

COMMENCEMENT



FALL
20
19

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

In April, the UTRGV chess team defeated Harvard and other universities to claim its second-straight Final Four of College Chess in New York City.



FIRST-CLASS UNIVERSITY

UTRGV recently was ranked the fourth-best college in Texas behind UT Austin, Rice, and Texas A&M by BestColleges.com.

STUDENT SUCCESS

UTRGV is first among all Texas universities for awarding the most undergraduate and graduate degrees to Hispanics.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This Spring, we will celebrate 18 years of Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology (HESTEC), which was named a “Bright Spot in Hispanic Education” by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.



UTRGV: A University to Unite, Serve & Transform the Rio Grande Valley

At The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), Student Success is at the center of everything we do. Our goal is not only to ensure that we graduate students, but that they graduate with a strong foundation to embark on careers — and the rest of life.

Nothing embodies this achievement of success more than our commencement ceremonies. Here, students come together with classmates, faculty, family, and friends to celebrate the completion of their academic journey. That said, congratulations to the Class of 2019!

By choosing to pursue a degree at UTRGV, this cohort decided to invest in their future — developmentally and financially. A university degree continues to provide great value and UTRGV is at the top of its class. Nationally recognized by Washington Monthly as one of the best universities to make this investment, UTRGV currently ranks:

- 1st among all Texas Universities for Social Mobility
- 1st for the performance of our first-generation students
- 1st among “Best Bang for the Buck” Public Universities in the South

We didn't stop there. In September, we announced the UTRGV Tuition Advantage Grant — an expansive program that will fully cover tuition and mandatory fees for qualifying students, starting in Fall 2020. This exciting new program will afford eligible students with household incomes of \$75,000 or less with an opportunity to obtain a world-class UTRGV education without having to mortgage their future.

This is an exciting time to be at UTRGV as our footprint throughout the Rio Grande Valley continues to evolve. With the construction of new buildings, the expansion of academic programs, and the life-changing healthcare provided by our School of Medicine and Division of Health Affairs, we strive to be The Valley's University.

Through it all, we remain focused on Student Success and ensuring all who come through our doors leave well prepared for the next chapter of their journey.

Guy Bailey

Guy Bailey, President
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

UTRGV's School of Medicine currently has 210 medical students; 202 residents it sponsors in 13 GME programs; 55 Ph.D. scientists; 120 primary and specialty faculty; and 260 community faculty throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

UTRGV has received more than \$115 million in private fundraising, including:

- \$15 million from Robert C. Vackar to support the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship.
- \$15 million from the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation to create the UTRGV Institute for Neuroscience.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Five new facilities opened since Fall 2018, including the STARGATE Technology Center at Boca Chica Beach.



ORDER OF EXERCISES

Pre-Processional	UTRGV Mariachi Aztlán, Francisco Loera, M.A., Director
Processional	UTRGV Wind Symphony, Saul Torres, D.M.A., Director
Posting of the Colors	UTRGV Army ROTC
National Anthem	UTRGV School of Music Students
Welcome and Introduction of Guests	
Parwinder Grewal, Ph.D.	Executive Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development
John Krouse, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.	Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean, School of Medicine
Patricia Alvarez McHatton, Ph.D.	Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Success and P-16 Integration
Presidential Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Dr. Guy Bailey, President
Keynote Speaker	Texas Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., District 27, Harlingen Ceremony
Introduction of Academic Deans	
Presentation of Candidates for Doctoral, Master’s and Baccalaureate Degrees	
Certification of Doctoral, Master’s and Baccalaureate Degrees	
Conferral of Doctoral, Master’s and Baccalaureate Degrees	
Introduction of the Bell Ringers	
Ringing of the Bell	Outstanding Graduates Selected for this Honor
Friday, 9 a.m.	Viviana Garza & Yvonne Rodriguez
Friday, 12 p.m.	Carlos Escobedo & Lessly Caraveo
Friday, 3 p.m.	Gabriela Azuara & Teresita de Jesus Silguero
Saturday, 9 a.m.	Amanda Aguilar & Sheyda Galindo Bujanos
Saturday, 1 p.m.	Luis Castillo Vela & Ashaley Zapata
Saturday, 5 p.m.	Irma Dennise Hernandez & Lisa Garza
Concluding Remarks	
Alma Mater	UTRGV School of Music Students
Recessional	UTRGV Wind Symphony, Saul Torres, D.M.A., Director UTRGV Mariachi Aztlán, Francisco Loera, M.A., Director

ANNOUNCING THE CANDIDATES

Friday, 9 a.m., 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.	Carlo Tamayo, M.A., Associate Director of Outreach
Saturday, 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.	Paul Renaud, M.B.A., Program Specialist for School of Medicine Education and Academic Affairs

GRAND MARSHALS

Friday, December 13, 2019	
9 a.m.	Raquel Estrada, MLIS, Faculty Senate Representative
12 p.m.	Volker Quetschke, Ph.D., Faculty Senate President
3 p.m.	Kip Austin Hinton, M.A., Ph.D., Faculty Senate Representative
Saturday, December 14, 2019	
9 a.m.	Melinda Rodriguez, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, Faculty Senate Representative
1 p.m.	Sandra Atkins, M.Ed., Faculty Senate Representative
5 p.m.	Cynthia Paccacerqua, M.A., Ph.D., Faculty Senate Representative

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Janna Arney, Ph.D.	Deputy President
Rick Anderson, M.B.A.	Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration
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Parwinder Grewal, Ph.D.	Executive Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development
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John Krouse, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.	Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean, School of Medicine
Patricia Alvarez McHatton, Ph.D.	Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Success and P-16 Integration
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Veronica Gonzales-Villarreal, J.D.	Vice President for Governmental and Community Relations

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Steven D. Block, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Fine Arts
Walter Diaz, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Liberal Arts
John M. Gonzalez, Ph.D.	Interim Dean, School of Social Work
Vivian Incera, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Sciences
Michael Lehker, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Health Professions
Lance Nail, Ph.D.	Dean, Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship
Ala Qubbaj, Ph.D.	Dean, College of Engineering and Computer Science
Sharon Radzysinski, Ph.D., J.D., C.N.S., R.N.	Dean, School of Nursing
Alma D. Rodriguez, Ed.D.	Dean, College of Education and P-16 Integration

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Cazares Alejandro Garcilazo Giselle L. Martinez Rex Rivas Norma E. Trevino Medrano
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Bachelor of Business Administration

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Bachelor of Science

Emilio J. Flores Jesus Alonso Servin





Doctor of Education

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Master of Arts

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Master of Education

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Evana Zamora

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Deyanira Marin CL
Claudia A. Martinez
Dalia B. Martinez CL
Flora Griselda Martinez MCL
Griselda Martinez
Maria F. Medellin
Teresa Medina
Amanda D. Medrano
Veronica Mejia
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Karla A. Mendez
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Marilu G. Mendoza CL
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Rebecca C. Oregon
Cassandra Olivarez CL

Emmely Olvera
Norma Nereida Ortega CL
Harem A. Pena MCL
Lesley L. Pena
Mariana Pena
Mikaela D. Pena
Nelsa P. Pena
Alejandra Perez
Evelyn J. Perez
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Loriza E. Perez
Mikalla Perez
Selina Perez CL
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Roxana A. Pesina
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Nora Yazmin Ramirez MCL
Karla J. Rangel

Diana L. Reyna MCL
Jazmin Reyna
Karely A. Rios
Kassandra Rios
Reynaldo Rios IV MCL
Denisse A. Rivera
Diana Abigail Rivera
Alemly Rodriguez
Brandi R. Rodriguez MCL
Clarissa Rodriguez SCL
Cristal I. Rodriguez SCL
Eric B. Rodriguez CL
Jamelly Rodriguez
Judith A. Rodriguez
Mayra E. Rodriguez
Nadia Rodriguez MCL
Valerie L. Rodriguez CL
Crystal Rojas
Leslie Yaret Rojas CL
Luis Gerardo Romero MCL
Autumn N. Ruiz
Nikolai C. Sacurom
Adry Salazar

Jorge A. Salazar
Maria Del Carmen Salazar MCL
Diana L. Saldana
Jackelinne Salinas
Laura L. Salinas MCL
Valeria Salinas CL
Yaaresi S. Salinas
Yannira Salinas Tovar
Marisol Sanchez
Samantha Marie Sanchez MCL
Mariela Santamaria MCL
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Priscilla M. Velasco
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Bachelor of Science

Cassandra J. Arevalo
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Abril Huerta CL
Kimberly K. Scobey

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Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

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Sofia Elda Cano CL
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Lisa M. Cantu
Lucero Cantu MCL
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Yared Carlos MCL
Jasmine Carreon CL
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Naila G. Carrizales Andaverde
Acacia G. Cardenas MCL
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Caleb J. Castaneda CL
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Giovanna Cazares
Efrain Celedon
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Cynthia Cortina
Crystal De La Fuente

