



Promoting and Achieving Student Success: Strategies, Initiatives, and Outcomes

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WE WILL BUILD OUR FUTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY



One University with Multiple Campuses Distributed Throughout the RGV



Rio Grande Valley

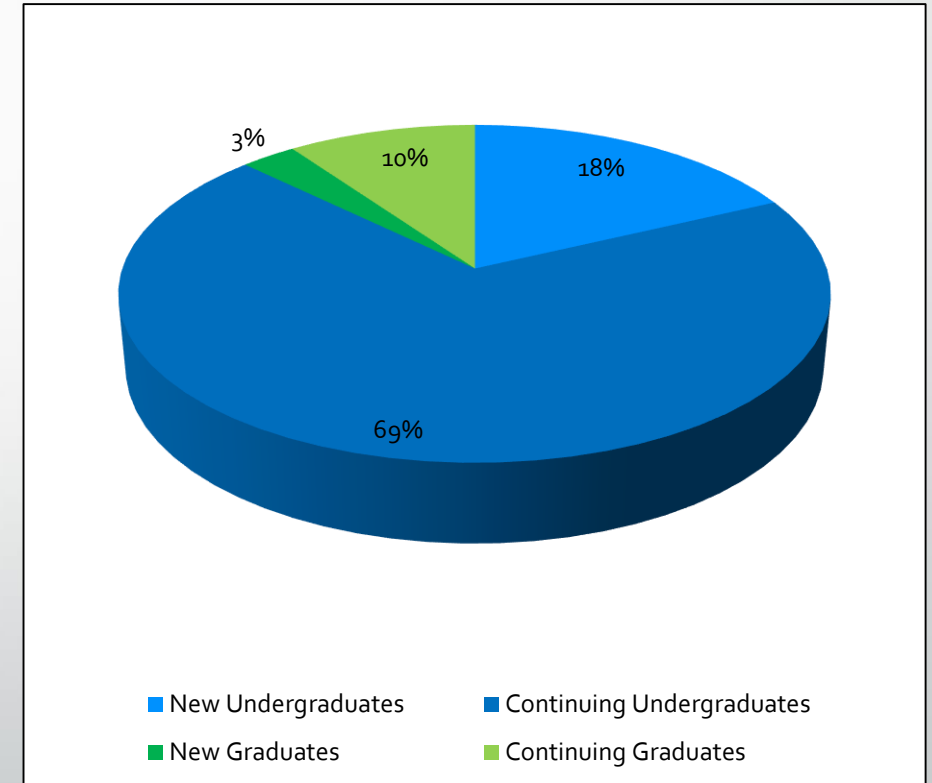
- Predominantly Hispanic/Latino population
- Significant population growth
- High levels of poverty
- Median family income: \$37,500
- Access to higher education is key to the success of our students, their families, and the social and economic prosperity of the Rio Grande Valley

Student Enrollment (8/25/15)

- **Student Headcount, Fall 2015**

- Undergraduates – 25,120
 - New Undergraduates – 5,219
 - Continuing Undergraduates – 19,901
- Graduates – 3,682
 - New Graduates – 835
 - Continuing Graduates -2,847

- **Total Enrollment - 28,802**



Student Characteristics

- 89% Hispanic/Latino
- 87% Undergraduate
- 65% Full-time
- 57% Female
- 78% on Pell Grants
- 61% first-generation



Our Priorities

- Student Success
- Educational Opportunities
- Medical Education
- Research on the Issues Impacting the RGV



Promoting Student Success: A Holistic Approach

- Developing integrated, university-wide, initiatives centered on student success
- Addressing critical needs of first-generation students
- Active engagement and ongoing participation of the University community
- Institutional resources

Examples of UTRGV Student Success Initiatives

Supporting academic preparedness and “cultural transition” to the University

- Jumpstart Summer Bridge Program
 - UCentral
 - UNIV 1301 Learning Framework freshman seminar
 - Advising as teaching
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Supporting academic performance

- Peer-to-Peer Instruction
 - Early Warning System
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Supporting academic progress

- Innovative tuition plan
 - DegreeWorks: Online degree auditing
 - Centralized advising with outreach facilitated by EAB Campus
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Supporting co-curricular success

- Experiential learning transcript
 - Academic maps
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Supporting Academic Preparedness: Jumpstart Summer Bridge

