Anthropology; PhD, University of Delhi, 2003.

Kwak, Stacy, Lecturer I, School of Music; Piano Performance; DMA, The University of North Texas, 1999.

Kyne, Dean, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Environmental Social Science; PhD, Arizona State University, 2014.

L

Lakshman, Sangeetha, Lecturer I, Department of Management.

LaLonde, Suzanne, Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; French Language & Literature; PhD, University of Maryland - College Park, 2001.

Lancaster, Lorenza M., Lecturer 1, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Bilingual Education; MEd, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2015.

Landa, Rosemary L., Lecturer II, Department of Communication Disorders; Deaf Studies/Deaf Education; MS, Lamar University, 2012.

Lang, Yong, Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Foreign/Second Language Education; PhD, The Ohio State University, 1998.

LaPrade, Douglas, Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 1988.

Lara, Gilberto P., Assistant Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies.

Laston, Sandra L., Associate Professor of Research, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Medical Anthropology; PhD, Case Western Reserve University, 1992.

Lavy, Brendan, Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences.

Lazo, Silvia, Assistant Professor, School of Music; Interdisciplinary Studies/Musicology; PhD, University of Montana, 2013.

Leach, Stephen C., Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, University of New Mexico, 1999.

Leal, Hector, Lab Supervisor Coordinator, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Interdisciplinary Studies; MSIS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2006.

Ledingham, Christopher M., Associate Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Health Education; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2006.

Lee, Hyun-chul, Lecturer III, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Astronomy; PhD, Yonsei University, 2001.

Lee, Kye-Hwan, Associate Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Plastics Engineering; D.Eng, University of Massachusetts - Lowell, 1997.

Lehker, Michael W., Full Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Microbiology; PhD, The University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio, 1991.

Lei, Hansheng, Full Professor, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science and Engineering; PhD, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, 2006.

Leija, María G., Assistant Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2017.

Leka, Gary, Lecturer III, Department of Psychological Science; Clinical Psychology; PhD, Walden University, 1998.

Lemanski, Jennifer, Associate Professor, Department of Communication; Mass Communication; PhD, University of Florida, 2007.

Leonard, Maria, Lecturer I, Department of Management; Business Administration; MBA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2000.

Leontis, Evangelia S., Lecturer 1, School of Music.

Jerma, Eunice, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counselor Education; PhD, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, 2010.

Levine, Lyuba, Full Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Levinson, Irving, Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, The University of Houston, 2003.

Lewis, Karin A., Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Education and Counseling Psychology (Educational Psychology); PhD, University of Kentucky, 2010.

Ley, Jazmin, Lecturer I, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; MSE, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2012.

Li, Jianzhi, Full Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Industrial Engineering; PhD, Texas Tech University, 2003.

Li, Junfei, Senior Lecturer, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical and Computer Engineering; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2002.

Li, Pingshu, Assistant Professor, Department of Management; Management; PhD, University of Kansas, 2016.

Li, Shuxia, Lecturer II, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematical Science; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Li, Yudu, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice; PhD, Sam Houston State University, 2016.

Liao, Qinyu, Full Professor, Department of Information Systems; Business Administration (Business Information Systems); PhD, Mississippi State University, 2005.

Lim, Young Joon, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication; Mass Communication (Journalism); PhD, Ohio University, 2013.

Limon, Jimmie R., Lecturer I, School of Accountancy; Accounting; MACC, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2014.

Lin, Wei, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, Wesleyan University, 2006.

Lin, Yu-Cheng, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological Science; General Psychology (Social, Cognitive and Neurosciences); PhD, The University of Texas at El Paso, 2015.

Linger, Barry, Clinical Full Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Liu, Lai C., Full Professor, Department of Information Systems; Business Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis; DBA, Mississippi State University, 1989.

Liu, Yu, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Economics; PhD, The University of Alabama, 2008.

Lo, Albert, Lecturer I, School of Music; Music; MM, Western Illinois University, 1992.

Loera, Francisco, Lecturer III, School of Music; Spanish; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2000.

Lomeli, Arlett, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, Texas A&M University, 2015.

Longoria, Denise A., Associate Professor, Department of Social Work; Education Specialization: Professional Studies; PhD, Capella University, 2010.

Longoria, Lisa, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Longoria, Richard T., Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science; Government and Politics; PhD, University of Maryland - College Park, 2006.

Longoria, Rosie, Lecturer I, Department of Psychological Science; Experimental Psychology; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Lopez Guerrero, Cyndy, Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Creative Writing; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2015.

Lopez, Alfonso R., Lecturer 1, Department of History; History; PhD, The University of Houston, 2011.

Lopez, Jaime, Lecturer I, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Reading; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2002.

Lopez, Jordy, Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2016.

Lopez, Laura, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; PhD, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2012.

Lopez, Lorena, Lecturer I, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Physical Therapy; DPT, The University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio, 2014.

Lopez, Miranda, Lecturer 1, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling.

Lopez-Alvarenga, Juan C., Associate Professor of Research, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Diabetes & Molecular Biology; D.Sc., National Autonomous University of Mexico, 2003.

Lopez-Garcia, Dania C., Associate Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish; PhD, Stanford University, 2008.

Lopez-Juarez, Alejandro, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences.

Lopez-Levy, Arturo, Lecturer I, Department of Political Science; International Studies; PhD, University of Denver, 2016.

Love, Denise, Lecturer I, Department of Teaching and Learning; Education (Teaching and Learning); PhD, Capella University, 2009.

Lovell, Kenneth S., Lecturer I, Department of Economics and Finance; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

Lovett, Martha C., Lecturer I, Department of Management; Business Administration; MBA, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2001.

Lovett, Marvin G., Full Professor, Department of Marketing; Administration and Supervision; EdD, University of Houston, 1997.

Lovett, Steve, Associate Professor, Department of Management; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Arlington, 1997.

Lowdermilk, John, Associate Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Special Education; PhD, The University of North Texas, 2004.

Lowe, Jerry, Full Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Administration; EdD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1990.

Lowe, Kristine L., Full Professor, Department of Biology; Applied Biology; PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology, 1999.

Lozano Garcia, Jose Luis, Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Lozano, Karen, Full Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering and Materials; PhD, Rice University, 1999.

Lu, Hongxing, Lecturer 1, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Nutritional Sciences; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2009.

Lu, Ming-Tsan P., Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Cognitive Studies in Education; PhD, Teachers College Columbia University, 2011.

Luna, John S., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy; Occupational Therapy; OTD, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, 2016.

Lyles, Donald J., Associate Professor, School of Art; Painting; MFA, American University, 2000.

M

Macias, Alejandro, Lecturer I, School of Art; Art; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2012.

Macias, Elena, Associate Professor, School of Art; Art; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2001.

Macossay-Torres, Javier, Full Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, Louisiana State University and A&M College, 1995.

Maestre, Gladys, Full Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Maffi, Shivani K., Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Magallan, Sandy, Lecturer II, Department of Communication Disorders.