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Yuliana K. Delacruz CL
Macie E. Duran SCL
Kayla L. Escamilla
Kimberly Monique
Escobedo CL
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Maria C. Esquivel
Michelle Estrada MCL
Analy Flores MCL
Joanna Flores
Koral Y. Flores
Rosalinda Flores
Roxanne D. Flores CL
Ana Teresa Flores
Berazaluze SCL
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Sandra Garcia
Valeria Garcia SCL
Yulissa Garcia CL
Zaira Garcia CL
Antonia Garza MCL
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Rene Rolando Guajardo
Melissa Gudino
Monica Gudino
Alana M. Guerra

Laura F. Guevara Garza
Kevin P. Gutierrez SCL
Sonya Patricia Gutierrez CL
Dalia I. Guzman MCL
Alicia Hernandez
Bianca A. Hernandez CL
Michelle C. Hernandez CL
Ruby Hernandez SCL
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Marilyn E. Herrera Jaimez
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Jacklynn S. Kiefer
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Valeria Lara
Nahari Y. Leija SCL
Camila Lopez
Johana Marely Lopez SCL
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Yirarda Militza Lopez CL
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Master of Science

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Andrew Y. Chen
Adolfo Gonzalez III
Anthony A. Meza
Angelica M. Neira
David A. Parra
Arlynn Rodriguez
Humberto Saenz
Francisco Saldivar Jr.

Master of Science in Engineering

Abram Alaniz
Lucas T. Atkins
Jacob Nathaniel Bensen
Dulce C. Capitanachi
Javier E. Castillo
Chu-Wen Cheng
Jesus V. Gonzalez
Jose A. Gonzalez Jr.
Adrian Guerrero
Kristian N. Hernandez
Joseph Michael Montalvo
Christina Y. Navarro
Andres Ochoa
Erik G. Ramirez
Mauricio Rodriguez
Orlando Rodriguez
Simon Vasquez III

Master of Science in Information Technology

Magaly Cantu
Julio Johnson Jr.
Daniel Abisai Robledo

Bachelor of Science

Angel D. Albino
Ruben Arizpe Jr.
Samantha A. Avila SCL
Jessica A. Barrera
Genesis Cuellar Vega CL
Juan Isaac Enriquez
Hector A. Escalante Mateos
Aminta M. Flores CL
Price A. Forshage
Arleene C. Garcia
Miranda N. Garcia
Allison M. Gutierrez
Juan D. Hernandez Cervantes
Luis Brando Hernandez
Pena MCL
Christopher Hinojosa CL
Darien U. Iracheta
Gabino Lozano
Juan E. Martinez
Luther Medina III
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Dalia Orozco MCL
Rudy R. Palomares
Edwin Pena
Daniela Ramos Morales CL
Julio C. Rodriguez
Adriana Rosas
Fabian E. Rosas Cruz
Carlos Roguera Sanchez
Grecia Sanchez MCL †
Luis A. Salinas Jr.
Juan J. Torres
Jose E. Trujillo Rodriguez
Denise Vasquez
Ahmed Zaky
Juan N. Zamora
Jesus Zamudio †

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering

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Oscar Alvarez III
Emmanuel Camarillo
Abner Campos Jr.
Antonio R. De La Garza CL
Reynaldo De Leo Jr. SCL
Saul Garcia Jr.
Sergio Gonzalez Jr. CL
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Arturo Hinojosa
Juan A. Hurtado Jr.
Amanda M. Medina
Raul N. Pena
Omar D. Rodriguez MCL
Roland J. Sanchez
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Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

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Juan C. Aguilar
Gabriel Aguinaga Jr. SCL
Jose Braulio Balanza
Martinez SCL
Robin P. Belo
Jamila V. Bunagan CL
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Genaro Cardenas Jr.
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Cesar Eduardo Davila
Hernandez CL
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Alissa M. Flores CL
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Jorge E. Gonzalez MCL
Melissa Gonzalez
Gerardo Guerrero Jr.
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Lucas Dominic Hall SCL
Gabriel Jacob
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Connor C. Marble MCL
Cynthia Y. Marquez
Emmanuel Marquez
Gabriel R. Mata
Ruby Mendoza
Sergio Hugo Nunez
Carmen N. Ortiz
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Leonel Pena
Manuel Perez
Manuel Recendiz
Joseph Fred Reyes
Roberto R. Rivas
Jafet Reyes Garcia
Ana C. Sanchez Ramos CL
Pablo A. Sandoval
Leonardo Sosa
Natalie Castellano MCL
Roel Tijerina SCL
Fernando J. Torres
Samantha G. Torres
Tomas Torres III MCL
Paulina Varela CL

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Alexxia Alanis
Steven R. Alaniz
Samantha Banda CL
Jorge A. Caballero Jr.
Timothy M. Cabaza
Jose I. Cortez
Claudia Cuellar
Derek S. Duron
Melissa Escalante
Angela Hope Fernandez CL
Maricruz I. Flores MCL
Ivan G. Garcia
Jackeline I. Gonzalez
Anabel Nicole Hernandez SCL
Julio C. Huerta Jr.
Juan M. Jara III
Feih Lee
Jesus D. Leal
Alain E. Lestarpe MCL
Angel Lopez
Rodrigo Luiton
Greco R. Medina Hernandez
Juan B. Montes
Mark Everett Neal Jr. MCL
Gilberto Raya
Jaime Rodriguez
Jose F. Rodriguez
Edgar R. Ruiz
Juan M. Saenz
Jesse Solis Jr.
Robert Villalpando MCL
Meynard Jay T. Yordan

Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering

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Ezequiel A. Cuellar
Elvia A. Curiel Izaguirre
Adonica De Los Santos CL
Mauro E. Garcia MCL
Daniel L. Guerra Espinoza
Sergio J. Flores III
Fidel Gonzalez III
Gerardo Gonzalez
Juan M. Ibarra
Jesse A. Miranda Solis
Jose D. Ortiz
Amanda D. Ramirez
Brandon Ramirez Jr. MCL

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

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Irving Alfaro MCL
Lee Roy Cantu SCL
Victor A. Cantu
Ricardo T. Carrillo Velasco
Guillermo I. Castillo
Isaac Castillo MCL
Jose J. Castillo Jr.
Kevin W. Corona
Michael A. Cruz
Jose Luis Davila CL
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Jose G. Flores
Alejandro Garcia
Daniel A. Garcia
Juan De Dios Garcia
Luis J. Garcia MCL
Roberto A. Garcia MCL
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Edna A. Garza
Victoria A. Garza
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Grecia F. Gonzalez
Roxanna E. Gonzalez
Hugo Anselmo Gracia
Zamorano MCL
Francisco Guerrero CL
Elliud Hernandez Jr. MCL
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Julio A. Reyes
Jorge G. Rodriguez
Jennifer Rodriguez Soberanes
Michael Rayvel Salazar CL
David Sanchez MCL
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Joseph M. Schmidt SCL
Rodrigo Silva
Javier Solis Jr.
Guillermo M. Torres
Daniela Uribe
Edgar A. Valdez
Leslie Vela
Jose A. Ventura
Eliud Villarreal
Lauren I. Villarreal

† Degree awarded posthumously

Master of Fine Arts

Mariela Cedillo
Alyssa Belen Garza
Carlos A. Limas
Jesmil M. Maldonado
Benito Salinas Jr.
Angela Valeria Scardigno
Virginia I. Torres

Master of Music

Edgardo J. Alvarez
Crystal Ortiz
Erbey Trevino

Bachelor of Arts

Patricia Acosta
Miguel A. Alanis CL
Rosa F. Cano SCL
Jose L. Cantu-Cabrera
Mayra Nayeli Cerda MCL
Isaiah M. Cruz
Doris T. Diaz
Jesse O. Garcia
Matthew J. Garcia
Sandra Jean Garcia
Camilo Garza Jr.
Juan A. Guerrero
Amanda L. Hernandez
Celeste Marie Hernandez
Jorge Luis Hernandez
Felix U. Ledesma
Sergio X. Lopez CL
Mariana R. Martinez
Ivone Ortega CL
Julissa Pena
Michael Richard Pena
Joshua Rodriguez
Kassandra Rodriguez
Ashley Vianey Saenz CL
Faith Silva
Paulina B. Solis
Nancy G. Soto Favela
Jonathan Xavier Tamez MCL
Katherine D. Valdez
Victoria A. Walls
Raven N. Woods

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Annalisa Agueros SCL
Diana Oforiwa Anshah MCL
Brittany S. Averack
Jose L. Barrera III MCL
Ashley K. Castillo
Victor A. Contreras
Virginia Contreras Pinon SCL
Melissa Diaz SCL
Sarah Gabriela Duarte CL
Jake A. Escamilla MCL
Matthew R. Escobar
Joshua D. Flores
Selina Gamez
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Ruby E. Garza
Elizabeth Gonzalez
Guadalupe C. Gonzalez
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Samuel Luis Hernandez MCL
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Areli T. Trevino
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Oneyda M. Zamarripa MCL
Julio Cesar Zavala CL
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Natalie Castellano MCL
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Jose Guerra III CL
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Esteban Mendoza
Jose A. Molina
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Erick A. Ramos
Deborah Rodriguez CL
Ricardo Vela Jr.





