

# The Vaquero Honor Code

As members of a community dedicated to honesty, integrity, and mutual respect in all interactions and relationships, the students, faculty and administration of our university pledge to abide by the principles in The Vaquero Honor Code.

**We are Honest.** We do our own work and are honest with one another in all matters. We understand how any act of dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarizing, falsifying data, and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, conflicts as much with academic achievement as with the values of honesty and integrity.

**We have Integrity.** We do not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do. We will make personal and academic integrity fundamental in all of our endeavors.

**We are Respectful.** We act civilly and cooperate with one another for the common good. We will strive to create an environment and a culture in which people respect and listen to one another. We recognize a university is, above all, a place for the exchange of ideas, popular and unpopular. It is the one institution in society that encourages challenges to conventional wisdom. Consequently, we pledge to encourage the exchange of ideas and to allow others to participate and express their views openly.

## Student Guidelines

- The student is responsible for seeking a better understanding of any of the concepts discussed above by consulting with a faculty member; and/or calling the Dean of Students Office at 956-665-2260.
- Violations of the Vaquero Honor Code should be reported to the faculty in charge of the course or the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- The identity of the student reporting violations of the Bronc Honor Code will be confidential until such time as the student chooses to have their identity revealed.
- The Student Disciplinary Hearing and Appeal Procedures outlined in section 5.5.3 of the Handbook of Operating Procedures outlines the rights afforded to students who are accused of violating the Student Code of Conduct and the Bronc Honor Code.

## The Vaquero Student Honor Statement:

I pledge I will not cheat, plagiarize, falsify data or give or receive unauthorized assistance on academic work in accordance with The Vaquero Honor Code. I further pledge to support a culture of academic integrity.

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## **Student Life**

### **Mission:**

We create educational experiences that develop transformative leaders committed to positive change.

### **Vision:**

We develop transformative leaders that change the world.

Student Involvement houses several programs whose participants and mentors you will encounter and many times work with throughout the year:

### **Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society (ALD/AAA)**

Alpha Lambda Delta is an honor society for students in their first year at an institution of higher education. ALD is a national organization that has been in existence since 1924. ALD recognizes those students who have succeeded in maintaining a 3.5 or higher GPA in their first year in college. The mission of Alpha Lambda Delta is to “encourage superior academic achievement...to promote intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning, and to assist students in recognizing and developing meaningful goals for their unique roles in society.”

### **Community Service Connection**

Our goal is to stimulate a change within UTRGV students to produce an outcome that not only addresses community needs, but also allows students to gain important life skills. We do this by:

- Connecting students and student organizations to service and volunteerism opportunities on campus and within the local community
- Facilitating a connection between UTRGV students and community organizations and agencies seeking volunteers
- Promoting and implementing service projects on and off campus
- Providing a quality Alternative Break experience for participants

### **Greek Life**

The Fraternity and Sorority Life community at UTRGV is comprised of 15 National/International organizations. There are 5 sororities, 9 fraternities, and 1 co-ed fraternity on campus. Each organization was founded on a set of values that represent UTRGV’s community values of Scholarship, Unity, Empowerment, and Pride.

### **Safe Zone**

Safe Zone is a program dedicated to providing support to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning individuals (LGBTQ) at the University. Allies include students, faculty, and staff who display a Safe Zone decal outside their office/residence hall room. This sign identifies them as individuals who are willing to provide a safe zone, a listening ear, and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning individuals or anyone dealing with sexual orientation or gender identity issues.

### **LeaderShape**

LeaderShape is a six day residential leadership camp held once a year that is designed to shape students into becoming better leaders while consciously making efforts to maintain integrity in all aspects of life.

## **Mentoring Programs for First-Year Students**

- **Jumpstart Mentoring Program**

Protégés are paired with a student mentor who supports their transition to college by engaging in discussion on a variety of topics and facilitating experiential activities with protégés to aid the student in developing a personalized academic success plan. Protégés are provided with life skills development, academic success strategies, and opportunities for diversity and leadership development. Mentors meet with participants on a bi-weekly basis and attend the student's learning community within their University 1301: Learning Frameworks course in the summer and/ or fall semester of their first year. In addition, protégés are required to complete a minimum of two hours of tutoring or study hours each week.

## **Student Government Association**

Our mission is to proactively represent and serve the collective interests of the student body by providing innovative means to address student concerns. In addition, we create supportive environments that enhance the quality of the student experience at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, while preserving traditions, and increasing spirit. By promoting honesty, integrity, and respect, the Student Government Association facilitates student success in their academic and community endeavors.

## **Student Organizations**

UTRGV has over 200 student organizations. There is a wide variety to choose from, academic-based groups to cultural, departmental, Greek organizations, honorary, political, recreational, service, special interest, and spiritual/ faith based organizations are available.

## **Campus Program Board (CPB)**

The Campus Program Board (CPB) is the major programming organization at UTRGV CPB is a student-run organization that strives to provide the campus with diverse programs of a cultural, social, educational, and recreational nature. Any registered student at UTRGV is encouraged to join to help actively plan, implement and evaluate programs. All Campus Program Board (CPB) general meetings are held once a month and are open to the student body, faculty, and staff.