Magee, Robert M., Lecturer I, Department of Criminal Justice; Public Administration; MPA, National University, 2009.

Mahaney, Mahaney C., Full Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Biological Anthropology/Population Genetics; PhD, The Ohio State University, 1984.

Mahmood, Salma, Lecturer II, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Curriculum and Instruction; EdD, Texas Southern University, 2006.

Mahmoud, Ahmed, Lecturer 1, Department of Civil Engineering; Environmental Engineering; MS, Texas A&M University at Kingsville, 2014.

Mancha, Jaime J., Lecturer III, University College; Counseling and Guidance; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2006.

Maniss, Suzanne, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counseling; PhD, St. Mary's University, 1997.

Manoharan, Ezhilarasan, Lecturer 1, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, University of Alabama, 2016.

Manusov, Eron G., Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Mao, Yuanbing, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, State University of New York at Stony Brook, 2006.

Mar, Arnulfo O., Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry; Biochemical Sciences; PhD, University of Houston, 1987.

Marini, Irmo, Full Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation; PhD, Auburn University, 1992.

Marshall, William G., Clinical Full Professor, Department of Surgery; MS, University of South Florida, 2006.

Martin, Luz, Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Spanish; PhD, The University of Houston, 2005.

Martinez, Alex F., Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematical Sciences; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2014.

Martinez, Eric, Lecturer 1, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; MS, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2016.

Martinez, Janet, Lecturer I, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Education (Educational Technology); PhD, Walden University, 2008.

Martinez, Javier A., Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, The Ohio State University, 1998.

Martinez, Kurt, Full Professor, School of Music; Music; DMA, The University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2003.

Martinez, Martha, Lecturer 1, Department of Social Work; Social Work; MSSW, The University of Texas - Arlington, 1992.

Martinez, Monica C., Lecturer 1, School of Music; Music; DMA, The University of Texas at Austin, 2014.

Martinez, Nel C., Clinical Full Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; PhD, The Ohio State University, 1992.

Martinez, Pedro, Associate Professor, School of Music; Musical Arts; DMA, The University of Minnesota, 2004.

Martirosyan, Karen, Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Chemical Engineering; PhD, Yerevan Polytechnic Institute, 1991.

Mata, Zelma D., Associate Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Administration & Supervision - Higher Education; EdD, The University of Houston, 1993.

Mata-Pistokache, Theresa, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Disorders; Special Education; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1996.

Materon, Luis, Full Professor, Department of Biology; Agronomy (Crops); PhD, Mississippi State University, 1982.

Mathew, Liji, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; PhD, The University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston, 2017.

Matthews, Linda M., Full Professor, Department of Management; Business Administration; PhD, University of Washington, 1996.

Matus, Yolanda, Lecturer 1, Department of Psychological Science; Spanish; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Mayens-Robles, Nadeska, Lecturer II, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish Studies; PhD, University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras, 2004.

Mazariegos Alfaro, Ruben, Associate Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Geophysics; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1993.

McAllen, Katherine M., Assistant Professor, School of Art; History of Art and Architecture; PhD, Harvard University, 2012.

McCormack-Whittemore, Corinne, Lecturer 1, School of Art; Visual Communications; MFA, The University of Arizona, 2004.

McCroy, Shaun, Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies.

McDonald, Andrew A., Associate Professor, Department of Biology; Botany; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 1982.

McDonie, Robert J., Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, University of California, Irvine, 2010.

McFarlin, Christine, Associate Professor - Clinical, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

McGregor, Charles R., Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Creative Writing; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2015.

McIntyre, John, Lecturer II, Department of Health and Human Performance; Health and Kinesiology; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2001.

McMahon, Marci, Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English Literature; PhD, University of Southern California, 2007.

McNabb-Goodwin, Carol, Full Professor, School of Music; Performance; DMA, The University of Arizona, 1996.

McQuillen, Jeffrey, Associate Professor, Department of Communication; Communication; PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 1984.

McQuillen, Marcolfa, Lecturer II, Department of Communication; Leadership Studies; PhD, Our Lady of the Lake University, 2012.

Mealer, Wilma, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Means, David, Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Choral Music; DMA, University of Southern California, 1997.

Medina, Andres J., Lecturer II, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Concentration; MSE, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2014.

Medrano, Hilda, Full Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1985.

Meints, Randy, Lecturer 1, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; TESOL; MEd, Sam Houston State University, 2017.

Mejias, Hugo, Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Hispanic Linguistics; PhD, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, 1976.

Mellin Sanchez, Estrella Lizbeth, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics.

Menchaca, Velma D., Full Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1991.

Mendez, Diana M., Lecturer I, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Mendiola, Maria, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies.

Mendiola, Patricia, Assistant Professor in Practice, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematical Science; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2012.

Mercado, Alfonso, Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology (Clinical Psychology); PhD, Fielding Graduate University, 2012.

Mercado, Fidencio, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2003.

Mercuri, Alfredo N., Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish Translation; MA, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2013.

Merla-Watson, Catie J., Assistant Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; American Studies; PhD, The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2011.

Mery, Adelle, Lecturer II, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; American Literature, British Literature, Linguistics; PhD, Texas A&M University, 1990.

Mikolasky, Peter, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre; Acting/Directing; MFA, Texas Tech University, 1999.

Miles, Caroline, Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, The University of Southern Mississippi, 2002.

Milford, John R., Lecturer III, Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies; Public Administration; MPA, Texas Tech University, 1975.

Miller, Ava, Lecturer I, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Education (Education Technology Management); PhD, Northcentral University, 2010.

Miller, Christopher, Full Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1981.

Miller, Eva, Full Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Special Education and Rehabilitation; PhD, The University of Arizona, 1999.

Miller, Rob W., Lecturer 1, Department of History.

Mills, James W., Lecturer I, Department of History; History; MAIS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2000.

Mills, Susan E., Lecturer II, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 1999.

Minor, Michael S., Full Professor, Department of Marketing; Political Science; PhD, Vanderbilt University, 1987.

Mitchell, Jason H., Lecturer 1, School of Music; Music; DMA, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 2014.

Mitchell, Rachel E., Assistant Professor, School of Music; Music; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2009.

Mito, Shizue, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry; Pharmaceutical Sciences; PhD, Hokkaido University, 2004.

Mogilski, Jerzy K., Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Institute of Mathematics - Polish Academy of Sciences, 1979.

Mohamed, Zeinab N., Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2017.

Mohan, Swati, Lecturer 1, Department of Chemistry.

Mohanty, Soumya D., Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, University of Pune, 1998.

Molina III, Domingo, Lecturer II, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; MS, Corpus Christi State University, 1987.

Mollick, Andre V., Full Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Economics; PhD, University of Tsukuba, 1996.

Montero, Sofia, Lecturer III, University College; Business Administration; MBA, The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, 2015.