Doctor of Philosophy

Sulema Perales Chia Vang

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Husna A. Ahmed Lori L. Anderson Amanda Arevalo Mina Baratifar Alexandra N. Barraza Anum S. Bashwani Brooklyn Becanic Amber Benavides Alyssa Betts Andre A. Blake Carolina Camacho Justin A. Campbell Marissa Casas Alejandro Castro Jr. Megan N. Chavez Paloma M. Cigarroa Jihan W. Clay Gabriela Cuevas Elizabeth Diaz Ramiro M. Diaz Ghizlane Elanbari Crystal M. Esquibel Humaira Farukh Alana N. Flores Joy Garrison Cesar Garcia Anakaren Garza Stephanie Gibson Erika R. Gilbert Steven J. Gomez Karen Gomez-Medina Tesfay Hailu Gary J. Hamilton Jr. Yazmin M. Hernandez Theodore E. Inthaphom Niranjan KC Aisha M. Khan Sarah S. Kim Stephanie Kochuparambil Luke Y. Koong Jesus M. Medina Marcus A. Medrano Sr. Linda V. Mercado William E. Mirabal Pegah Moradi Larry R. Morales Miriam L. Munoz Sandra Muyskens

Master of Science

Beatriz Aboytes Nancy Y. Abrego Vidhu Ajay Lizeth Alanis Jennifer E. Alfaro Ariza Alonso Cristobal Altamirano Melody A. Alvarez Anya Atenousazar Alannah Jefferie Ault Litzzary Benavides Javier O. Bernazard Ricardo Briones Shana J. Briones Johana Campos Cindy Campos Saucedo Jacqueline A. Cantu Gabriel Esteban Carrizales Chelsea T. Carroll Guia E. Castro Stephanie Champion Jonathan A. Chang Raymundo Chapa Javier Chavez Richard W. Clayton Ricardo J. Cortez Jr. Alexander Cuellar Cary W. Cummings Dystani A. De Leon Michelle De Pena Cuc T. Dolz Jameli L. Echiveste Eraldo Velthair Estrada Marissa Fast Talina S. Fernandez Susana Figueroa Desiree Marie Flores Maria T. Flores Veronica I. Flores Carlos X. Floyd Adriana Garcia Bianca D. Garcia Criselda Garcia Edgar U. Garcia Jessica Z. Garcia Kiara J. Garcia Leslie B. Garcia Stephanie Garcia Amanda Garza Clarissa Danielle Garza Laura Jimenez Garza Alexandria N. Gonzalez Gabriela Gonzalez Jessica R. Gonzalez Maria D. Gonzalez Noe Gonzalez Jr. Veronica Gonzalez Jose Govea Dalona Griffin Michelle Gutierrez Roxanne Guzman Elysa S. Hausmann Kelsey F. Hendricks Erica Y. Hernandez Jesus N. Hernandez Juan Hernandez Rangel Daniel D. Hinojosa Grecia B. Jasso Dominguez Joshua R. Jenkins Jennifer Kellogg Angela M. King Enna Kuri Flores Tara Lambert Amy M. Lavin Rissa M. Lease Diego E. Lopez Jazmine L. Lopez Noemi Lopez Phillipe T. Lopez Erica R. Lucio Abril R. Macias Marco A. Mata Brittany N. Madden Valerie King Mancha Robin P. Martin Erika Martinez Maria D. Gonzalez Marina E. Mathew Morgan A. Meek Brandonn C. Melchor Maricruz Mendez Miguel Mendoza Roxanne Guzman Elysa S. Hausmann Kelsey F. Hendricks Erica Y. Hernandez Patricia Montalvo-Longoria Elaine M. Mora Thalia Morin-Reyna Cristina C. Munoz Monica Munoz Rosendo Munoz III Rufus Mutitu Jacob D. Navarro Alexis Normendez Victoria L. Olivares Kasandra Paredes Evelyn Parra Isaac Perez Andrea L. Perez Trevino Brenda Perez-Hernandez Osvaldo Quijano Paola Quijano Bianca C. Ramirez Alejandro Reyes Elizabeth Reyes Minerva Reyes Myra L. Rios Samantha Rivera Ivan J. Rizal Flor Robertson Monica Y. Rodriguez Isaac Rojas Vincent K. Rono Valerie N. Rubio Ariel E. Ruiz Daniel Ruiz Vanessa N. Saenz

Bachelor of Applied Technology

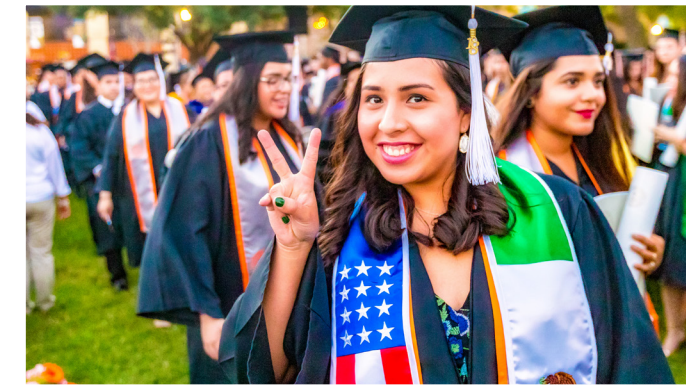
Elsy V. Chacko MCL Tomas Hernandez Cheryl Ann Mansir CL Cassandra M. Sanchez Juan Mauro Sanchez Jr. MCL Esmeralda Velasquez SCL

Bachelor of Science

Shayla N. Abbott Alberto A. Abogado CL Armando Acevedo Guillermo A. Acosta CL Luis G. Acosta Amanda Aguilar MCL Sean J. Aguillardo Aylen Alaniz Stephanie Alaniz Eliana Alcantar MCL Israel A. Alfaro CL Rafaela I. Almazan Alyssa M. Alvarado Kendrick G. Anonuevo Jesse Aranda Oralía L. Arispe Yvonne Arizmendi Jaime J. Arriola Jr. Alberto Arroyo Adriana N. Avelar Vanessa N. Ballesteros Nikki Barrera Anahina A. Becerra Leslie Briones-Garcia Cassandra A. Cabrera SCL Lizbeth M. Cabrera SCL Kevin Canales Roxanne Cano MCL Alexis Cantu Jasmin A. Cantu CL Sandra Cantu CL Areli Yazmin Capistran MCL Lessly Althair Caraveo SCL Richard Cardenas Jessica Y. Carrizales Andrew J. Casares CL Jaime Castaneda Alberto Castillo Jr. MCL Angel Castillo Jesed I. Castro Barbara Castro Silva SCL Angela M. Cerda Lizbeth M. Cerda CL Mariana A. Cerda James E. Cervantes Ted M. Chapa Celinda D. Chavez Jaime R. Chavez Eunice Chihuahua Valeria Chong Daniel Cisneros Priscilla Compean MCL Alvaro Cortes CL Karina E. Cortez SCL Enrique Coy Jr. CL Stephanie N. Crispin Brittany M. Cruz Romeo R. Cuellar Jr. Carolyn Daniel May-Hui Ding SCL Samuel Del Castillo Emma L. De La Garza SCL Heriberto J. De Leon Jr. Lesly M. De Los Santos Mirian Delgado Marlen I. Diaz MCL Veronica Z. Dominguez Angela M. Duarte Adrian Elizondo Sael R. Elizondo Carlos G. Escobedo CL Jose L. Esparza Ryan A. Espinosa Keila Espinoza CL Liliana L. Felix Emma S. Fernandez Gabriel A. Figueroa MCL Aylin Flores MCL Carlos Flores SCL Cristy N. Flores Paulina Flores Troy A. Flores Yeslynn Flores CL Melissa Flores Lopez Rebecca Franco CL