## **JumpStart Mentoring Program**

### **1. About the program**

As a protégé in the Jumpstart program, you will be paired with a student mentor who will assist you in your transition into the university setting throughout your first year. Your mentor will help in answering any questions you may have, and introduce you to certain life skills development, academic success strategies, and opportunities for diversity and leadership development. Mentors will also aid in developing a personalized academic success plan that can help you reach your academic goals. In order to maximize your chance at success, the University asks that you meet with your mentor twice a month and enroll in a Jumpstart designated University 1301: Learning Frameworks course in the summer or fall semester. In addition, protégés are required to complete a minimum of two hours of tutoring or study hours each week.

### **2. Your JumpStart Mentor will....**

- Introduce you to campus life (educational and social activities)
- Help you meet other students
- Assist you to become familiar with campus resources
- Offer academic assistance with your classes
- Help you to find solutions to problems you may encounter
- Increase your leadership capabilities
- Assist you in identifying and achieving goals to have a more successful first year

### **3. JumpStart Mentor/Protégé Activities**

- Have weekly meetings (in Summer II)
- Have meetings twice a month (in the Fall Semester)
- Attend UNIV1301 Learning Framework together

### **4. Other Possible Mentor/Protégé Activities**

- Study sessions/Tutoring
- Goal Setting
  - Educational
  - Leadership
  - Career
  - Social
- Vaquero sporting events
- Movies at the Student Union
- Lunch/Coffee
- Fall/Spring organization recruitment fairs
- CPB-sponsored events
- University Theater Plays/Concerts
- Intramurals

## **Make the Best Out of Your Mentoring Program**

- Be open-minded and accept feedback.
- Be approachable.
- Have initiative.
- Meet with your mentor once a week (in Summer II).
- Meet with your mentor on twice each month (in the Fall).
- Respect mentor's time, if you ever have to cancel, do so in a timely manner.
- Attend tutoring for a minimum of 2 hours a week.
- Check email on a daily basis to stay informed.
- Attend JumpStart Summer Kickoff!
- Be organized.
- Prepare ideas to discuss.
- Work hard.
- Have patience.
- Always ask questions.
- Be supportive and positive.
- Be enthusiastic and optimistic.

## **Getting the Most Out of Your Monthly Meetings**

As part of the JumpStart Mentoring Program, meetings with your mentor are required. Why not make the most out of them? Remember, you are the driver of your own development.

If you are serious about learning from your mentor, your frame of mind will be: “I am here to learn, and I am open to new ideas. I am responsible for my own life and for making my own development and career path happen.”

Below, you will find tips on how to get the most from your meetings.

### **Tips for Protégés**

**1. Be prepared for your monthly meetings.** Model professionalism in your mentor meetings by being prompt, prepared, and maintaining a professional attitude. Preparation means coming to the conversation with a good idea of what you would like to focus on during the time together. Be punctual, well organized, and ready to give a brief update on recent progress and developments and to propose an agenda for the conversation today. You might even email the topics to the mentor ahead of time, if you think the mentor would appreciate it.

**2. Establish a mutually agreeable plan for monthly meetings, including how much time each of you need if a meeting has to be postponed.** Schedule the meetings on your calendar immediately and build in enough time around the meetings to prepare. By establishing a time commitment and ensuring that conversations start and end on time, you will demonstrate respect and responsibility to your mentor.

**3. Let your mentor know who you are.** Share your hopes, fears, ideas and goals openly, even if your mentor has quite a different background or style. Do share your life situation as well as your professional goals. Your mentor will then be able to put your situation in perspective.

**4. Focus on the relationship, rather than outcomes.** Your mentor’s role is not to pass your classes for you. Be realistic in your expectations and focus on building a relationship, not obtaining a particular kind of help from the mentor.

**5. Ask direct questions about what you most want to know.** Since the meetings are about you and are meant to help you, you are in a position to set up the conversation in a way that provides the most relevance and value for you. Let your mentor know what is most on your mind and what would be most helpful to you to talk about. If the conversation strays, just prompt the mentor to return to the original topic. You are responsible for ensuring that the conversation meets your needs.

**6. Practice learning from anyone.** In the past, people believed that a strong personal connection was essential to a mentoring relationship. However, mentoring serves many purposes and most don’t require a deep personal connection. Mentoring may be short-term, specific to a situation, focused on a particular area of development, or mentoring may turn out to be a life-long conversation. By recognizing that you can benefit from a variety of perspectives and styles –

even those quite different from your own – you will open yourself up to new ideas, valuable information, and a wide range of perspectives. You and your mentor don't have to have everything in common to have a productive exchange.

**7. Listen with an open mind.** Often, we turn off our listening when we believe that the perspective being offered isn't pertinent or that the person speaking is "different" from us. However, your mentor's experience – however distant in time or difference in major– will carry a nugget of learning for you. Challenge yourself to find the connection, rather than rule out the advice or perspective that you are hearing. Be ready to learn something new as a result of the conversation.

**8. Ask curious questions.** The most enjoyable monthly meetings flow with a natural back-and-forth dialogue. Relax and enjoy getting to know another person. Don't be shy about asking curious questions, such as, "What was that like for you?" or "How did you feel at the time?" Ask a question or two at the start of each meeting to get to know your mentor's experiences, such as, "I'd love to learn about your career path..." or "What do you know in hindsight that you could share with me about how you achieved professional success?"

**9. Take notes.** It's difficult to remember key points and commitments after the meeting. Keep a notebook and jot down ideas and insights during the meeting, and in between meetings. Do capture the commitments that you and your mentor make to each other so that you are able to follow up appropriately.

**10. Provide context and brief updates to help your mentor to understand you.** While the mentor doesn't need to know every single thing about you, it's helpful to both of you if you use the first meeting to get to know each other. At the beginning of each meeting, provide a brief update on progress since the last conversation.