Montoya, Camilla A., Lecturer 1, Department of Psychological Science; Organizational Leadership; MS, Our Lady of the Lake University, 2015.

Monty, Randall W., Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English Rhetoric and Composition; PhD, The University of Texas - El Paso, 2013.

Moore, Joe W., Assistant Professor, School of Music; Music; DMA, Louisiana State University, 2014.

Moqbel, Murad, Assistant Professor, Department of Information Systems.

Mora, Marie T., Full Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Economics; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1996.

Morales Ramirez, Helia M., Lecturer I, Department of Chemistry; Environmental Systems – Chemical Engineering; MSc, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, ITESM, 2003.

Morales, Frances R., Lecturer I, Department of Psychological Science.

Moreira, Robert P., Lecturer II, Creative Writing Program; English; PhD, The University of Texas - San Antonio, 2016.

Morgan, Bobbette, Full Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Education; EdD, University of Southern California, 1987.

Moya, Hiram, Assistant Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Industrial & Systems Engineering; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2012.

Mukherjee, Soma, Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, University of Calcutta, 1993.

Mummidi, Srinivas, Associate Professor of Research, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; PhD, Iowa State University, 1996.

Munoz, Fernando, Lecturer I, Department of Criminal Justice; Sociology; MA, Western Michigan University, 1978.

Munoz, Maria, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Munoz-Monaco, Gerardo, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Murphy, Alicia, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Murphy, Patrick G., Lecturer I, Department of Health and Human Performance; Exercise Science; MS, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2017.

Murray, Thomas, Lecturer 1, School of Art; MFA, University of New Mexico, 2003.

Musanti, Sandra I., Associate Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Educational Thought and Sociocultural Studies; PhD, University of New Mexico, 2005.

Musin, Oleg, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Moscow State University, 1980.

Mustard, Julie A., Assistant Professor, Department of Biology; Biochemistry; PhD, University of Arizona, 1998.

Mykyta, Laryssa, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology;
Sociology and Demography; PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 2010.

N

Nadeau, Nancy, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Community Health
Nursing; MS, D'Youville College, 1993.

Nair, Saras, Associate Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences;
Biological Sciences; PhD, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York,
1992.

Nambiar, Rajiv, Full Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering;
PhD, The University of Texas - Arlington, 1989.

Nank, Renee, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies;
Urban Studies and Public Affairs; PhD, Cleveland State University, 2004.

Nash, Ron, Lecturer 1, Department of Biology; Biology; MS, Pan American University,
1981.

Ndeta, George, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences;
Molecular Parasitology; PhD, Howard University, 2001.

Neeley, Valerie, Lecturer II, Department of Psychological Science; Experimental
Psychology; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2010.

Nelson, Robert, Clinical Full Professor, Department of Pediatrics; (Administrative
Medicine); MS, The University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1993.

Neumann, Jacob, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum
and Instruction/Social Education; EdD, The University of Houston, 2009.

Newman, Beatrice M., Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies;
English and Linguistics; PhD, Texas A&M University, 1981.

Newman, John G., Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies;
Linguistics; PhD, University of Warsaw, 2002.

Nguyen, Nam, Lecturer II, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematical
Science; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2004.

Nguyen, Nam, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance.

Nguyen, Phong B., Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science;
Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost
College, 2014.

Nguyen-Finn, Kim, Lecturer I, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling;
Education; MA, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1998.

Nicholson, Nicole R., Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Teaching
English as a Second Language; MA, Arizona State University, 2006.

Nieto, Beatriz, Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; PhD, The University of
Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio, 2005.

Noe, Mark, Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Rhetoric and
Composition; PhD, Texas Christian University, 2001.

Noor, Ronny, Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; 19th
Century British Literature and Linguistics; PhD, Oklahoma State University, 1994.

Nouri, Noushin, Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum
and Instruction (Science Education); PhD, University of Arkansas, 2017.

O

- O'Neil, Lorne W., Full Professor, School of Music; Clarinet; DMA, The University of Minnesota, 1990.
- Ochoa, Dania, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; MSN, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2005.
- Ogburn, Tony, Clinical Full Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
- Oh, Jung-II, Associate Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Sport Pedagogy; PhD, The University of Alabama, 2007.
- Oh-Villarreal, Mijin, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies.
- Olds, Christopher, Lecturer 1, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, Texas A&M University, 2011.
- Oliva, Guadalupe I., Lecturer II, Department of Biology; Biomedical Science; PhD, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, 2001.
- Olney, Charles, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science; Politics; PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2014.
- Olvera, Adriana, Lecturer 1, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Architecture; M. Arch, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, 2012.
- Olvera, Hugo E., Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematical Science; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2014.
- Oraby, Tamer F., Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, University of Cincinnati, 2008.
- Ordeman, William, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2017.
- Orozco Lopez, Edna I., Lecturer I, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Manufacturing Engineering; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.
- Ortega, Cameron L., Lecturer I, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.
- Ortega, Javier, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Materials Engineering; PhD, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon Mexico, 2013.
- Ortega, Jennifer, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.
- Ortega, Ruben, Lecturer 1, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics Education; MSIS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2015.
- Ortiz, Dennis, Lecturer 1, School of Accountancy; Accounting; PhD, University of North Texas, 2000.
- Ortiz, Valerie, Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies.
- Ostorga, Alcione N., Associate Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Language and Literacy Education; PhD, Fordham University, 2002.
- Oteka, Rita, Lecturer 1, School of Nursing.
- Otero, Rafael, Lecturer I, Department of Economics and Finance; International Business Finance; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 1999.
- Otu, Noel, Associate Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminology; PhD, The Florida State University, 1995.
- Oubeidillah, Abdoul, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering; Civil Engineering; PhD, University of Tennessee Knoxville, 2011.

Oum, Young Rae, Lecturer I, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Womens and Gender Studies; PhD, Clark University, 2008.

P

Paccacerqua, Cynthia, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, Stony Brook University, 2010.

Padilla, George, Assistant Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Administration; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1997.

Pagan, Joel, Full Professor, School of Music; Music Performance; DMA, Michigan State University, 2004.

Palacios, Hector, Lecturer I, Department of Social Work; Social Work; MSW, Our Lady of the Lake University, 1980.

Pantoja, Celia, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Internal Medicine.

Parchman-Gonzalez, Keri, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Disorders; Communication Disorders; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 1989.

Paredes, John, Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Paredes, Juan, Lecturer I, Department of Health and Human Performance; Exercise Science; MS, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2016.

Pareja, Heidi, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Park, Philip, Lecturer II, Department of Civil Engineering.

Parra, Ana C., Lecturer 1, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; MS, University of Texas Pan American, 2008.

Parsons, Jason, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry; Environmental Science and Engineering; PhD, The University of Texas - El Paso, 2003.

Pasupuleti, Sudershan, Full Professor, Department of Social Work; Social Work; PhD, Osmania University, 1998.