Bachelor of Science continued

Milton Galloso Jr. Mayra E. Galvan Valeria Carolina Galvan Godines CL Amanda A. Garces Anel M. Garcia CL Barbara J. Garcia Cynthia A. Garcia Francisco S. Garcia III Jhon P. Garcia Justin J. Garcia Larisa M. Garcia SCL Lorena Garcia Nathan Garcia Ninette Garcia Priscilla Garcia Sierra R. Garcia Yeimi R. Garcia Genesis G. Garcia Lezama Anna M. Garza Benjamin H. Garza Melissa A. Garza Zeyla Garza Gualberto Garza IV Carlos J. Gomez Jr. Quincie M. Gomez Tracy A. Gomez Yumaira Gomez Oscar Gomez Delgado CL Amanda M. Gonzalez CL Cinthia Gonzalez Gina Gonzalez Jacqueline R. Gonzalez Maria Rosa Gonzalez MCL Roberto A. Gonzalez CL Victoria Gonzalez CL Jose De Jesus Gonzalez Lopez CL Daisy Guerra Rebekah Guerra Valeria Guerra Alicia Guerrero Daniel Guerrero Jr. Jose F. Gutierrez III Juan C. Gutierrez Jr. Adrian Guzman Alfonso R. Guzman Beatrice Guzman Alexia M. Hernandez Alvaro Hernandez CL Andrea Hernandez Connie K. Hernandez Jesus B. Hernandez MCL Maria L. Hernandez Priscilla M. Hernandez Ray Hernandez Sayra Y. Hernandez Valeria Hernandez Viviana L. Hernandez Alejandra L. Herrera Estefania A. Herrera Maria A. Herrera Angelica Ibarra SCL Jaime A. Ibarra Karina L. Ibarra CL Marco A. Ibarra Jr. Rachel E. Islas Juan Antonio Landa Karen B. Leal Dimitris Levantinos Emily A. Limas CL Santiago T. Limon Marisol Liserio Alyssa A. Lopez Briana Lopez MCL Jennifer Lopez Juan Lopez CL Amanda L. Lozano CL Lynnette D. Lozano Stephanie Lozano Ruth A. Lucio MCL Marcos O. Lugo Sandra Macias Monika I. Madrigal Bianca L. Maldonado Stephanie A. Manriquez Marcos Marquez Alyssa J. Martinez MCL Arely Martinez MCL Kevin Alejandro Martinez Melissa Christine Martinez MCL Tyler M. Martinez CL Victoria Esthela Masso CL Prospero Medina II Sanjuanita Medina Gemma Cecilia Medina Rangel CL Martin Mejia Adrian Mendiola Anais Mendiola MCL Desiree L. Mendoza Laura A. Mendoza Mario Mendoza Virginia M. Miller CL Abihail Miranda Valeria Moncada David G. Montelongo Julian R. Montfort CL Christian N. Mora CL Daniella I. Moran SCL Noe J. Moreno Jr. Valeria E. Moreno Amy Morin MCL Alexis E. Muniz Crystal N. Navarro Sandra Navarro MCL Jordan Neiger CL Benito G. Nelson Zachary Eddie Nerio Daniel Nieto Yuliana Edith Nieto Daniel Nunez SCL Raquel Marie Olguin MCL Brendaly Olivares Argentina M. Olivarez Jovannah E. Ortiz Laura Ortiz Castillo Isamar Palestina Eden A. Pena Jose A. Pena III Alfonso E. Perez Araceli M. Perez Joshua A. Perez Samantha P. Perez Samantha R. Perez Victor H. Perez II MCL Samantha Perez Alarcon Yarissa Ramirez MCL Edna A. Ramirez Ibarra Alexis N. Ramos Malerie D. Ramos SCL Jeremy D. Regalado Amber Resendez Alyssa N. Reyes Anna L. Reyes Gabriel Reyes Joan M. Reyes MCL Vanessa E. Reyes Ayiza Kryztal Reyna MCL Mariela Reyna Miranda R. Reyna Ramon Reyna Jr. MCL Amanda Somohano Rios Maria Teresa Rivera MCL Kassandra Kay Rocha Alyssa R. Rodriguez Armando Rodriguez Jr. Daniel V. Rodriguez Eduardo Rodriguez Jr. Giselle Rodriguez CL Hector Rodriguez Iris Y. Rodriguez MCL Kayla D. Rodriguez Rossy Rodriguez Victoria N. Rodriguez SCL Melany Rojas Cristina A. Romero Carlos Rosa MCL Ashtyn T. Roush CL Alondra L. Ruiz CL Roel R. Ruiz Jr. Ashlynn Russell Isis S. Russell Jose Saenz Florentino Saenz Rios SCL Alejandra Salazar Ivan Salazar Mario A. Salazar Jr. Rolando J. Salazar Eduardo Salinas Luis E. Salinas SCL Joshua Sandoval CL Samantha Elena Sandoval Anlysse M. Saucedo Dana J. Sepulveda Myrna B. Serna MCL Paul A. Shane CL Josefina R. Sloss CL Luis A. Solis CL Moises J. Solis Jr. Sandra Solis MCL Serefin A. Solis John A. Soliz Jr. Arhyssa Marie Ozuna Soria Jose Maria Sosa II MCL Jose Soto Jr. MCL Janell M. Suarez Caitlin M. Tagle MCL Amanda Somohano Rios Maria Teresa Rivera MCL Kassandra Kay Rocha Alyssa R. Rodriguez Armando Rodriguez Jr. Daniel V. Rodriguez Eduardo Rodriguez Jr. Giselle Rodriguez CL Hector Rodriguez Iris Y. Rodriguez MCL Kayla D. Rodriguez Rossy Rodriguez Victoria N. Rodriguez SCL Melany Rojas Cristina A. Romero Carlos Rosa MCL Ashtyn T. Roush CL Alondra L. Ruiz CL Roel R. Ruiz Jr. Ashlynn Russell Isis S. Russell Jose Saenz Florentino Saenz Rios SCL Alejandra Salazar Ivan Salazar Mario A. Salazar Jr. Rolando J. Salazar Eduardo Salinas Luis E. Salinas SCL Joshua Sandoval CL Samantha Elena Sandoval Anlysse M. Saucedo





Master of Arts

Andres Altamirano
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Veronica Anzaldua
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Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

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Master of Public Affairs

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Francis D. Perez
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Nathalie A. Riojas

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Augustina Tetecatl
Mimosa C. Thomas
Guillermo Alejandro Urrego
Corina L. Villarreal
Cameron Michele Wingtonton
Eloisa Ybarra

Master of Science

Carlos Gonzalez

Manuel Edwardo Leal

Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences

Ana Beatriz Dosal

Bachelor of Arts

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Emily N. Cerda
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Eblimh Chavez
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Alec De La Garza
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Glenda I. Eguia
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Jacquelyn Estrada
Sostenes A. Fernandez
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Jeremiah Garza CL
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Marisol H. Garza
Melissa Garza
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Selena A. Garza
Viviana Garza MCL
Dayana C. Garza Gonzalez
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Jessica R. Gil CL
Jillian Freda Glantz SCL
Giselle Gomez
Ana V. Gonzalez MCL
Anna Gonzalez
Daniel Gonzalez
Erika Gonzalez MCL
Irma N. Gonzalez MCL
Jorge G. Gonzalez
Julio C. Gonzalez CL
Mariah L. Gonzalez

Ramiro Gonzalez Jr.
Alan F. Govea
Kayla C. Guajardo MCL
Alejandra N. Guevara
Daniellie A. Gutierrez
Galilea M. Gutierrez
Raul Gutierrez Jr.
Miriam A. Guzman Cisneros
Alexis N. Haggstrom
David Hermosillo
Alejandra Hernandez
Irma D. Hernandez
Jacquelynn Hernandez MCL
Viviana Hernandez
Lesslie S. Hernandez Reyes
Alejandro Herrera CL
Dulce M. Herrera
Cassandra L. Ibarra
Gisselle M. Ingan
Andy H. Izaguirre
Gabriela Izaguirre
Kayla D. Jaramillo
Noe A. Jaramillo
Joshua Jeudy
Frank Knowles Jr. SCL
Kassandra R. Lara
Jorge A. Laurel Jr.
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Marcus Anthony Longoria
Dominique Lopez
Hannah M. Lopez
Izari Anahi Lopez
Marlene Lopez
Marcos S. Lopez
Pedro H. Lopez Jr.
Sharo Lopez

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Saira Lozano
Alejandra N. Guevara
Ricardo Machado
Fernando Macias
Juanita M. Maldonado CL
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Nayelly Marin
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Ashley E. Miller
Jonathan Thomas Molina CL
Yimia Marie Montelongo CL
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Cristina M. Morales MCL
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Jose E. Moreno
Cristina C. Nacey
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Elijah Noriega
Noe L. Ochoa
Nora I. Olivares MCL
Millicent L. Olivarez
Starr L. Olivarez
Brianna J. Ordonez CL