- Required for all admitted freshmen - not yet college ready
- Five-week summer session
- Students enroll in 3-6 hours of coursework, including a combination of developmental English and math (pre-statistics or pre-algebra), and a freshman seminar course (UNIV 1301).
- Includes motivated and invested faculty, peer mentors for all students, and scholarship options. Understanding the “hidden curriculum”
- College Ready at the end of Summer 2015:
 - **87%** English
 - **83%** Math/Algebra pathway
 - **73%** Math/Statistics pathway



Smoothing Bureaucratic Processes: UCentral

- Student Service Center *Ucentral*, launched in August 2015
- Provides a one-stop center to handle all Registrar, Financial Aid, and Admissions oriented issues. Bursar is co-located.
- Student-centered case management approach so students are not sent from one office to another when complex issues are interrelated
- Includes a queuing system that minimizes student waiting
- Building intuitive student processes and a more interactive and powerful online portal



Supporting Academic Performance: Peer-to-Peer Instruction

- Supplemental Instruction
 - Fall 2015: 39 courses (110 sections) with 11,591 students
 - Historically, SI students earn a .6 to .9 higher final letter grade
 - Example:
 - CHEM II students who attended SI sessions significantly outperformed those who did not (49% vs 33% passing rate);
 - Students attending 5-14 sessions performed a letter grade above those attending 1-4 sessions
 - Concerns: Students who need the most help often do not participate

Supporting Academic Performance: Peer-to-Peer Instruction



- Link2Success
 - Peer instruction embedded in courses with mandatory attendance requirements
 - Historical tests at UTB show an increase in pass rates **for all students in the treated courses** (not just students who voluntarily attended) of up to **20%**
 - Developing interventions for Fall 2016 based on this model for CHEM I and II and College Algebra

Supporting Academic Progress: Advising and EAB Campus

- Analyzed 10 years of data from UTPA and UTB students, identifying success markers and major change patterns
- Now working to identify students who have missed success markers and proactively reach out to them
- Also using EAB Campus (Launched Feb. 2016) to create and run advising campaigns reaching out to student populations of concern in a targeted fashion. Example: Sophomore students
 - Historical retention from 2nd to 3rd year drops from 77% to 66.4%
 - Targeted campaign to 2,800 2nd year students to help them explore engaged learning outside the classroom and academic program connections to career ambitions
 - In the first 24 hours of campaign, 279 students responded

Supporting Co-Curricular Success: Experiential Learning Transcript



- Supported by a Department of Education Developing Hispanic Institutions grant (\$3.1 million)
- To build institutional capacity to support experiential learning activities including faculty development and student support structures
- Focused on service learning, undergraduate research, academic internships, and development of an experiences transcript as the final piece (in progress)
- Early internal data shows **gains of 5% in one-year retention** for students involved in service learning and **up to 10% for** students involved in undergraduate research
- Experiences transcript will help
 - Guide students to learning experiences that will be useful to them throughout their lives
 - Incentivize both faculty and students to participate in those activities and report them institutionally

Supporting Academic Progress: Innovative Tuition Plan

- Tuition and fees were restructured by a task force of UTRGV staff and prospective students focusing on:
 - **Transparency** – Eliminated many fees
 - **Predictability** – Guaranteed for four years
 - **Incentivization** – Capped at 12 hours. Enrollment at 15 hours gives student **one free class** every semester to encourage progress to graduation
 - **Affordability** – One of the lowest in the country, emphasizing need-based aid

Supporting Co-Curricular Success: Academic Maps

- Academic maps are in development that combine curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities to help students plot a successful trajectory through their undergraduate experiences
- May be particularly useful for first-generation students as they move through the transition into university and as they transition from university to career
- Kudos to Georgia State University

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN
MAJOR MAP - PSYCHOLOGY Degrees: B.A. in Psychology • B.S. in Psychology