**11. Follow up on agreements.** If you've committed to take a step as a result of the mentoring meeting, make sure you do so. It is discouraging for the mentor if you have made commitments that you don't act upon. You can also help the mentor to keep their commitments by sending a brief thank you note after a meeting that also lists any agreed-upon actions from either of you.

<http://www.ift.org/careercenter/ementoring/how-to-be-a-good-mentee.aspx>

## **Tips for Your Freshman Year**

### **Tip #1: Realize That Being a Student is a Full-Time Job**

You can't work hard only one day a week and earn acceptable grades. Look at college as a full-time job for this stage of your life. Focus on good academic habits, social skills, and balancing priorities. Now is the time to develop skills that will be expected after graduation in your selected career.

### **Tip #2: Go to Class**

New students often hear that in college you can go to class anytime you want. NOT TRUE. Some classes may seem less interesting than others, but college is not for entertainment. Experienced students often say that the more time they spend in class, the less time they need to study outside of class.

### **Tip #3: Learn the Campus**

One campus tour seldom provides the geographical knowledge necessary to get around a major university. Become an explorer and spend time locating where major academic and service departments are located. Don't become a senior who is still trying to find the library.

### **Tip #4: Know the University has Academic Rules**

No one memorizes all the rules—but everyone should have a copy available. Academic policies are usually found on the web page and almost always in the student handbook or catalog. Do not become one of those who says, “But nobody told me...”

### **Tip #5: Check out Rumors**

Rumors of all types fly across a campus. While almost all do have a particle of truth, most rumors are largely fiction. Check program or academic rumors with professors or advisors before changing anything related to class preparation or scheduling.

### **Tip #6: Budget Time**

Have a social life, but plan your study time properly. Do not begin to study for a test or write a paper the night before either is due. Read syllabi early for dates and note them on a calendar. Remember, sleep is also necessary, so budget for that as well.

### **Tip #7: Accept Constructive Criticism**

Keep in mind that when a professor critiques your work, he or she is doing you a favor. This is not personal; any work can be improved. The more “red lines” you see on a paper, the more time that the professor took to point out ways for you to improve. It is very frustrating to see a grade assigned to a paper or test and no comments or feedback as to how that grade was determined or how you can do better next time.

**Tip #8: Develop an Appreciation for the Mastery of Language**

No matter your major or discipline of interest, the single most important skill for life success is communication. Understand what language is acceptable and in what situations. How you communicate your skills and thoughts demonstrates the depth of your education. Even if your grades in technical courses get you that first job, it is your communication skills—usually in writing—that will get you that promotion.

**Tip #9: Become Part of University Life**

Becoming part of the campus community is just as important as going to class, writing papers, and taking exams. Don't join every group, but be selective and participate in activities that will offer balance to your life. Take advantage of the variety of university experiences.

**Tip #10: Get to Know Your Professors Before You Graduate**

Begin by targeting some faculty that you think are worth knowing before you graduate. Who are you most likely to have in more than one course? These are the professors who will evaluate your work, supply references for future career options or graduate school, and help you guide your intellectual development. Most faculty members are very approachable; don't let titles of "professor" or "doctor" frighten you. Those titles are their achievement, and these are the people who will help you attain the goals you have set for yourself.

**Tip #11: Don't Expect to Know Everything**

In high school, a good student is supposed to know all the answers and get everything right. But in college, you take on more difficult challenges and more demanding material. It is no longer possible to have "all the answers." Beyond college, that kind of high school perfection isn't even remotely possible. Learn to be patient with others and with yourself. Learn to function well in situations where 100% success isn't possible; seek out and value the big questions which are more important than answers.

**Tip #12: Be Patient with Yourself**

You will make errors or mistakes during your collegiate career. Please be assured that you are not DOOMED. When you realize, or even think, you have goofed, set out to correct it.

**Tip #13: Make Your Own Decisions**

Seeking advice is always nice. Trying to play it safe and avoid making decisions can lead to as many problems as making uninformed or risky choices. Weigh options and gather as much information as possible. Accept responsibility for your decisions.

**Tip #14: You are in School for Your Education, NOT Someone Else's**

If you enter college just to please everyone else, or even ANYONE else, you will end up pleasing no one. If you let others decide what you are going to study, where you attend college, and what you are going to be, you have ignored your responsibility to yourself.

**Tip #15: Know Your Academic Situation BEFORE the Withdraw Period**

If you have a question or concern about how you are doing in a class, go to the professor and discuss it. Keep yourself informed and record all grades received for each assignment. Read each syllabus carefully, and pay attention to the weight of all assignments as they determine the final grade in each course. Keep all grades updated.

**Tip #16: Learn to Communicate in the Classroom**

There are no dumb questions concerning subject matter. If you don't know or don't understand something, chances are several of your classmates don't either. Learning to ask questions is a skill. Develop it!

**Tip #17: Safeguard Your Physical and Mental Well-Being**

When exhausted, rest. Eat proper food and know when to relax. Plan exercise into your schedule. No one is going to thank you for working yourself into a frazzles or getting ill, let alone for staying up all night. It is amazing how many students demand their independence and simply do not know how to take care of themselves.

**Tip #18: Accept Responsibility for Yourself and Your Behavior**

If what you say and do is prompted by others, or if nothing is ever your fault because others "pushed" you, you cannot claim to be an adult, just an immature follower.