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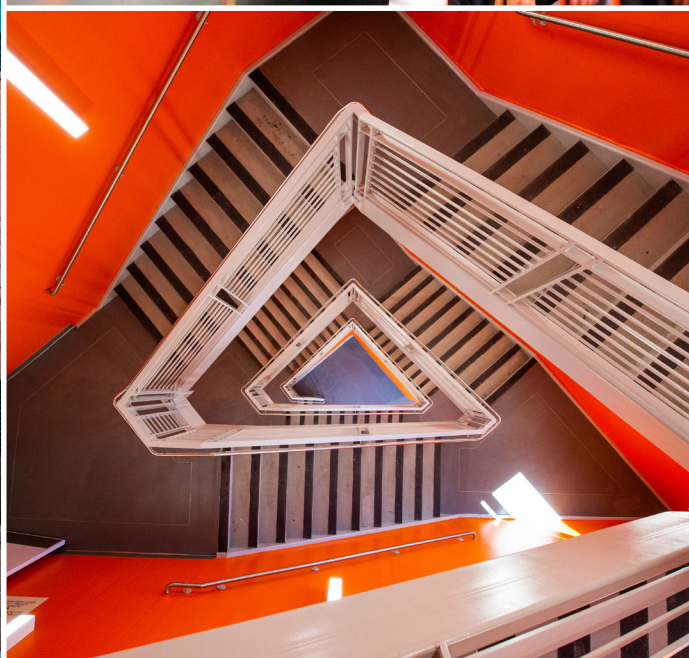
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Wendy Y. Hernandez
Carolina Juarez **SCL**
Jessica Mendoza **MCL**
Elvira S. Montez
Analay Narvaez
Fernanda Ochoa

Yoanna Pena
Jessica Ramirez
Sasha Monique Ramirez **MCL**
Normalynda Rodriguez
Karissa J. Rosales
Isabel Santos
Jennifer Torres **CL**

Evelyn R. Valdez **SCL**
Vanessa Valdez
Mirce A. Vargas **CL**
Adalberto Vazquez Jr.



Master Thesis

Francisco J. Sierra
College of Liberal Arts
Dichotic Listening Among Gifted Bilinguals and Monolinguals
Committee Chair: Dr. Yu-Cheng Lin

Karina M. Gracia
College of Liberal Arts
America's Legal Precedence with Eugenics
Committee Chair: Dr. Amy Hay

Brianna A. Alanis
College of Sciences
Enabling High Quality Oxygen Measurements During Robotic and Autonomous Based Studies of Ocean Ecological and Biogeochemical Processes
Committee Chair: Dr. John Breier

Amelia E. McClure
College of Sciences
Genetics and Morphology of Invasive Tubastraea Species Within the Gulf of Mexico; A Case Study of Species Misidentification and Distribution
Committee Chair: Dr. Diego Figueroa

Catharina C. Ybarra
College of Liberal Arts
A Study of Sk-Metathesis in old English
Committee Chair: Dr. John G. Newman

Andrew D. Corder
College of Sciences
Viability of Wetland Crops for use in Treatment Wetlands: Nitrogen Removal from Water and Production of Food
Committee Chair: Dr. Christopher Gabler

Phillipe T. Lopez
College of Sciences
The Acute Effects of Warm-Up with and Without Blood Flow Restriction Cuffs on Lower Body Temperature, Flexibility, and Vertical Jump Power
Committee Chair: Dr. Murat Karabulut

Kristen D. Kline
College of Liberal Arts
French Immigration to the Lower Rio Grande Valley
Committee Chair: Dr. Linda English

Paloma Mendoza
College of Sciences
The Correlation Among Metabolic Syndrome Risk Factors, Hemodynamics, and Arterialelasticity in Hispanic College Students
Committee Chair: Dr. Ulku Karabulut

Rory Eggleston
College of Sciences
Organizational Effects of Exogenous Corticosterone on Vocal Development in a Wild Parrot
Committee Chair: Dr. Karl Berg

Cameron J. Moody
College of Sciences
Evaluation of Nearshore Artifical Reef Site Materials in the Gulf of Mexico off Texas Using Swath Bathymetry and Side Scan Sonar
Committee Chair: Dr. Richard Kline

Veronica Anzaldua
College of Liberal Arts
Coming to an Understanding: Daoist Rhetoric as Dialogue in Composition Studies
Committee Chair: Dr. Lyon Rathbun

Alexandria Castillo
College of Sciences
Photocatalytic Degradation of Simazime Under Visible Light Using ZNO/MOS2 Heterostructures
Committee Chair: Dr. Jason Parsons

Humberto Saenz
College of Sciences
Detecting Phone-Related Pedestrian Distracted Behaviors via a Two-Branch Convolutional Neural Network
Committee Chair: Dr. Hongkai Yu

Ricardo Contreras
College of Liberal Arts
A Systematic Review of Mood Disorders and the Working Alliance in Latino Populations
Committee Chair: Dr. Alfonso Mercado

Ydana Y. Virgen Gracia
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Functionalization of Thermochromic Materials
Committee Chair: Dr. Karen Lozano

James A. Stilley
College of Sciences
A Behavioral and Community Ecological Approach to Wildlife Corridor Design in South Texas
Committee Chair: Dr. Christopher Gabler

Lorena De La Cruz
College of Liberal Arts
The Impact of a Multisensory Intervention on Literacy Attitudes of Students with Dyslexia
Committee Chair: Dr. Elena Venegas

Ricardo A. Ramirez Garcia-Rojas
College of Sciences
Low-Cost Aquatic Stage Mosquito Biocontrol: Effects of Entomopathogenic Fungi Blastospores and Conidia on Aedes Aegypti Pupae
Committee Chair: Dr. Alexis Racelis

Miriam Cepeda
College of Liberal Arts
Ad Infinitum: One Nation Under Women, a Bourgeois Construction of the American Lady
Committee Chair: Dr. Christopher Miller

Virginia Murray-Torres
College of Fine Arts
Detention
Committee Chair: Laura Perez

Yelbir Kazhykarim
College of Sciences
Topography Estimation Using Particle Swarm Optimization
Committee Chair: Dr. Soumya Mohanty

Dulce Capitanachi
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Adsorption of Heavy Metal Ions from Drinking Water Using Graphene-Fibers Hybrid Structures
Committee Chair: Dr. Karen Lozano

Jose Antonio Gonzalez
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Fused Deposition Modeling Cooling Channel Inserts for an Injection Mold
Committee Chair: Dr. Kevin Lee

Alma Rosa Provencio
College of Liberal Arts
Measuring Disaster Resiliency in the Rio Grande Valley
Committee Chair: Dr. Dean Kyne

Mariela Cedillo
College of Fine Arts
Entre la Sombra y el Reflejo, Poemas de Sangre
Committee Chair: Emmy Perez

Benito Salinas
College of Fine Arts
Glorious Indignities
Committee Chair: Dr. Britt Haraway

Chelsea L. Pavliska
College of Sciences
DNA Barcoding Reveals Unexpected Diversity in Octocorallia in the Northwest Gulf of Mexico
Committee Chair: Dr. David Hicks

Alyssa Belen Garza
College of Fine Arts
Her Borderlands/To Love the Birds and the Places They've Made Their Home: Poems from the Magic Valley
Committee Chair: Dr. José Rodríguez

Andrew Chen
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Learning to Detect Pedestrians by Watching Videos
Committee Chair: Dr. Hongkai Yu

Kirsten Faith Lara
College of Sciences
Using Time-Lapse Videography to Monitor Low-Profile Artificial Patch Reefs in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico
Committee Chair: Dr. Richard Kline

Jesus Ventura Gonzalez
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Design and Testing of a Modular Laser System with Laser Machining and Bioprinting Capabilities
Committee Chair: Dr. Jianzhi Li

Stefany Salinas
College of Sciences
Effects of artificial substrates on the recruitment of juvenile fishes in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico
Committee Chair: Dr. Carlos E. Cintra-Buenrostro

Angela Valeria Scardigno
College of Fine Arts
Oblivion
Committee Chair: Raheleh T. Filsoofi

Carlos Limas
College of Fine Arts
Non-Space, The Perception of Reality
Committee Chair: Raheleh T. Filsoofi

Ashley Elizabeth Murphy
College of Sciences
Assing and Quantifying Nitrogen Transfer Through a Black Mangrove (Avicennia Germinans) Community
Committee Chair: Dr. Carlos E. Cintra-Buenrostro

Richard Camuccio
College of Sciences
Searching for Optical Counterparts to Gravitational Waves
Committee Chair: Dr. Mario C. Diaz

Catherine Eckert
College of Sciences
Assessing the Rehabilitation Status of the Reflooded Bahia Grande, Texas Based on Trace Gas Fluxes, Benthic Macroinvertebrates, and Fish Community Data Along Salinity and Seagrass Gradients
Committee Chair: Dr. David Hicks