Paul, Dalia, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing Education; MS, Grand Canyon University, 2014.

Paul, Nilanjana, Assistant Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, West Virginia University, 2016.

Paz, Diana L., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Pharmacy; Pharm.D., University of Houston, 2003.

Pearson, Thomas, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, 1994.

Pecina, Julia, Lecturer III, Department of Human Development and School Services; Educational Diagnostician; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 1996.

Peiris, Manoj P., Lecturer 1, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Applied Physics; PhD, University of South Florida, 2017.

Pellicer, Regine, Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English as a Second Language; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2010.

Pemelton, John, Lecturer 1, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; MS, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2011.

Pena, Amanda, Clinical Assistant Professor, Cooperative Pharmacy Program; Pharmacy; Pharm.D., The University of Texas at Austin, 2011.

Pena, Carmen, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Instructional Design and Technology; PhD, The University of Iowa, 1995.

Pena, Jaime, Lecturer I, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Law; JD, Baylor University, 1997.

Pena, Miguel A., Lecturer I, Dance Program; Dance; MFA, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, 2016.

Pena, Roberto, Associate Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Administration; PhD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1993.

Peña-Oliva, Ana, Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish; MA, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 1995.

Peng, Jun, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; PhD, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2004.

Pereyra, Nicolas, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, University of Maryland - College Park, 1997.

Pérez, Emmy, Full Professor, Creative Writing Program; Writing; MFA, Columbia University, 1995.

Perez, Erika Y., Lecturer I, University College; Counseling & Guidance; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2012.

Perez, Guillermo, Lecturer II, Department of Health and Human Performance; Exercise Science; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2014.

Perez, Kathryn E., Assistant Professor, Department of Biology; Biology; PhD, The University of Alabama, 2005.

Perez, Natasha, Lecturer 1, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education with a specialization in Literacy; PhD, Michigan State University, 2017.

Persans, Michael, Full Professor, Department of Biology; Plant Biology; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 1998.

Peterson, Danessa, Lecturer I, Department of Health and Human Performance; Exercise Science and Health Promotion (Wellness and Fitness); MS, California University of Pennsylvania, 2010.

Pezzat, Ydania M., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Educational Administration; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Pham, Thang, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering; Civil Engineering; PhD, University of Colorado, 2009.

Philips, Betty, Lecturer 1, School of Nursing; Nursing (Nursing Education); MSN, Grand Canyon University, 2014.

Pizzinato, Riccardo, Assistant Professor, School of Art; Medieval Art; PhD, Johns Hopkins University, 2012.

Plata, Robert Erik, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry.

Pokhrel, Madhab, Lecturer 1, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, The University of Texas - San Antonio, 2013.

Poletaeva, Elena, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, The Pennsylvania State University, 1992.

Ponce, José H., Lecturer I, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Applied Mathematics; MS, Iowa State University, 2012.

Popan, Jason, Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Experimental Psychology; PhD, The University of Texas at Arlington, 2011.

Potempa, Angelika H., Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, Humboldt University, 1990.

Potter, Greg A., Lecturer II, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Pournik, Maysam, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Petroleum Engineering; PhD, Texas A&M University, 2008.

Poveda, Jose, Lecturer II, Department of Computer Science; Advanced Data Processing Methods; PhD, Jaume I University, 2005.

Provenzano, Dani, Full Professor, Department of Biology; Microbiology; PhD, The University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio, 2001.

Pujol Pereira, Engil Isadora, Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Horticulture and Agronomy; PhD, University of California, Davis, 2014.

Q

Qiao, Zhijun (George), Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Fudan University, 1997.

Qin, Hong, Associate Professor, Department of Information Systems; Management Science; PhD, University of North Texas, 2009.

Quantz, Michael O., Full Professor, School of Music; Performance; DMA, The University of North Texas, 1994.

Quercioli, Elena, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Economics; PhD, University of Essex, 1999.

Quetschke, Volker M., Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Natural Science; PhD, University of Hannover, 2003.

Quweider, Mahmoud K., Full Professor, Department of Computer Science; Engineering Science; PhD, The University of Toledo, 1995.

R

Rabarison, Monika K., Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance; Business Administration; PhD, University of Kentucky, 2012.

Racelis, Alexis, Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Environmental Studies; PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2009.

Radzynski, Sharon, Dean, School of Nursing.

Ragland, Ruth Ann, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science; American Government & Public Law; PhD, University of North Texas, 1995.

Rahman, Abdullah F., Full Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences.

Rahman, Md S., Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Marine and Environmental Sciences; PhD, University of Ryukyus, 2001.

Rai, Rajendra P. K., Lecturer II, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Pure Mathematics; PhD, Dalhousie University, 1980.

Rakhmanov, Malik, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, California Institute of Technology, 2000.

Ramezani, Hamidreza, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; PhD, Wesleyan University, 2014.

Ramirez, Britt N., Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, 2016.

Ramirez, Dagoberto E., Lecturer II, University College; Educational Leadership; EdD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

Ramirez, Ernesto F., Lecturer III, School of Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Engagement; Educational Leadership; EdD, The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, 2017.

Ramirez, Mark, Full Professor, School of Music; Percussion Performance; DMA, The University of Texas - Austin, 2005.

Ramirez, Noe, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work; Social Work; PhD, The University of Houston, 1998.

Ramirez, Olga, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Educational Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1985.

Ramirez, Patricia, Lecturer I, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; MEd, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2011.

Ramirez, Samantha J., Lecturer II, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Ramos, Carlos, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Internal Medicine.

Ramos, Noe, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; School Psychology; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2008.

Ramos-Salas, Jaime S., Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; PhD, Stanford University, 1976.

Rampersad-Ammons, Joanne, Associate Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Microbiology; PhD, The University of the West Indies, 2006.

Rathbun, Lyon, Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Rhetoric; PhD, University of California, Berkeley, 1994.

Raysoni, Amit, Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences.

Razo, Nancy P., Associate Professor in Practice, Department of Human Development and School Services; School Psychology; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2004.

Reed, Bruce J., Full Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Human Rehabilitation; PhD, University of Northern Colorado, 1993.

Reed, Dustin, Lecturer I, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counselor Education and Supervision; PhD, University of Holy Cross, 2017.

Reed, Joan, Lecturer III, University College; Educational Studies; PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2005.

Rehman, SHARAF N., Full Professor, Department of Communication; Mass Communication; PhD, Bowling Green State University, 1987.

Reinhart, Henry, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery; MD, UT Southwestern Medical School, 2011.

Rengasamy, Padmanabhan, Visiting Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Resendiz, Rosalva, Associate Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Sociology; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 2001.

Restifo, Salvatore J., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, The Ohio State University, 2013.

Reyes, Monica, Lecturer II, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2013.

Reyes, Ramses, Lecturer I, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; MS, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2017.

Reyna, Edna M., Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Adult Health Nursing; MSN, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2007.