**Tip #19: It Does Not Help to Blame Others for Your Academic Problems**

If you are not doing well academically, get help. Very few students get through college without some assistance. If it takes you longer to learn material or even to graduate, so what? Remove distractions when studying. Go to review sessions and use tutoring services. GO TO CLASS and participate. Don't blame your professors, your roommate, or your teaching assistants. Get their help to eliminate the problems.

**Tip #20 Locate and Use All University Services**

The university DOES want you to succeed and will help you by means of all its services. These range from math and writing skills centers to personal counseling. Let the university serve you. After all, it is your school. You are paying for these services anyways, in the form of tuition and fees.

**Tip #21: Write Home**

It may sound silly but parents and family can prove to be the best support service. Families honestly want to know how you are doing. They may not be able to do more than listen, but that act alone is essential to your well-being. Siblings, grandparents, and neighborhood friends are in your corner and want you to succeed. Let them share in your new life.

P.S. E-mail works great!

# **Manage Your Work, Don't Let It Manage You:** **Tips for Managing Your Time and Getting Ahead**

## **Goals of Time Management**

- To be able to have control over your life – manage your time, don't let it manage you!
- To be healthier and happier (less stress).

## **Seven Suggestions for Effectively Managing Your Time**

### **1. Be Organized**

- Use time saving tools: appointment calendars, “to do” lists, e-mail, answering machines, file folders, etc.
- Have an organized workplace (don't waste time constantly looking for your work).
- Use your appointment calendar for everything, including listing study time.
- Use "to do" lists for both long-term and for each day/week.

### **2. Plan Ahead (Schedule it and it will happen!)**

- Determine how long your tasks will take (do this before agreeing to take on a task!)
- Consider whether any activities can be combined.
- Determine if big tasks can be broken down into smaller tasks that may be easier to schedule (such as studying for exams and visiting the library as part of an assignment to write a term paper).

### **3. Prioritize Your Tasks**

- Use an A-B-C rating system for items on your "to do" lists with A items being highest priority.
- Set goals for both the short term and long term as to what you want to accomplish.
- Look at all of your "to do's" to gauge the time requirement and whether additional resources will be needed to accomplish them (if yes, schedule time to obtain those resources). Don't postpone the small tasks (a sense of accomplishment is good and overlooked small tasks can become larger tasks.)

### **4. Avoid Overload**

- Include time for rest, relaxation, sleep, eating, exercise, and socializing in your schedule.
- Take short breaks during study and work periods.
- Don't put everything off until the last minute (for example, don't cram for exams).
- Learn to say "no" when appropriate and to negotiate better deadlines when appropriate.

## 5. Practice Effective Study Techniques

- Have an appropriate study environment.
- Split large tasks into more manageable tasks.
- Read for comprehension, rather than just to get to the end of the chapter.
- Be prepared to ask questions as they come up during study, rather than waiting until just before an exam.
- Do the most difficult work first, perhaps breaking it up into smaller easier tasks.
- Don't wait until the last minute to complete your projects.
- Read the syllabus as soon as you get it and note all due dates (and "milestone" times) on your calendar.
- Be a model student! (Be attentive and participative in class, and punctual, prepared, and eager to learn.)

## 6. Be Able to be Flexible

- The unexpected happens (sickness, car troubles, etc.); you need to be able to fit it into your schedule.
- Know how to rearrange your schedule when necessary (so it doesn't manage you – you manage it).
- Know who to ask for help when needed.

## 7. Have a Vision (Why are you doing all of this?)

- Don't forget the "big picture" – why are you doing the task – is it important to your long-term personal goals?
- Have and follow a personal mission statement (personal and career). (Are your activities ultimately helping you achieve your goals?)
- Know what is important to you. (What do you value most?)

San Jose State University  
Annette Nellen - 2000

Reprinted from [http://www.cob.sjsu.edu/nellen\\_a/TIMEMGMT.PDF](http://www.cob.sjsu.edu/nellen_a/TIMEMGMT.PDF)

*“This time, like all times, is a very good one,  
if we but know what to do with it.”*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson  
(American essayist and poet)

**PLANNING YOUR FALL 2014 SEMESTER AT UTPAI**

	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
7:00-8:00am					
8:00-9:00am					
9:00-10:00am					
10:00-11:00am					
1:00am-12:00pm					
12:00-1:00pm					
1:00-2:00pm					
2:00-3:00pm					
3:00-4:00pm					
4:00-5:00pm					
5:00-6:00pm					
6:00-7:00pm					
7:00-8:00pm					
8:00-9:00pm					
9:00-10:00pm					

## **Top 40 Study Strategies**

### **Time Management**

1. Start using a calendar, planner, or task list at the start of the semester.
2. Write down important dates for exams, assignments and other projects on a calendar.
3. Make a weekly or monthly schedule to get an overall picture of when you'll be busiest and when you have free time.
4. Make a task list to keep track of things you need to do on a daily basis.
5. Although some people like to use lots of tools to manage their time, it's not always necessary. Decide on one or two that will help you the most.
6. Use short breaks in your daily schedule (such as an hour between classes) wisely. Schedule appointments on campus, check email or BlackBoard, or review your class notes.
7. Break large tasks into smaller pieces that can be completed within a few hours (or even a few minutes).
8. Procrastination happens, but don't let it take over your life. Pay attention to what makes you procrastinate and try to avoid these triggers, especially during high stress times.
9. No one can - or wants to - study all the time! Plan your time to include doing things that you enjoy.
10. Be patient and flexible. If certain time management strategies don't work for you, try a different strategy.