Marisol Sanchez Cortez
College of Sciences
Introductory Statistics Courses Educational Practices
Committee Chair: Dr. Hyung Kim

Adolfo Gonzalez III
College of Sciences
Comparison of RL Algorithms for Learning to Learn Problems
Committee Chair: Dr. Dongchul Kim

Eleazar Hernandez II
College of Sciences
Histological Evidence of Annual and Lunar Reproductive Rhythms of Atlantic Sea Urchin, Arbacia Punctulata in the Southern Gulf of Mexico: Changes in Nutritive Phagocytes In Relation to Gametogenesis
Committee Chair: Dr. MD Saydur Rahman

Master Thesis *continued*

Rafael Luis Aguirre Guillen
College of Sciences
Genetic Determinants of Variation in the gh/igf-1 Axis and their Relationship to Cardiometabolic Health
Committee Chair: Dr. John Blangero

Jesmil Marie Maldonado Rodriguez
College of Fine Arts
Shattering taciturnity: the use of visual arts as a mean of communication
Committee Chair: Paul Valadez

Oscar Gonzalez
College of Sciences
Constructing Associative Rings from Certain Hypergroups
Committee Chair: Dr. Paul-Hermann Zieschang

Kirsten Jo Ayres
College of Sciences
The Role of Sediment Resuspension in Estuarine Inorganic Nutrient Cycling
Committee Chair: Dr. John A. Breier

Viviana Trevino
College of Sciences
Characterization of Plasmids Harbored by Vibrio cholerae Endemic to the Rio Grande Delta
Committee Chair: Dr. Daniele Provenzano

Sheng Yin
College of Sciences
Engineered Porous Media for Groundwater Contaminant Remediation: Applications of Nano-Tio2
Committee Chair: Dr. Chu-Lin Cheng

Nancy De Los Santos
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Development of Prognostics Techniques for Surface Defect Growth in Railroad Bearing Rolling Elements
Committee Chair: Dr. Constantine Tarawneh

Pawan Kumar Thapaliya
College of Sciences
Bubble Nucleation and Cooperativity in Duplex Stretching of a Helicoidal DNA Model
Committee Chair: Dr. Andreas Hanke

Raziel Flores
College of Sciences
Comparison of Eight Remnant Tamaulipan Biotic Province Plant Communities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Using Multivariate Analysis
Committee Chair: Dr. Andrew McDonald

Rebecca Renee Reyes
College of Liberal Arts
The Prisoner as Object: Rhetorical Agency and the Literacy of Prison Tattooing
Committee Chair: Dr. Maggie Shelledy

Andrew E Dials
College of Liberal Arts
Social Anxiety and Sexual Victimization in a Latina Sample: a Moderated Mediation
Committee Chair: Dr. Michiyo Hirai

Wendy Soledad Salinas
College of Sciences
Temperature Influence on Insecticide Resistance in Aedes Aegypti and Aedes Albopictus Mosquitoes from South Texas
Committee Chair: Dr. Teresa Patricia Feria Arroyo

Md Litan Ali
College of Sciences
A Search for a High-Order Excitation of Surface Phonon Polaritons on Silicon Carbide Metasurfaces
Committee Chair: Dr. Myoung-Hwan Kim

Celestina Ruby Soltero
College of Sciences
Empirical Bayes Estimators and Borel-Tanner Distribution
Committee Chair: Dr. George P. Yanev

Anthony Alex Villarreal
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Prototyping a Conductive Polymer Steering Pad for Rail Freight Service: Effect of Crystal Morphology on Electrical, Thermal, and Mechanical Properties of Thermoplastic Polyurethane Carbon Nanofiber Composite
Committee Chair: Dr. Constantine Tarawneh

Ezequiel Juarez Ocanas
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Electrostatically Actuated Double Wall Carbon Nanotubes to Include Intertube Van Der Waals Forces
Committee Chair: Dr. Dumitru Caruntu

Julian Gonzalez
College of Sciences
Parametric Study of Selective Laser Alloying of Elemental Titanium and Boron Powders using an Automated Deposition Mechanism
Committee Chair: Dr. Jianzhi Li

Aminur Rashid Chowdhury
College of Sciences
Organic-Inorganic Hybrid Materials for Piezoelectric/Triboelectric Nanogenerator
Committee Chair: Dr. Mohammed Jasim Uddin

Adrian Eugenio Torres
College of Sciences
Reduction of the KP Hierarchy
Committee Chair: Dr. Baofeng Feng

Habraham Fernando Lopez
College of Sciences
Investigating the Potential of Weeds as Host Reservoir for Plant Parasitic Nematodes in South Texas
Committee Chair: Dr. Alexis Racelis

Luisa Adriana Valdez
College of Liberal Arts
Hallo (que) por Opino (que): La Gramaticalización de la Epistemicidad del Verbo Hallar en un Corpus Salvadoreño
Committee Chair: Dr. José E. Hernández

Mojan Dehghani
College of Sciences
The Conical Diffraction and Adiabatic Elimination in PT-Symmetric Systems
Committee Chair: Dr. Hamidreza Ramezani

Ivy Michelle Hinson
College of Sciences
Developing Multispectral Imaging Techniques to Determine Canopy Coverage and Carbon Storage of Seagrasses in the Gulf of Mexico.
Committee Chair: Dr. Christopher A. Gabler

Joseph Michael Montalvo
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Defect Detection Algorithm Optimization for use in Freight Railcar Service
Committee Chair: Dr. Constantine Tarawneh

Jennifer Reyes
College of Sciences
Assessment of Some of the Common Practices Used in Scheduling Highway Projects
Committee Chair: Dr. Jianzhi Li

Bobby Doug Faircloth
College of Sciences
Evaluating Responses of Benthic Macrofauna to Artificial Reef Presence in the Gulf of Mexico
Committee Chair: Dr. David Hicks

Daniel Gracia De Luna
College of Sciences
A Study of Human Balance and Coordination Using a Head Mounted Display
Committee Chair: Dr. Alley Butler

Fatemeh Mostafavikhatam
College of Sciences
Enhancing Transport in Classical and Quantum Systems Using Non-Hermiticity
Committee Chair: Dr. Hamidreza Ramezani

Ligang Zou
College of Sciences
Analysis of the CNN Algorithm in Target Recognition by Using the MSTAR Database
Committee Chair: Dr. Zhijun Qiao

Grecia Torreblanca Baez
College of Sciences
Removal of as (iii) and as (v) from Potable Water using ZNO Nanoparticles
Committee Chair: Dr. Jason G. Parsons

Evren Turan
College of Liberal Arts
South Texas Media Representations of Rio Grande Valley Mexican Deportation Drives & Repatriation, 1928-1930
Committee Chair: Dr. Michael Faubion

Juan Gabriel Benitez
College of Sciences
2-Hyponormality on Unilateral Weighted Shifts
Committee Chair: Dr. Jasang Yoon

Carolina J Olivares
College of Sciences
3d Functionalized Cotton Fibers for Multifunctional Purposes
Committee Chair: Dr. Mohammed Jasim Uddin

Orlando Rodriguez
College of Engineering & Computer Science
An Experimental Study of Thrust Augmentation with Asymmetrical Nozzle Driven Pulsed Ejector
Committee Chair: Dr. Isaac Choutapalli

Jacob Nathaniel Bensen
College of Engineering & Computer Science
Energy Harvesting Techniques to Power Onboard Railway Bearing Condition Monitoring Systems
Committee Chair: Dr. Constantine Tarawneh

Moises Castillo
College of Sciences
Pipeline for Variable Star Detection and Eclipsing Binary Characterization
Committee Chair: Dr. Mario C. Diaz

Trinity Dale Livingston
College of Sciences
Wildlife Road Mortality Survey Methodologies
Committee Chair: Dr. Richard Kline

Gabriela Ontiveros
College of Liberal Arts
Teen Dating Violence in a Sample of High School Students in the Rio Grande Valley
Committee Chair: Dr. Arthur Cantos



Doctoral Dissertations

Sergio R. Garcia
College of Education and P-16 Integration
Educator Perspectives of High-Stakes Testing in an Urban School District in Deep South Texas
Committee Chair: Dr. Velma Menchaca

Joe Angel Hinojosa
College of Education and P-16 Integration
Cultural Clashes and Cultural Bridges: My Story in Afghanistan
Committee Chair: Dr. Bobbette Morgan

Melissa Castaneda
College of Education and P-16 Integration
An Examination of Professional Learning Community and Teacher Leadership Practices as Perceived by Educators in a District-Wide PLC
Committee Chair: Dr. Jesus "Chuey" Abrego

Maricela Burns
College of Education and P-16 Integration
Identity Fluidity, Empowerment, and Engendered Poverty: Performing a Veteran-Latina-Online-Graduate Student
Committee Chair: Dr. Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto

Paul Perez-Jimenez
College of Education and P-16 Integration
Pablito's Problem- How a Critical Bricoleur Assumes Positive Intent
Committee Chair: Dr. Miryam Espinosa-Dulanto

Dongjun Rew
Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship
Mapping Consumer Cognition and Emotions: A Neuroscientific Approach
Committee Chair: Dr. Michael S. Minor

Jackeline Guillon-Matus
College of Education and P-16 Integration
Factors that Contribute to Social Emotional Competence in Early Childhood and Parental Resilience
Committee Chair: Dr. Marie Simonsson

Dora Diana Rodriguez
College of Education and P-16 Integration
Administrator Perceptions on Service Strengths and Challenges Regarding the Implementation of Section 504 Services for Public Education Students in South Texas
Committee Chair: Dr. Velma Menchaca

Sergio Enrique Robles-Avila
Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship
Consumer Response to the Disposal of Potentially Harmful Products: The Product Life-Cycle, Consumer Activism, and Subjective Well-Being Across Borders
Committee Chair: Dr. Penny Simpson

Atieh Poushneh
Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship
Consumers and Augmented Reality in Shopping and Services: Drivers and Consequences
Committee Chair: Dr. Arturo Vasquez-Parraga

Joseph Grande Simpson
Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship
Antecedents and Consequences of Leaders' Security Orientation
Committee Chair: Dr. Michael Abebe

Chad Kwon
Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship
Essays on Alternative Investments
Committee Chair: Dr. Diego Escobari

Honors College

Luis Castillo
Emily Limas

Ashley Salinas
Lorenah Vasquez

Valeria Velazquez-Michel
Xin Yee Ooi

Sheila Patel
Marcos Valdez

Honor Societies

Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Bryan Hernandez

Lorenna Nanez

Luz Resendez

Ismenia Robledo

Liliana Sena

Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society

Carlos Bello

Sophia Leslie

Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society

Isabela Aguirre
Naila G Carrizales Andaverde

Bianca Blaco
Sergio Garcia

Jossie Mendez
Gracie Morales

Isaac Rojas
Diana Saldana

Ashaley Zapata

Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration

Adrianeli D. Gomez
Hansel Obedh Ibarra
Delilah Liz Martinez

Zefra Maytee Mascorro
Sergio Moore Jr.
Victoria A. Brito Morales

Phillip Bryant Robinson
Briza M. Rodriguez
Hubert Joseph Sykora

Augustina Tetecatl
Mimosa C. Thomas
Guillermo Alejandro Urrego

Sergio E. Salinas Vargas
Cameron Michele Wigington

Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology

Mariela Esparza
Xandria Gomez

Thelma Aracely Gonzalez
Amanda Hut

Vanessa Lopez
Alicia Luna

Mikayla Martinez
Juan Ramirez

Sigma Delta Pi National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society

Berenice Avila
Andrea Elizabeth Barajas

Francisco Cazares
Juan Martinez

Nidia Ruiz de Reyes
Catalina Isabel Salinas

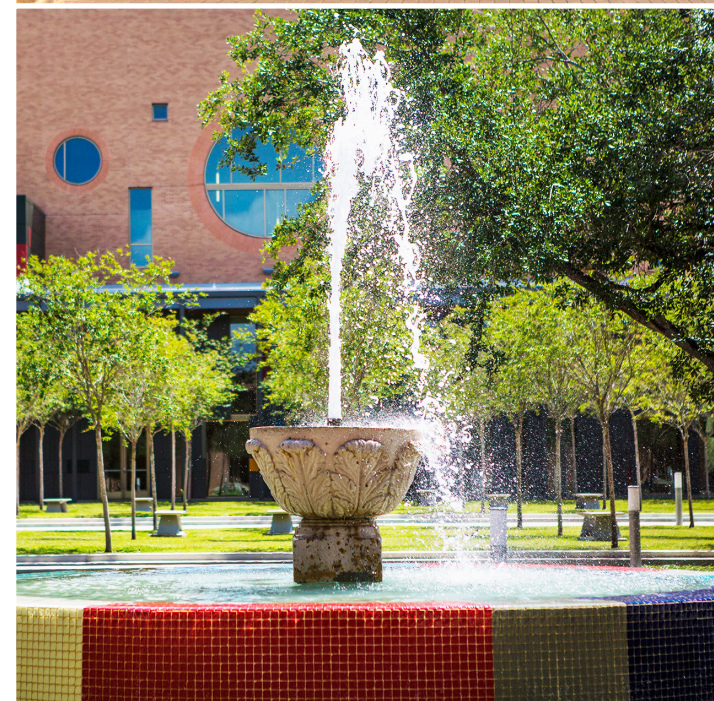
The National Society of Leadership and Success

Lucia R. Agado
Maria Del Carmen Salazar-Andrade
Gloria G. Alvarez
Clarissa Faith Blanco
Janete Castillo
Cuc Tai Dolz

Xochitl Estrada
Alexis Ivan Garcia
Lisa Marie Garza
Alejandra Guevara
Miriam Alejandra Guzman
Cisneros
Daniel Corey Hayes

Vanessa Edith Gonzalez
Kristina Marie Lugo
Harem Pena
Kaylie Alexia Pena
Alexa M Mata
Gemma Cecilia Medina Rangel
Brittney L. Recio

Lauren Eliza Rubio
Ashley Aneliz Salinas
Catalina Isabel Salinas
Miranda Montes
Dania Lynn Urena
Ricardo Carrillo Velasco
Marissa Vianey Zuniga

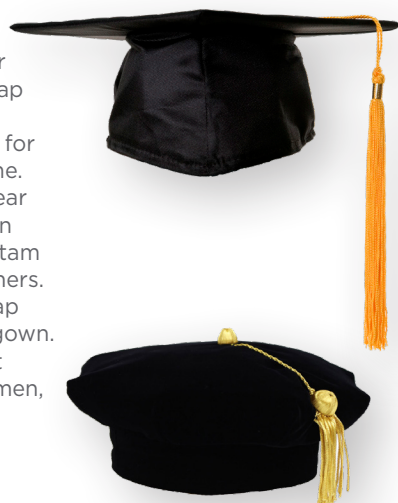


Costumes and Customs of Commencement

The colorful costumes and traditional customs of college commencements trace their beginnings back to the origins of the modern university in medieval Europe. Modern American colleges and universities carry on many traditions that began at Oxford and Cambridge to demonstrate the continuity of learning over the centuries and to emphasize the importance attached to commencement exercises. Academic regalia refer to the distinctive attire worn by students, faculty and other university officials at commencement. The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric. Though the custom of wearing academic dress was brought to America in colonial times, it was not until 1895 that a standardized code of academic dress was established and followed by most colleges and universities. The gown, hood, cap, and additional ornaments are the main categories of academic regalia and are distinctive for each degree.

CAPS

Headwear is an important component of the cap and gown, and the academic costume is not complete without it. The standard commencement headwear is the Oxford cap: a skullcap topped by a square cloth-covered board—the reason for its “mortarboard” nickname. Some faculty members wear a softer Cambridge version of the cap that is a velvet tam with four, six, or eight corners. Usually, the color of the cap matches the color of the gown. Caps are worn throughout the ceremony—except for men, during the singing of the national anthem.



TASSEL

The tassel is attached to a button on the top of the cap and hangs down to the right for bachelor's candidates until their degree is conferred. Many universities ceremoniously have graduates move their tassel from the right to the left. Both master's and doctoral candidates' tassels often begin and remain on the left.

GOWNS

The gown is the most basic of academic regalia. The Costume Code calls for three types of gowns: doctoral, master's and bachelor's. Most gowns are black, but some universities have adopted distinctive colors. The bachelor's gown is the simplest of the three, a plain gown with long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown is distinctive for its extremely long, closed sleeves (originally used as a place to carry small books or other materials), the arms protruding through a slit at the elbow. The doctoral gown is the most elaborate, with front-facing velvet and three velvet bars on each of the full, billowing sleeves. The velvet can be black, Ph.D. blue, or the academic color to which the degree corresponds.



HOODS

The hood is derived from the cowls worn by clerics in the Middle Ages for warmth. Today, they are worn symbolically, hanging down the back. Master's hoods are 3 1/2 feet in length and have a velvet trim along the edge. Doctoral hoods are 4 feet in length and have a wider velvet trim. The satin lining of the hood, worn so that it can be seen, reflects the colors of the degree-granting institution. The color of the velvet trim signifies the academic discipline of the wearer's degree. As codified by the American Council on Education, some of the official colors associated with the various degrees and disciplines are:

- White: Arts and Letters
- Drab: Business/Accounting
- Light Blue: Education
- Orange: Engineering
- Purple: Law
- Lemon: Library Science
- Green: Medicine
- Pink: Music
- Brown: Fine Arts
- Apricot: Nursing
- Olive Green: Pharmacy
- Dark Blue: Philosophy
- Sage Green: Physical Education
- Salmon Pink: Public Health
- Golden Yellow: Science
- Citron: Social Work
- Peacock Blue: Public Administration



In the case of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, the dark blue color represents the mastery of learning and scholarship in any field, not just the field of philosophy.