Reyna, Sara M., Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Rhi-Perez, Pablo, Full Professor, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Marketing; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 1989.

Riahi, Daniel, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Florida State University, 1974.

Ridge, Michael A., Lecturer I, Department of History; History; PhD, The University of Iowa, 2012.

Rivas, Belinda, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Psychology; PhD, Walden University, 2008.

Rivas, Saul, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Rivera, Diana N., Assistant Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, University of New Mexico, 2014.

Robertson, Jeffrey R., Lecturer I, Department of Biology; Biology; MS, Stephen F. Austin State University, 1990.

Robles de Viera, Sylvia A., Lecturer I, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Administration and Upper Management; PhD, Universidad Autonoma de Coahuila, 2011.

Robles, Blanca, Lecturer II, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2004.

Rocha, MaryAnn, Lecturer I, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Counseling and Guidance; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2000.

Rodrigo, Hansapani S., Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics (Statistics); PhD, University of South Florida, 2017.

Rodriguez, Alma D., Full Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Curriculum and Instruction; EdD, The University of Houston, 2003.

Rodriguez, Dinah A., Lecturer I, Department of Health and Human Performance; Kinesiology; MS, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2017.

Rodriguez, Hector J., Lecturer I, School of Music; Music Performance; MM, Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, 2014.

Rodriguez, Hugo, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Family Medicine; MD, Autonomous University of Tamaulipas, 1985.

Rodriguez, Ignacio E., Lecturer II, Department of Teaching and Learning; Educational Innovation; PhD, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, 2008.

Rodriguez, Jose A., Assistant Professor, Creative Writing Program; English; PhD, Binghamton University, State University of New York, 2011.

Rodriguez, Julian R., Lecturer I, School of Art; Ceramics & Sculpture; MFA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2007.

Rodriguez, Renee, Lecturer 1, Department of History; History; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Roeder, Scott, Associate Professor, School of Music; Tuba Performance; DMA, The University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2008.

Rojas, Dahlia, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; PhD, Texas Woman's University - Houston, 1991.

Romero, Zasha, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Sports Management; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 2012.

Romero-Ramirez, Maria, Lecturer II, Department of Psychological Science; Rehabilitation Psychology; PhD, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2009.

Romo, Jaime, Lecturer 1, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; MS, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2016.

Ronnau, John P., Clinical Full Professor.

Rossow, Rosalinda, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing -Critical Care; MSN, The University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston, 1991.

Roush, Katrina, Assistant Professor, School of Music.

Rowe, Sarah M., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Anthropology; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 2014.

Roy, Upal, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Microbiology; PhD, Goa University, 2005.

Roychowdhury, Lakshmi, Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Statistics; MS, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2013.

Roychowdhury, Mrinal K., Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Wesleyan University, 2005.

Ruelas, Jack, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy; Occupational Therapy; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Ruiz, Bienvenido, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, Northwestern University, 2013.

Ruiz, Diana D., Assistant Professor in Practice, Department of Counseling and Guidance; School Psychology; PhD, Texas Woman's University, 2005.

Russell, Ryan D., Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Kinesiology; PhD, Louisiana State University, 2011.

Ryabov, Igor, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, Bowling Green State University, 2005.

Ryman, Jeannean, Lecturer II, Department of Health and Human Performance; Health and Physical Education; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 1980.

Ryou, Ji Woo, Assistant Professor, School of Accountancy; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Memphis, 2014.

S

Saavedra, Cinthya M., Associate Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Engagement; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2006.

Saavedra, Dora E., Associate Professor, Department of Communication; Communication Studies; PhD, University of Kansas, 1994.

Sadlier, David A., Associate Professor, School of Music; Voice; DMA, Indiana University - Bloomington, 2009.

Sadlier, Lelia M., Lecturer 1, School of Music; Piano; DM, Indiana University, 2010.

Sahoo, Nirakar, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology.

Saka, Paul, Full Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 1998.

Saladin, Shawn P., Full Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Special Education; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2004.

Salazar, Miguel, Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre; Theatre (Design and Technology); MFA, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2016.

Salazar, Veronica, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Salcedo, Jennifer, Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; MD, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, 2006.

Saldivar, Jose, Lecturer III, University College; Education; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2014.

Saldivar, Manuel G., Lecturer I, University College; Cognitive Science and Educational Psychology; PhD, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2012.

Sale, Paul P., Full Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Education of Exceptional Children; EdD, University of Georgia, 1986.

Sale, Sam S., Associate Professor, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Business Administration with concentration in Management; DBA, Louisiana Tech University, 2008.

Salinas, Aaron, Lecturer 1, School of Nursing; Nursing Education; MSN, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2015.

Salinas, Alejo, Lecturer 1, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Administration; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1983.

Salinas, Clarissa, Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counselor Education and Supervision; PhD, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 2016.

Salinas, Corina A., Lecturer 1, School of Nursing; Nursing Administration; MSN, University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2014.

Salinas, Juan, Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematical Sciences; MS, University of Texas Pan American, 2011.

Salinas, Sonya, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Disorders; Communication Disorders; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 1991.

Samponaro, Philip, Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, University of Connecticut, 2003.

Sanchez Gonzalez, Augusto, Lecturer 1, Department of Civil Engineering.

Sanchez, Delia, Lecturer 1, School of Accountancy; Accounting; MACC, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2006.

Sanchez, Jose J., Lecturer I, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; MSE, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2013.

Sanchez, Luis A., Lecturer III, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2006.

Sanchez, Michael R., Lecturer I, Department of Criminal Justice; Business Administration; PhD, Northcentral University, 2016.

Sánchez, Sandy, Full Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing/Adult Health; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 1997.

Sanchez, Yemin, Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English as a Second Language; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2012.

Sandoval, Adrian, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Sandoval, Sally J. (.), Lecturer I, School of Music; Music Education; MM, The University of North Texas, 1987.

Santiago, Reynaldo, Full Professor, School of Art; Printmaking; MFA, Rochester Institute of Technology, 1983.

Santivanez, Topacio, Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2014.

Sargent, John, Full Professor, Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship; Business Administration; PhD, University of Washington, 1994.

Sarkar, Kamal, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Engineering Science; PhD, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, 1980.

Saxon, Kenneth N., Associate Professor, School of Music; Performance; DMA, The University of Alabama, 2000.

Saxton, Jenny, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre; Theatre; MFA, Minnesota State University, Mankato, 1998.

Sally, Mark, Lecturer 1, Department of Biology; Phylogenetics; PhD, The Queen's University of Belfast, 2002.

Schall, Janine M., Associate Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Language, Reading and Culture; PhD, The University of Arizona, 2004.

Schembri, Sharon, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing; Management; PhD, The University of Queensland, 2005.

Schmid, Lauran B., Associate Professor in Practice, School of Accountancy; Business Administration; MBA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 1988.

Schmitz, Rachel M., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2016.

Schneider, Gary, Full Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, Wayne State University, 2001.