### **Listening and Note-taking**

11. Go to class — there's no substitute for the real thing.
12. Find out how you'll be evaluated on the material from lectures. For example, are the lectures based on material from the textbook, or is the content entirely different?
13. Come prepared to class by bringing printed copies of slides or lecture notes.
14. Do assigned readings before the lecture in order to participate in class discussion, better follow the lecture, and ask meaningful questions.
15. Disconnect your internet connection in class or leave your laptop at home.
16. Listen actively by comparing what you hear in the lecture to what you learned in the last lecture, what you read in the textbook, or what you see on the slides.
17. Concentrate to get the most out of the lectures. Sit where you can hear and see everything you need to.
18. Organize your notes after the lecture by identifying main topics and key terms, underlining or using different colors for important points, and making diagrams or concept maps to illustrate relationships.
19. Compare your notes with a study partner's notes on a regular basis in order to fill in missing information and identify what you know and what's unclear.
20. Review your notes on a weekly basis to prepare in advance for exams.

## **Textbook Reading**

21. Find out how you'll be evaluated on your knowledge of the readings. For example, do you need to know the textbook inside out? Or is the text a supplement to the lectures?
22. Think carefully about reading strategies and techniques that will help you the most in each course. Skimming, scanning, and in-depth methods can all be good reading strategies, depending on the course.
23. Break long readings up into shorter, smaller chunks, depending on how long you can concentrate in that subject area. No one can read for hours at a time and remember details well.
24. Find a quiet, comfortable place to read. Your body associates your bed with sleeping, so it's probably not the best place!
25. Preview the reading by noting the subtitles and headings, looking at diagrams and skimming through the introduction and summary.
26. Reflect on the content as you read and take notes. How is the reading connected to the course lectures? In what way does it connect to the main ideas in the course?
27. Pay attention to your attention span. Take a quick break if you can't remember what you just read.
28. Summarize and take notes in your own words to help you understand and retain information. Don't rely on highlighting as your main method of note-taking.
29. If you tend to read the textbook after a lecture, review your lecture notes before you read, and don't take additional notes on the material already well explained in your lecture notes.
30. Review the notes from your readings on a regular basis to keep them fresh in your memory.

## **Exam Preparation**

31. Locate one or two good study places with few distractions or interruptions.
32. Review the course outline for information about what your professor expects you to learn in the course.
33. Review previous quizzes, assignments, papers, labs, etc... to pinpoint where you've had difficulty in the course. Make sure you understand the material since you may see it again in the next exam.
34. Learn by doing. Do practice questions based on old exams, or create and answer your own test questions.
35. Write practice exams under exam-like conditions (timed and with your books closed).
36. Study in small chunks of time when possible. Two-hour blocks with a 15-minute break work well for many people.
37. Study with a group if that works for you, but choose study partners who have the same general level of knowledge of course material and commitment to the course.
38. Keep a regular schedule. Be sure to eat right, get enough sleep, and take time to exercise.
39. During the exam, focus on what you do know rather than what you wish you had spent more time studying. Don't forget to breathe!
40. After the exam is over, follow up. See the instructor or TA to find out how you can improve for next time.

# **Goal Setting and Action Planning**

## **Types of Goals**

### **Educational**

- What are your present academic goals?
- What are your specific plans for meeting your academic goals?
- Is there a specific timeline you have for achieving your academic goals?
- How may I (the mentor) be of assistance in helping you (the protégé) fulfill your academic goals?

### **Leadership**

- What are your present leadership goals?
- What are your specific plans for meeting your leadership goals?
- Is there a specific timeline you have for achieving your leadership goals?
- How may I (the mentor) be of assistance in helping you (the protégé) fulfill your leadership goals?

### **Career**

- What are your present career goals?
- What are your specific plans for meeting your career goals?
- Is there a specific timeline you have for achieving your career goals?
- How may I (the mentor) be of assistance in helping you (the protégé) fulfill your career goals?

### **Social**

- What are your present social goals?
- What are your specific plans for meeting your social goals?
- Is there a specific timeline you have for achieving your social goals?
- How may I (the mentor) be of assistance in helping you (the protégé) fulfill your social goals?

**“Goals are as essential to success as air is to life.”  
-David Schwartz**

Circle one: Fall/Spring

Educational Goal:

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Target date for completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Leadership Goal:

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Target Date for completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Career Goal:

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Target date for completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Goal:

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Target date for completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: Fall/Spring

Educational Goal:

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What steps do you plan to take to accomplishing this goal?

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Leadership Goal:

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How will this help you grow as a leader?

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Social Goal:

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Priorities:

List your top 5 coming into college and then list 5 that you think will help make you the most successful.

1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____

Career Goal:

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Do these goals help you reach your career goal?