ADDITIONAL ORNAMENTS

Some participants in the commencement ceremony will wear additional ornaments such as colored cords, medallions, stoles, or sashes. These ornaments signify the wearer's membership in an honor society or special group.

CHAIN OF OFFICE AND PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The presidential medallion is the official insignia of the university president and is worn at commencement and other ceremonial occasions. Like many academic traditions, the display of a heavy “chain of office” comes from medieval regalia and represents the weight of responsibility for the wearer.

The UTRGV medallion and chain were designed in 2015 and executed by the jewelry students, jewelry faculty, and craftsman Lino Guiza in the UTRGV College of Fine Arts. The medallion is made up of two parts: the seal of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley surrounded by an abstract sunburst created with a brick and mortar design. The cactus flowers on the outer edges of the seal are placed at the four cardinal points with the largest flower pointing south. The counter weight to the medallion is a representation of the native sabal palm. The Chain of Office is a circlet of art deco-inspired links representing the past, while revealing an infrastructure of bridges, aqueducts, and gears that speak to the importance of our solid foundation, water, and movement into the future. The chain features many aspects of the Rio Grande Valley that aid our growth and commitment to higher education:

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Arches | Abacus | Butterfly |
| Water | Bone | Tortoise |
| Turbine | Binary Code | Finger Print |
| Neuron Tree | Leaves/Quills | Road Junction |
| Circuit Board | | Satellite |



BELL

Our stately bronze bell, circa 1850 is rung during commencement to symbolize a rite of passage and proclaims that a worthy and well-qualified individual has passed from one station in their life to a loftier one. Our bell is also the icon for the Bell Scholarship Endowment. Two outstanding students are selected to ring the bell at each commencement.



CEREMONIAL MACE

In medieval times, the mace was a symbol of authority and carried before or set near a high official when ceremonies or sessions were being conducted. Today, the mace symbolizes the university's governing authority and signifies the proceedings are officially sanctioned. Traditionally, the chair of the Faculty Senate acting as the Grand Marshal carries the mace to lead the academic procession at commencement and other special ceremonies.

The UTRGV 47” ceremonial mace was designed in 2016 by students in the College of Fine Arts and a committee of faculty from anthropology, archeology, geology, history, communication, and art. The head and seals of the mace were 3D printed and cast at the UTRGV College of Fine Arts. The mace is intricately imbued with historical, cultural and architectural meaning.

The handles of the mace are made of mesquite wood locally sourced in the Rio Grande Valley and engraved with a decorative pattern of the state's official turtle, the Ridley, and wind turbines.

The helix, between the handles, represents the coming together of the legacy institutions. The helix is made of petrified palm, the official stone of Texas.

The base is crafted from mesquite and inlaid with blue selenite, thought to be associated with mental clarity, truth and honesty, and to represent the Rio Grande River.

The tip of the mace is made of El Sauz chert excavated and donated by Dr. Juan L. Gonzalez.



MEMORY STOLE

When students graduate from UTRGV they know they did not make the journey alone. The Memory Stole, a symbol of appreciation, is worn by graduates during the commencement ceremony. Following the ceremony they are encouraged to present the stole to a special family member, professor, or friend as a symbol of gratitude and appreciation for their support, inspiration, or mentorship.

UTRGV College Gonfalons

The college gonfalon—or banner—with roots in the Middle Ages, was a symbol of units or family groups. Today, gonfalons are used at official university ceremonies as heraldic devices and are frequently carried during processions at commencement.

At UTRGV, each college has a custom-designed banner signifying its academic unit. Each flag is rich in unique symbolism while also showing unity through size, shape, and color. The swoop at the bottom of each gonfalon represents the border of Texas, and the field of blue with gold stars of Texas represents the distributed nature of UTRGV—from Rio Grande City to South Padre Island.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Symbols:
The central pattern intertwines the caduceus—a symbol for medical practice—with the tree of life. This pattern is surrounded by a DNA helix—the foundation for all living beings—and roots, which connect the human condition with all forms of creation.

Colors:
Blue for healing, green for earth, and white for air.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Symbols:
A thousand petal lotus is the highest depiction of soul. Seven chakras symbolize the connection between mind, body, and spirit. Metatron's cube is for the profession's feminine and masculine side. Nightingale's Lamp represents beginning, laurel leaves for education and honor, and water for purity and source of life.

Colors:
Apricot for nursing, green, and blue for health professions.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Symbols:
Hands represent care and trust, while the rays of color are specialized paths guiding individuals on their road to recovery. The micro, macro, and mezzo programs are represented by three humans, and the lotus flowers symbolize how a beautiful life can bloom, even in the toughest of situations.

Colors:
Citron for social work, gold for honor and wisdom, and blue and green for caring and healing nature.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND P-16 INTEGRATION

Symbols:
The torch represents the guiding light—the ability for graduates to serve as a beacon for others and for the college to serve as a light that will lead the way for others. The multicolored flame symbolizes the forward-thinking nature of the college, bringing power to ideas.

Colors:
Light blue for education, wisdom, intelligence and integrity.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Symbols:
The dominant image is an interpretation of Moore's Law: Every year, computer chips and components are able to compute twice as much data. The eye of providence symbolizes the grand architect. In this case, the engineer takes all things into consideration.

Colors:
Orange for engineering and the metals involved in the processing and development of technology. Deep blue for social ethics.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Symbols:
The waves represent the flow of the mind, freedom, imagination and knowledge. The three waves symbolize creativity, imagination, and motivation. The interlocking shape represents unity and strength between the arts and sciences. The hummingbird stands for joy, beauty, strength, movement and independence.

Colors:
Wineberry for writing, khaki for fine arts, gold for art, and pink for music.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Symbols:
The dominant image is the peony flower, symbolizing health and medicine in Greek mythology; Paeon was turned into the flower by Zeus because Asclepius was threatened by his pursuit of knowledge. The two snakes are Asclepius representing health and Hygeia representing wellness.

Colors:
Blue for the caring nature of the health professions and green for health and medicine.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Symbols:
The trivium is derived from the medieval symbol for the seven liberal arts and sciences. The symbols of the lion and the scales of justice represent the dialogue between the value of the emotions, power, and creativity within the rational, law, and historical institutions.

Colors:
Crimson, gold, silver and blue represent the disciplines within the college.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Symbols:
The infinity symbol for math and physics also represents perfection, unity, and balance. The atom represents the sciences and the vertical pillars represent the foundation of all life and biology, while the vertical lines signify energy.

Colors:
Golden yellow is the color of science, mathematics, and physics, while gold represents wisdom, understanding, and enlightenment.

ROBERT C. VACKAR COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Symbols:
The two-headed eagle represents power and authority, while also symbolizing collaboration. Both heads are facing north, signifying innovation, looking forward, and success. Their wings are open, ready to fly and discover new horizons, and being open to new ideas. Wheat symbolizes wealth.

Colors:
Rust for economics, brown for business, and purple for leadership.

FREE TUITION

For Qualifying Students

TUITION ADVANTAGE

The UTRGV Tuition Advantage program is designed to **fully cover tuition and mandatory fees** for qualifying students with a **family adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less.**

For more Information visit:
UTRGV.edu/TuitionAdvantage

RANKINGS

1ST
PLACE
IN TEXAS

1st **LOWEST PRICE OF ADMISSION**
without financial aid
\$20,900
(UTRGV Ranked 18th Nationally)

1st **LOWEST AVERAGE STUDENT DEBT**
\$10,500
(UTRGV Ranked 8th Nationally)

1st **LOWEST PRICE OF ADMISSION**
with Average Grants
\$4,400
(UTRGV Ranked 4th Nationally)

TOP 20
MASTER'S UNIVERSITY
NATIONWIDE



BEST COLLEGES
IN TEXAS

4. **UTRGV**TM
3. Texas A&M University
2. Rice University
1. The University of Texas at Austin

HIGHEST-RANKED PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FOR VALUE NATIONWIDE



Alma Mater

Gather as one in voice ascending
raising the song and anthem to thee.
Orange and grey, your reign's unending;
Hail to the mighty UTRGV!

Chorus:

Strength and devotion, we shall sustain.
True to your colors we shall remain.
Ever our song shall be raised on high.
UT Vaqueros til' we die!

Joyful our days in halls eternal
knowledge and skill forever endured.
Let it be said "your love's maternal".
Nurturing wisdom which all are ensured.
(Repeat Chorus)

UTRGV™