Schneider, Steven, Full Professor, Creative Writing Program; English; PhD, The University of Iowa, 1986.

Schoen, Barbara, Associate Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counselor Education; PhD, Michigan State University, 2010.

Schuenzel, Erin, Associate Professor, Department of Biology; Biology (Evolutionary Biology); PhD, University of California, Riverside, 2005.

Schwarzbach, Andrea E., Associate Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Natural Sciences; PhD, Johannes Gutenberg University, 1996.

Schweller, Robert, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; PhD, Northwestern University, 2007.

Sears, Tim, Associate Professor in Practice, Department of Biology; Secondary Education; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2006.

Seitz, Diana I., Assistant Professor, School of Music; Music-Wind/Percussion/String Instrumental; DMA, The University of Oklahoma, 2008.

Selber, Greg, Full Professor, Department of Communication; Journalism; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2001.

Selber, Kimberly, Associate Professor, Department of Communication; Advertising; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2001.

Seligman, Laura, Full Professor, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 1999.

Sepielak, Kasia A., Lecturer II, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Translation and Cross Cultural Studies; PhD, Autonomous University of Barcelona, 2016.

Setayesh, Shaghayegh, Lecturer III, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2008.

Shackelford, Dana, Associate Professor, Dance Program; Dance; MFA, Arizona State University, 2001.

Shelledy, Maggie, Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2017.

Shen, Yih-Jiun, Full Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counselor Education; EdD, Pennsylvania State University, 1998.

Sheng, Xiaojing, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing; Business Administration Marketing; PhD, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville, 2009.

Shirvani, Hossein, Full Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2004.

Siddique, Bari M., Lecturer II, Department of Computer Science; Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; MS, Marquette University, 1985.

Sifuentes, Josef, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Computational and Applied Mathematics; PhD, Rice University, 2010.

Silcox, Denise D., Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2005.

Silva, Hector, Lecturer 1, School of Music.

Silva, Hilda, Associate Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Administration and Supervision; EdD, University of Houston, 2000.

Silva, Luz Maria M., Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing; MSN, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2008.

Silvestro, Linda L., Lecturer 1, School of Nursing; Graduate Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner); MSN, Maryville University of St. Louis, 2016.

Simmons, Susan K., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Simonsson, Marie, Associate Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Administration and Supervision; EdD, University of Houston, 1998.

Simpson, Penny, Full Professor, Department of Marketing; Marketing; DBA, Louisiana Tech University, 1992.

Singh, Anil, Associate Professor, Department of Information Systems; Business Administration - Information Systems; PhD, The University of Texas - Arlington, 2006.

Singh, Arjun, Full Professor.

Skowronek, Russell, Full Professor, Department of History; Anthropology; PhD, Michigan State University, 1989.

Smith, Kenneth C., Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; PhD, Purdue University, 2007.

Snyder, Samuel, Full Professor, Department of Surgery.

Sokoloff, William, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 2002.

Solis, Stacy E., Assistant Professor in Practice, Department of Biology; Secondary Education; MEd, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2002.

Somavat, Pavel, Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences.

Son, Jae Sok, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Computer Engineering; PhD, The University of Texas - El Paso, 1999.

Song, Hyojong, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Criminology; PhD, University of South Florida, 2017.

Soti, Pushpa, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology.

Soto, Indalecio, Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematical Science; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2014.

Souffrant, Garry C., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Sparrow, Gregory S., Full Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counseling; EdD, The College of William and Mary in Virginia, 1983.

Sperry, Christen, Assistant Professor, School of Art.

Srinivasa, Susheelabai R., Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work; Psychology; PhD, Osmania University, 2009.

Srivastava, Anil K., Full Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, Indian Institute of Technology, 1985.

Srivastava, Bhupendra B., Lecturer 1, Department of Chemistry; Chemistry; MS, Banaras Hindu University, 2006.

Starling, Jamie, Assistant Professor, Department of History; History (Borderlands); PhD, The University of Texas - El Paso, 2012.

Stehn, Alexander V., Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2010.

Stewart, Jessica R., Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Disorders; Speech Pathology; PhD, University of Nevada - Reno, 2016.

Stiles-Cox, Karina, Lecturer III, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2010.

Stine, Kendra M., Lecturer I, Department of Health and Human Performance; Public Health Policy and Administration; MPH, University of Missouri, 2009.

Stone, Robert, Faculty Associate, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2005.

Strait, Megan K., Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science; Cognitive Science; PhD, Tufts University, 2016.

Strong, Charles, Lecturer 1, Department of Physician Assistant; Pharmacy; Pharm.D., The University of Texas - Austin, 2007.

Strong, Lupita R., Lecturer II, Department of Writing and Language Studies; English; MA, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2011.

Strong, William F., Full Professor, Department of Communication; Speech Communication; PhD, The University of Arizona, 1985.

Suazo, Erwin, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Arizona State University, 2009.

Sullivan, Christopher, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

Sullivan, Pamela D., Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Family Nurse Practitioner, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, 1999.

Sumets, Maxim, Lecturer I, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physics and Mathematics; PhD, Voronezh State University, 1999.

Sun, Jun, Full Professor, Department of Information Systems; Information and Operations Management; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2005.

Sun, Qi, Lecturer I, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, University of North Texas, 2014.

Sweigart, Donna, Associate Professor, School of Art; Metals/Jewelry/ Computer-Aided-Design/Computer-Aided-Machining/Rapid Prototyping; MFA, Temple University, 2004.

T

Tabler, Jennifer L., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, University of Utah, 2016.

Talavera-Garza, Liza, Lecturer I, Department of Psychological Science; Psychology; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 2010.

Taméz, Eloisa G., Full Professor, School of Nursing; Physical and Health Education; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 1985.

Tapia, Beatriz, Visiting Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Tarawneh, Constantine, Full Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Engineering with a specialization in Mechanical Engineering; PhD, University of Nebraska - Lincoln, 2003.

Tawil, Sandy M., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2003.

Taylor, Christopher M., Full Professor, Department of Biology; Zoology; PhD, University of Oklahoma, 1994.

Taylor, Monty, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, The University of Houston, 1988.

Taylor, Nick, Lecturer II, Department of Communication; Educational Leadership; EdD, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 2015.

Taylor, Sean D., Assistant Professor, School of Music; Choral Conducting; DMA, The University of Cincinnati, 2013.

Telese, James A., Full Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1994.

Tello, Miguel A., Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Temby, Owen, Associate Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences; Political Science; PhD, Carleton University, 2012.

Terry, Matthew, Associate Professor, Department of Biology; Integrative Biology; PhD, Brigham Young University, 2004.

Terry, Melissa D., Lecturer 1, School of Art; Art History; MA, The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, 2013.

Thomas, John M., Assistant Professor, Department of Biology; Microbiology and Immunology; PhD, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 2008.

Thomas, Susamma, Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Adult Health Nursing; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2010.