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## **UTRGV Academic Calendar 2015-2017**

### **Fall 2015**

Aug. 31 Classes begin  
Sept. 7 Labor Day  
Sept. 16 Census Day  
Nov. 18 Drop/Withdraw date  
Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday  
Dec. 10th Study day  
Dec. 11-17 Final Exams  
Dec. 19th Commencement

### **Spring 2016**

Jan. 18th MLK Day  
Jan. 19th Classes begin  
Feb. 3rd Census day  
March 14-18 Spring Break  
April 13th Drop/Withdrawal date  
May 5th Study day  
May 6-12 Final Exams  
May 14th Commencement

### **Summer 2016**

May 16th Mini-term begins  
May 17th Mini-term census day  
May 30th Memorial Day Holiday  
June 3rd Mini-term Final Exams  
June 6th Summer 1 begins  
June 9th Summer 1 census day  
July 1st Sum 1 Drop/Withdraw date  
July 12th Summer 1 final exams  
July 14th Summer 2 begins  
July 19th Summer 2 Census day  
Aug. 10th Sum 2 Drop/Withdraw date  
Aug. 19th Summer 2 Final Exams

### **Fall 2016**

Aug. 29 Classes begin  
Sept. 5 Labor Day  
Sept. 14 Census Day  
Nov. 16 Drop/Withdraw date  
Nov. 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday  
Dec. 8 Study Day  
Dec. 9-15 Final Exams  
Dec. 17th Commencement

### **Spring 2017**

Jan. 16th MLK Day Holiday  
Jan. 17th Classes Begin  
Feb. 1st Census Day  
March 13-17 Spring Break  
April 12th Drop/Withdrawal date  
May 4 Study Day  
May 5-11 Final Exams  
May 13th Commencement

### **Summer 2017**

May 15th Mini-term begins  
May 16th Mini-term Census  
May 29th Memorial Day Holiday  
June 2nd Mini-term Final Exams  
June 5th Summer 1 begins  
June 8th Summer 1 Census Day  
June 30th Sum 1 Drop/Withdraw date  
July 11th Summer 1 final exams  
July 13th Summer 2 begins  
July 18th Summer 2 Census Day  
Aug. 9th Sum 2 Drop/Withdraw date  
Aug. 18th Summer 2 Final Exams

## **About UTRGV**

The shared history of The University of Texas Pan American and The University of Texas at Brownsville goes back to 1927, when Edinburg College was founded. In 1973, Pan American opened a second campus in Brownsville, which later became an independent institution of The University of Texas System in 1991. Over the years, the missions and the identities of these great institutions have continually evolved to serve the communities of the Rio Grande Valley.

Now, the evolution and connection between these two institutions is coming full circle as UT Brownsville and UT Pan American are being established as a single, new university and medical school, with a single, new identity—The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

### **Degree Programs**

61 Bachelors  
57 Masters  
4 Doctorates  
2 Cooperative Doctoral Programs  
25 Certificate Programs  
4 Masters Accelerated Online Programs  
1 Physician Assistant Program

### **Official Colors**

Orange, Green, and Blue

### **Sports Programs**

Women: Volleyball, Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Tennis, Track, and Soccer.  
Men: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Tennis, Track, and Soccer,

## University Departments by College

### **College of Business and Entrepreneurship**

Business Administration Building (BUSA) 114-Edinburg

MAIN 2.504-Brownsville

Interim Dean: Dr. Mark Joseph Kroll

Phone: (956)-665-3311-Edinburg

Phone: (956)882-5828-Brownsville

- School of Accountancy
- Department of Information Systems
- Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration
- Department of Economics and Finance
- Department of Management
- Department of Marketing
- Department of International Business and Entrepreneurship

### **College of Education and P-16 Integration**

Education Complex (EDUC) 3.102-Edinburg

MAIN 2.200 C-Brownsville

Interim Dean: Dr. Laura Saenz

Phone: (956)665-3627-Edinburg

Phone: (956)882-5700-Brownsville

- Educator Preparation and Accountability
- Department of Bilingual and Literacy Studies
- Department of Counseling and Guidance
- Department of Human Development and School Services
- Department of Organization and School Leadership
- Department of Teaching and Learning
- Educational Technology Resource Center

### **College of Engineering and Computer Science**

Engineering Building (ENGR) 1.294 Edinburg

Life and Health Sciences Building (LHSB) 2.702 Brownsville

Interim Dean: Dr. Miguel Gonzalez

Phone: (956)-665-3510

Phone: (956) 882-6605

- Center for Manufacturing/TMAC
- Department of Civil Engineering
- Department of Computer Science
- Department of Electrical Engineering
- Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering
- Department of Mechanical Engineering

### **College of Fine Arts**

ARHU 334 Edinburg

Dean: Dr. Dahlia G. Guerra

Phone: (956)665-2175

- Creative Writing Program
- Dance Program
- Department of Theater
- School of Art
- School of Music

### **College of Health Affairs**

HSHW 2.230- Edinburg

BRHP 2.101- Brownsville

Interim Dean: Dr. Michael W. Lehker

Phone: (956)665-2291 Edinburg

Phone: (956)882-5000-Brownsville

- Cooperative Pharmacy Program
- Department of Communication Disorders
- Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Department of Health and Human Performance
- Department of Occupational Therapy
- Department of Physician Assistant
- Department of Social Work
- School of Nursing
- School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling

### **College of Liberal Arts**

SBS 234-Edinburg

MAIN 1.534-Brownsville

Dean: Walter R. Diaz Rodriguez

Phone: (956)665-3551-Edinburg

Phone: (956)882-7818 Brownsville

- Department of Communication
- Department of Criminal Justice
- Department of History
- Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies
- Department of Philosophy
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Psychological Science
- Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- Department of Writing and Language Studies
- School of Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Engagement

**College of Sciences**

Mathematics and General Classroom (MAGC) 2.316 Edinburg  
LHSB 2.202 Brownsville

Dean: Dr. Parwinder S. Grewal

Phone: (956)-665-2404 Edinburg

Phone: (956)882-6701 Brownsville

- Department of Biology
- Department of Chemistry
- Department of Mathematics and Statistical Science
- School of Multidisciplinary Sciences
- Math and Science Academy