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Graduation & Beyond	
Assess in Mixtures Classes	Take PSY 1310 to evaluate your interest in the major. Review the Psychology B.A. and B.S. degree requirements. Ask, talk to your advisor.	Finish your core Math requirements to prepare for PSY 2401 .	Take PSY 2401 (Psychological Statistics) early in the year. Don't forget PSY 2025 and 2100 (Research Methods and Tests and Measurements).	Complete your major and minor requirements. Remember your final term at least 15 academic hours (3300-4000) need to graduate.		
Get Graduation Advice	Meet with an advisor at the University Academic Advisement Center within the first half of each semester. www.utpa.edu/undergrad/academic . Ask about course patterns, classes to take, and any affiliates you're having with classes. Also, track your requirements and progress on DegreeWorks.	Meet with a sophomore advisor at the SAC Advisement Center. Don't forget SAC. Also, keep track of your requirements and progress on DegreeWorks.	Meet with your assigned faculty advisor from Psychology each semester. Also keep track of your requirements and your progress on DegreeWorks.	Meet with your assigned faculty advisor from Psychology each semester. Apply for graduation by the university deadline, about 1-1.5 semesters in advance.		
Apply What You Learn	Explore assisting a faculty member on research or service projects throughout your college career at the Office of Undergraduate Research and Service Learning. www.utpa.edu/office .	Consider ways to get involved in the community through research or service learning experiences. Visit www.utpa.edu/office to learn more.	Start thinking about internships. Start a profile on Intern Career Connect and visit www.utpa.edu/office for more.	Consider presenting your research at an conference or at a state or national psychology conference.		Science Careers Forensic Psychology, Social Policy, Human Factors, Education Teacher (through an alternative certification program), Professor, Administrator
Connect with Peers	Find organizations and events that fit with your interests at Branch Link utpa.edu/office or the Office of Student Involvement www.utpa.edu/office .	Keep up with departmental events on the department Facebook page "UTPA Psychology Programs". Join the Psychology club, open to all majors.	When you're finished classes in psychology, consider joining Psi Chi, the honor society for psychology majors.	Join the American Psychological Association or Psi Chi. Psi Chi is a psychology organization to connect with the psychology community.		Human Services Coordinator, Adoptions, Mental Health Services, Program Development Officer, Psychiatric, Most therapy positions require a Master's degree or higher.
Prepare for Life After Graduation	Talk with your academic advisor about your career options. Link into the Student Employment Program at Career Services.	Visit Career Services to talk about careers after graduation and how you can best prepare.	All these 4 sessions sponsored by Career Services, the Psychology Club, and Psi Chi on careers and graduate school options.	If you're considering graduate or professional school, take the appropriate examination (such as the GRE for graduate programs in psychology at UTPA). Visit Career Services for job fairs, resume, and interviewing help.		Public Relations Research, Programming, Writing and Editing, Special Events, Fundraising, Community Relations, Advertising, Creative, Media, Account Services, Market Research, Retail, Management, Sales

Department contact information: Department of Psychology • 3363 200 • (956) 955-3023 • www.utpa.edu/psychology For additional career information visit UTPA Career Services www.utpa.edu/careerservices

STEP Grant



\$1.66M NSF grant will help boost graduation rates in engineering & science



Biomedical Program

- Competency-Based like program
- Accelerated, Fast-Paced Mini-Courses
- Embedded tutoring was identified as most appropriate academic support model
- Quantitative & qualitative data revealed students were not taking advantage of additional tutoring support
- It was decided that, in the 2nd semester, embedded tutors would be placed in lectures, coaching sessions, team-based learning time, and in the labs
- Data on impact will be collected, which will generate a report with recommendations to determine what other (if any) modifications should be made to this customized academic support model

○ <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/higher-ed-beta/college-app-changed-my-life>

Strategic Planning with a Focus on Student Success

- Student success as a core institutional priority
- Develop systematic and holistic initiatives focusing on student success
- Establish benchmarks that will guide us and allow us to determine progress and success of initiatives, especially focusing on:
 - Retention rates
 - Graduation rates
 - Credits per semester
 - Years to graduation
 - Credits completed at time of graduation
 - Participation in experiential learning initiatives (e.g., undergraduate research, service learning, internships, study abroad, etc.)
 - GPA

Strategic Planning: Starting the Conversation with Data

	Where We Are	Where We Want to Be **
1 st Year Retention*	76%	↑
2 nd Year Retention*	63%	↑
3 rd Year Retention*	55%	↑
4 Year Graduation Rate	21%	↑
6 Year Graduation Rate	42.4%	↑
UG SCH per Semester	12.88	↑
Years to Graduate	5.2	↓
Credits to Completion	142	↓

* Data provided for the latest cohort available

** TBD in Consultation with SPC and UTRGV President

Muchas Gracias