Thomas, Tina, Lecturer II, Department of Chemistry; Plant and Soil Science; PhD, Texas Tech University, 2010.

Thomson, Shawn, Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, University of Kansas, 2006.

Tijerina, Sandra, Associate Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Occupational Training And Development; MS, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi, 1992.

Timmer, Douglas H., Full Professor, Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering; Industrial Engineering; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 1994.

Tomai, Emmett, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science; PhD, Northwestern University, 2009.

Tondji, Jean-Baptiste, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance.

Torres, Jose, Lecturer I, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Math; MS, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 1971.

Torres, Saul, Lecturer II, School of Music; Wind Conducting, Music Education; DMA, University of Utah, 2012.

Torres-Avila, Mirayda, Lecturer II, Department of Biology; Agronomy (Genetics, Molecular and Evolutionary Biology); PhD, Purdue University, 2013.

Touhami, Ahmed, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Physical Chemistry; PhD, University of Paris VI, 1994.

Tovar, Alejandro, Lecturer I, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Spanish; PhD, The University of Houston, 2013.

Trant, John M., Full Professor, Department of Biology; Zoology; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1987.

Trevino, Liliana, Assistant Professor in Practice, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2010.

Trevino-Garza, Alma, Lecturer I, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Trinidad, Maria, Lecturer II, Department of Health and Human Performance; Science in Kinesiology; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2009.

Tsay, Jenq-Jong, Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Educational Mathematics; PhD, University of Northern Colorado, 2005.

Tsin, Andrew, Full Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences; Zoology; PhD, University of Alberta, 1979.

Turner, Lizzie, Assistant Professor, School of Accountancy; Business Administration; PhD, Florida International University, 2013.

U

Uddin, M. J., Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry; Materials Science; PhD, University of Turin, 2008.

Ulibarri, Billy J., Lecturer II, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Sociology; PhD, The University of New Mexico, 2015.

Umeasiegbo, Veronica I., Assistant Professor, School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling; Rehabilitation Counseling Education; PhD, University of Kentucky, 2013.

Urbina, Angelica R., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant; Physician Assistant Studies; MPAS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2010.

Uy, Dan, Assistant Professor, Department of Marketing.

V

Valadez, paul, Assistant Professor, School of Art; Studio Art; MFA, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2003.

Valdes, Jesus, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery.

Valdez, Adela S., Clinical Full Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine; Medicine; MD, Baylor College of Medicine, 1980.

Valencia, Gustavo, Assistant Professor in Practice, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2012.

VandeBerg, John L., Full Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Genetics; PhD, Macquarie University, 1975.

Vargas Hernandez, Noe, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, Arizona State University, 2007.

Varlamova, Liudmila, Lecturer II, School of Music; Pedagogical Sciences; PhD, Russian Academy of Education, 1993.

Vasquez, Arturo Z., Full Professor, Department of Marketing; Business Administration; PhD, Texas Tech University, 1990.

Vasquez, Horacio, Full Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; PhD, The University of Alabama, 2003.

Vatchev, Vesselin, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, The University of South Carolina, 2004.

Vatcheva, Kristina, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Epidemiology; PhD, The University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston, 2015.

Vega, Rosalynn A., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Medical Anyhropology; PhD, University of California, Berkeley, 2016.

Vega-Sampayo, Elena, Associate Professor, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; Spanish Language and Literature; PhD, University of Leon, 2008.

Vela, Leonel, Clinical Full Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Velez, Robert W., Lecturer I, Department of Political Science.

Venegas, Elena M., Assistant Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Curriculum and Teaching; PhD, Baylor University, 2017.

Vera, Dina, Lecturer 1, Department of Communication.

Vestweber, Carl, Lecturer 1, School of Art; Studio Art; MFA, Tufts University, 2013.

Vidal, Jorge, Lecturer II, Department of Economics and Finance; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Vidal, Jorge, Lecturer II, Department of Civil Engineering; Smart & energy-efficient building technologies.; TMARCH, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1991.

Villalobos, Maria C., Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Computational & Applied Mathematics; PhD, Rice University, 2000.

Villarreal, Cristal, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Business Administration; MBA, Wesleyan College, 2013.

Villarreal, Evert, Lecturer II, Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies; English; PhD, Texas A&M University, 2006.

Villarreal, Jose M., Lecturer 1, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Chicano/Latino Studies; PhD, Michigan State University, 2015.

Villarreal, Laura-Zelda S., Lecturer 1, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Business Administration; MBA, University of Phoenix, 2008.

Villarreal, Mark R., Lecturer 1, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2015.

Villarreal, Rachel D., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Nutrition; MS, Texas Woman's University, 2015.

Villavert, John, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Applied Mathematics; PhD, University of Colorado - Boulder, 2013.

Villegas de Chaverri, Susy P., Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work; Social Work; PhD, The University of Texas - Arlington, 2007.

Viren, Vejoya, Associate Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Human Development; PhD, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 2003.

Vitek, Chris, Associate Professor, Department of Biology; Biology; PhD, Clark University, 2005.

Vitek, Heather, Lecturer 1, Department of Social Work; Social Work; MSW, Boston University, 1996.

Voss, Judy, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Nursing- Critical Care; MS, The University of Texas Health Science Center - Houston, 1991.

Vu, Thuy, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering; Civil Engineering; PhD, University of Missouri, 2013.

W

Waite, Charles, Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, Texas Tech University, 1999.

Wallace, Ned F., Lecturer II, Department of History; Twentieth Century American History; MA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2008.

Wang, Bailey, Full Professor, Department of Communication Disorders; Audiology; PhD, University of Kansas, 1997.

Wang, Bin, Full Professor, Department of Information Systems; Business Administration; PhD, University of Minnesota, 2004.

Wang, Lei, Associate Professor, Department of Management; Business Administration; PhD, New Mexico State University, 2005.

Wang, Lin, Associate Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Physical Education - Motor Learning; PhD, University of Virginia, 2007.

Wang, Xiaohui, Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Statistics; PhD, Texas A&M University - College Station, 2006.

Wang, Xuan, Assistant Professor, Department of Information Systems.

Wang, Ying, Lecturer I, Department of Information Systems; Business Administration; PhD, The University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, 2016.

Ward, Hsuying C., Associate Professor, Department of Human Development and School Services; Special Education; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1994.

Warfield, Bradley, Lecturer I, Department of Philosophy.

Warren, Brian J., Associate Professor, Department of Theatre; Educational Theatre; EdD, The University of Houston, 2008.

Wasike, Ben S., Full Professor, Department of Communication; Mass Communication and Public Affairs; PhD, Louisiana State University and A&M College, 2005.

Watt, Karen, Full Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Administration; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1999.

Weaver, Michael, Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1989.

Wedig, Cindy, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biology; Dairy Science; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, 1988.

Wei, Yong-Kang, Full Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Rhetoric and Professional Communication; PhD, Iowa State University, 2004.