# Campus Resources for Students

## Academics

### Academic Advisement Center (AAC)

Edinburg- Southwick Hall (SOUH) 101A

Brownsville- Main Bldg. 1.402

- Academic Advisement
- TSI Advisement
- Probation/Suspension Advisement
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)665-7120 Edinburg Campus
  - Phone: (956)882-7362 Brownsville Campus
  - Website: [www.utpa.edu/advisement](http://www.utpa.edu/advisement)
  - Mon-Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

### Assist

- <https://my.utrgv.edu/home>
- Course Registration
- DegreeWorks
- View transcript and check grades
- Verify financial aid and personal information
- Pay tuition and fees online
  - Website: [my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu)

### Course Catalogs and degree plans

- Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs
- View degree and class information
- University Policies and Procedures
  - Website: <https://apps.utrgv.edu/aa/files/UTRGV-Undergraduate-Degree-Plans.pdf>

### Guerra Honors Program

- Flexible, challenging, and innovative undergraduate curriculum
- Students of all majors are encouraged to apply
- Location: STAC 2.101 Edinburg
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-3386

### Office of Undergraduate Research and Service Learning

- Support, promote, and expand opportunities in experiential learning.
- Offer supplemental funding for undergraduates engaged in research
- Location: STAC 3.106 Edinburg
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-3461

### International Programs and Partnership

- International and multicultural awareness through international programs
- Location:
  - STAC 3.107 Edinburg
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-3572 Edinburg

### Learning Center (LC)

Free tutoring services:

- Math, Social Sciences & Modern Languages,
- Natural Sciences, History & Political Science

Learning Center-Edinburg

Learning Center-Brownsville Student Union 2.10

- Foreign Language Lab- 2.16
- Math/Natural Sciences- Calvary bldg. T-113

Supplemental Instruction

Contact Information:

- Phone: (956)-665-2585-Edinburg
- Phone: (956) 882-8208- Brownsville

Mon-Thurs: 8:30am-6:00pm

Fri: 8:30am-1:00pm

### Writing Center

University Library 3.206- Brownsville

STAC 3.119- Edinburg

- Reading and Writing Tutoring
- Contact Information
  - Phone: (956)-665-2538

## **Financial**

### Emergency Loans and Loan Collections

- Processing, awarding, and reporting funds
- Location:
  - MASS 3.102-Edinburg
  - Online
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)665-2191 Edinburg
  - Phone: (956)882-8202
  - Website: [utpa.edu/comptroller](http://utpa.edu/comptroller)
  - Mon-Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

### Payments and Collections

- Make tuition and university fee payments

- Make payments for parking permits and citations
- Location:
  - Student Services Building (SSBL) 1.145-Edinburg
  - MAIN 1.100-Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2715-Edinburg
  - Phone: (956) 882-8202-Brownsville
  - Mon-Thurs: 8:00am-6:00pm
  - Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

### Scholarships Office

- Connect students with multiple scholarship resources
- Location:
  - Student Services Building (SSBL) 1.169-Edinburg
  - MAIN 1.100-Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2935-Edinburg
  - Phone: (956)882-8277 Brownsville
  - Mon-Thurs: 8:00am-6:00pm
  - Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

### Student Financial Services

- Financial Aid Support
- FAFSA Express Lab
- Loan and Work Study Information
- Location:
  - Temporarily for the Summer at STAC 1.112 A-Edinburg
  - Student Services Building (SSBL) 1.192 Edinburg
  - MAIN 1.101 Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)665-2501 Edinburg
  - Phone: (956)882-8277 Brownsville
  - Mon-Thurs: 8:00am-6:00pm Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

## **Health**

### Counseling & Psychological Services (CaPS)

- Counseling on a variety of issues
- Substance Abuse Services
- Location:
  - University Center (UC) 109-Edinburg
  - Cortez Hall 237-Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2574-Edinburg
  - Phone: (956)882-3896-Brownsville

- Mon-Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

#### Student Accessibility Services

- Provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities
- Extended test time, note-takers, assistive technology, etc.
- Location:
  - University Center (UC) 108-Edinburg
  - Cortez Hall 129-Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-7005
  - Phone: (956) 882-7372
  - Mon-Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

#### Student Health Services

- Free Clinical Visits
- Student Immunization and Lab Tests
- Pharmacy (Prescriptions)
- Student Insurance
- Bacchus Network
- Location:
  - South of the Wellness & Recreation Sports Complex-Edinburg
  - Cortez Hall 237-Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)665-2511-Edinburg
  - Phone: (956)882-3896-Brownsville
  - Mon-Thurs: 8:00am-7:00pm
  - Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

## **Life and Recreation**

#### Dean of Students

- Implement student-centered programs, services, practices, etc.
- Provide students with a holistic college experience
- Location:
  - University Center (UC) 323 Edinburg
  - Cortez Hall 205 Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2260
  - Phone: (956)882-5140
  - Website: [www.utpa.edu/dos](http://www.utpa.edu/dos)
  - Mon-Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

### Student Involvement

- Student Organization Information
- Student Government Association
- Greek Life
- University Program Board (UPB)
- Mentoring Programs for First Year Students
- LeaderShape
- Location:
  - University Center (UC) 205 Edinburg
  - Student Union (SU) 1.28 Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2660 Edinburg
  - Mon-Thurs: 8:00am-6:00pm
  - Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

### Student Rights and Responsibilities

- Assistance with student grievances
- Enforcement of all policies pertaining to students
  - Sexual harassment and misconduct (Title IX)
  - Academic integrity
  - Drug and alcohol usage
- Vaquero Care's Report It
- Location:
  - University Center 315 Edinburg
  - Cortez Hall 205 Brownsville
  - Phone: (956) 665-5375
  - [www.utrgv.edu/srr](http://www.utrgv.edu/srr)
  - [www.utrgv.edu/reportit](http://www.utrgv.edu/reportit)
  - Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

### Residence Life

- Housing Reservations (Residence Halls & Bronc Village)
- Housing Information
- Location:
  - University Center (UC) 305 Edinburg
  - Casa Bella Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-3439 Edinburg
  - Phone: (956)882-7191
  - <https://my.utrgv.edu/home>
  - Mon-Thurs: 8:00am-6:00pm Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

### Student Union

- Food Court
- Game room

- Study rooms
- Theatre
- Location: Student Union
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-7989
  - Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-10:00pm Fri: 7:30am-6:00pm  
Sat: 10:00am-2:00pm  
Sun: 4:00pm-10:00pm

Wellness and Recreational Sports Complex/Intramurals

- Free weights and exercise machines
- Indoor walking/running track
- Group Exercises
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Outdoor pool and activity area
- Intramural Sports
- Location:
  - Wellness & Recreation Sports Complex (WRSC) Edinburg
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-7808 Edinburg
  - Mon-Thurs: 6:00am-11:00pm  
Fri: 6:00am-9:00pm  
Sat: 8:00am-8:00pm  
Sun: 12:00pm-7:00pm

## Student Services

### Academic Services Building (IT)

- Phone & Email Support
- Computer Labs
- Print Services
- Enhance, Expand, and Broaden Technology Options
- Location:
  - Academic Services Building (ACSB) 1.102 Edinburg
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2020 Edinburg
  - Mon-Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

### Admissions and New Student Services

- Admission Deadlines
- UTPA Catalog Information
- Freshman Orientation
- Location:
  - Visitors Center (SSVC) 1.124 Edinburg
  - Main 1.100 Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2999 Edinburg
  - Phone: (956) 882-8295 Brownsville
  - Mon-Thurs: 8:00am-6:00pm
  - Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

### Career Center

- Job Preparation Seminars
- Student Employment Opportunities
- Career Information
- Internship Opportunities
- Location:
  - Student Services Building (SSBL) 2.101-Edinburg
  - Cortez Hall 129-Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956) 665-2243
  - Phone: (956) 882-5627
  - Mon-Thurs: 8:00am-6:00pm
  - Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm-Edinburg
  - Mon-Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm-Brownsville

### Library

- Research Needs: Databases, Periodicals, Reserve Center
- Group Study Rooms
- Inter Library Loans

- Laptops, Printers, Scanners, Media, etc.
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2005 Edinburg
  - Phone: (956) 882-8221 Brownsville
  - Edinburg Campus: Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-12:00am  
 Fri: 7:30am-7:00pm Sat: 11:00am-8:00pm  
 Sun: 1:00pm-12:00am
  - Brownsville Campus: Monday - Thursday: 7:30am - 10:00pm  
 Friday: 7:30am - 5:00pm Saturday: 8:00am - 5:00pm  
 Sunday: 12:00pm - 9:00pm

#### Office of the Registrar

- Course Add or Drops
- Registration
- Transcript Research
- Graduation Application Process
- Location:
  - Temporarily for the Summer at STAC 1.112 A-Edinburg
  - Student Services Building (SSBL) 1.150
  - MAIN 1.101 Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2481 Edinburg
  - Phone: (956) 882-8254 Brownsville
  - Mon-Thurs: 8:00am-6:00pm Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

#### University Bookstore

- Buy and Sell Back Books
- Other School Supplies - Scantrons, etc.
- Location:
  - Library Lobby
  - 83 Fort Brown
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-2252
  - Phone: (956) 882-8249
  - Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-5:30pm  
 Fri: 7:30am-5:00pm

#### University Police Department

- Lost and Found Information
- Parking and Traffic Services
- Citations Appeals
- Location:
  - Academic Support Facilities Complex (ACSB) 1.201 Edinburg
  - Casa Vega 2651 FJRM Ave Brownsville

- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-7151 (On-Campus Help ext. 4357) Edinburg
  - Phone: (956) 882-8232 (Emergency 882-2222) Brownsville

#### High School to University Programs and Testing

- High School to University Services
- THEA, Accuplacer, CLEP, WebCAPE, GRE
- Location:
  - Community Engagement and Student Success (CESS) 1.101  
1407 E. Freddy Gonzalez Drive Edinburg, Texas 78539
  - Resaca Village 1601 E Price Rd. Suite E. Brownsville, Texas 78520
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-7570
  - Phone: (956)882-8875
  - Mon-Fri: 8:00am-5:00pm

#### Veteran Services Center

- Serving veterans, guardsmen, reservist, and their dependents
- Assist students receiving military educational benefits
- Peer support, multipurpose room-UC 307 Edinburg
- Location:
  - University Center (UC) 113-Edinburg
  - MAIN 1.101-Brownsville
- Contact Information:
  - Phone: (956)-665-7934
  - Phone: (956)882-8980
  - Email: [veterans1@utpa.edu](mailto:veterans1@utpa.edu)
  - Email: [veteransservices@utb.edu](mailto:veteransservices@utb.edu)