Weimer, Krissie, Assistant Professor, School of Music; Music Education; PhD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2017.

Weimer, Nick, Lecturer 1, Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies; Public Administration; MPA, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2011.

Weiss, Matthew I., Assistant Professor, Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies; Political Science; PhD, University of California, Davis, 2011.

Welbourne, Jennifer L., Associate Professor, Department of Management; Psychology; PhD, The Ohio State University, 1999.

Wells, Lori M., Lecturer 1, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Curriculum and Instruction; EdD, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2012.

Wells, Shirley A., Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy; Community Health Practice; Doctor of Public Health, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2009.

Welty, Kyle, Lecturer I, Department of History; Religion; PhD, Baylor University, 2012.

Wenzel, James, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science; Political Science; PhD, The University of Houston, 1993.

Werkheiser, Ian, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, Michigan State University, 2015.

Whitacre, Michael, Associate Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Bilingual Education; EdD, Texas A&M University - Kingsville, 2007.

White, Jack, Lecturer 1, Department of Social Work; Social Work; MS, Washington State University.

White, Jacob, Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Arizona State University, 2010.

White, Tom, Associate Professor, Department of Criminal Justice; Political Science; PhD, Texas A&M University, 2003.

Whittenberg, James F., Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counseling Studies; PhD, Capella University, 2012.

Wiley, Eric B., Full Professor, Department of Theatre; Theatre History; PhD, Louisiana State University, 1999.

Wilkerson, Dale, Lecturer 1, Department of Philosophy; Humanities - History of Ideas; PhD, The University of Texas - Dallas, 2002.

Williams, Linda M., Assistant Professor, Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies; Public Administration; PhD, University of Kansas, 2013.

Williams, Zulema, Lecturer I, Department of Teaching and Learning.

Williams-Blangero, Sarah, Full Professor, South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute; Biological Anthropology; PhD, Case Western Reserve University, 1987.

Williamson, Eric, Full Professor, Creative Writing Program; English and American Literature; PhD, New York University, 1998.

Wilson, Aaron T., Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics Education; PhD, Texas State University - San Marcos, 2013.

Wimberly, Cory, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; Philosophy; PhD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2006.

Wimberly, Cynthia, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance; Counselor Education; PhD, Texas Tech University, 2006.

Wirts, Kristine, Associate Professor, Department of History; History; PhD, Auburn University, 2003.

Wittmer, Erich M., Lecturer I, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; MD, Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, 2014.

Wladyka, Dawid K., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Geography; PhD, Autonomous University of Barcelona, 2013.

Wong McKinstry, Edna, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine.
 Wongkasem, Nantakan, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering;
 Electrical Engineering; D.Eng, University of Massachusetts - Lowell, 2006.
 Writer, Justin, Associate Professor, School of Music; Musical Arts in Composition; DMA,
 The University of Oklahoma, 2007.
 Wu, Sibin, Full Professor, Department of Management; Management Science; PhD,
 University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, 2004.
 Wylie, Tim, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science;
 PhD, Montana State University, 2013.

X

Xiao, Nan, Associate Professor, Department of Information Systems; Management; PhD,
 The State University of New York at Buffalo, 2012.
 Xu, Ben, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical
 Engineering; PhD, The University of Arizona, 2015.
 Xu, Chun, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences;
 Neurology; PhD, Karolinska Institute, 1999.
 Xu, Ping, Assistant Professor, School of Art; Visual Communications; MFA, Kansas State
 University, 2005.

Y

Yagdjian, Karen, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Physico -
 Mathematical Sciences; D.Sc., Moscow State University, 1991.
 Yan, Yun-Chia Anderson, Associate Professor, School of Accountancy; Business
 Administration; PhD, Florida International University, 2007.
 Yanev, George, Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science;
 Mathematics; PhD, University of South Florida, 2001.
 Yang, Yingchen, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical
 Engineering; PhD, Lehigh University, 2005.
 Yaworsky, William, Full Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology;
 Anthropology; PhD, The University of Oklahoma, 2002.
 Yeh, Paul G., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant.
 Yemmireddy, Veerachandra K., Assistant Professor, Department of Biology.
 Yi, Taeil, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics;
 PhD, University of Florida, 2000.
 Yoo, Soojin, Associate Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance; Sports
 Pedagogy; PhD, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, 2009.
 Yoon Ann, Eun Mee, Lecturer II, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Applied
 Mathematics; MS, Iowa State University, 2006.
 Yoon, Jasang, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science;
 Mathematics; PhD, The University of Iowa, 2003.
 Ysquierdo, Cherity A., Lecturer II, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences;
 Biology; MS, University of Saint Joseph, 2015.
 Yznaga, Selma d., Associate Professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance;
 Counselor Education and Supervision; PhD, St. Marys University, 2000.

Z

Zaidan, Frederic, Full Professor, Department of Biology; Biology; PhD, The University of
 Arkansas, 2001.

Zamfir, Liliana, Lecturer II, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; MS, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, 2012.

Zamora, Roberto, Assistant Professor, Department of Organization and School Leadership; Educational Administration; PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, 1979.

Zamora, Zaena, Lecturer 1, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematical Science; MS, The University of Texas - Pan American, 2014.

Zarei, Masoud M., Associate Professor, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences; Neuroscience; PhD, Baylor College of Medicine, 1994.

Zeager, Michelle, Assistant Professor - Clinical, Department of Pediatrics.

Zemrani, Aziza, Associate Professor, Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies; Public Policy and Urban Affairs; PhD, Southern University and A & M College, 2004.

Zeng, Liang, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Theoretical Physics; PhD, Zhejiang University, 1998.

Zeng, Qing, Lecturer I, Department of Psychological Science; Family Sciences; PhD, Brigham Young University, 1998.

Zhang, Jing, Assistant Professor, School of Art; Creative Media; PhD, City University of Hong Kong, 2011.

Zhang, Liyu, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science; Computer Science and Engineering; PhD, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, 2007.

Zhang, Xin, Lecturer 1, Department of Writing and Language Studies; Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language; MA, Beijing Language and Culture University, 2009.

Zhang, Yonghong, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry; Radiophysics; PhD, Chinese Academy of Sciences - Wuhan Institute of Physics and Mathematics, 2002.

Zhang, Zhidong, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning; Educational Psychology; PhD, McGill University, 2007.

Zhou, Haiyan, Full Professor, School of Accountancy; Business Administration; PhD, Temple University, 2003.

Zhou, Yong, Full Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering; Electrical and Computer Engineering; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2005.

Zieschang, Paul-Hermann, Full Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science; Mathematics; PhD, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel, 1983.

Zolfagharian, Mo, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing; Marketing; PhD, University of North Texas, 2007.

Zuniga, Christian E., Assistant Professor, Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies; Curriculum and Instruction; PhD, The University of Texas - Austin, 2015.