

The UTRGV Office of Undergraduate Admissions is here to help you and your students with the admissions process. After years of preparation and guidance, the admissions process is designed to give students the opportunity to document their journey. This information should illustrate the culmination of years of hard work presented for review with the intention of getting admitted. The 2017-18 academic year is well underway and we have already begun to receive applications for the Fall 2017 semester. We are here to help every step of the way. Here is what students need to do to get started:

ApplyTexas.org

First things first. Students are asked to begin the process by completing the admissions application through ApplyTexas.org.

Priority Admissions Deadlines:

- Summer 2016 and Fall 2016 - February 1
- Spring 2017 - November 1

The Essay

UTRGV has adopted the ApplyTexas essay prompts. Students will have the opportunity to select and answer 1 of 3 essay prompts. Essay writing is a great opportunity for students to express themselves and give a glimpse of who they are, their passions, concerns or what excites them. Remind students not to write about what they think we want to hear but rather to use the essay as an opportunity to share an introspection about themselves. The space provided allows for up to 650 words. Students can select from the following 3 essays:

Essay Topic A:

What was the environment in which you were raised? Describe your family, home, neighborhood, or community, and explain how it has shaped you as a person.

Essay Topic B:

Some students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. If you are one of these students, then tell us about yourself.

Essay Topic C:

You've got a ticket in your hand - Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?

College Transcripts

We are going to need a college transcript if the student took dual credit classes. We know this coursework is often listed on the high school transcript but we need to receive this information on an official college transcript from the granting institution.

High School Transcripts - Official versus Final Official

What is the difference between an Official High School Transcript and a Final Official High School Transcript? For starters, a student may need to submit both. What makes either of these documents official is how they are received by our office. Whether you hand deliver in a sealed envelope or send them electronically, a transcript is considered official if the content is received in a secure untampered manner. The Official High School Transcript is typically submitted early in the admissions process and does not contain a complete snapshot of final year coursework but can be used to render an admissions decision.

The **Final** Official Transcript is requested **after** a student has graduated from high school and contains the graduation date. If a student has just started the admissions process and the Final Official Transcript is already available, this is the only one we will need.

SAT/ACT Test Scores

We encourage students to take either the SAT or ACT or both while in high school. If cost is a factor, students may qualify for vouchers to subsidize costs. While test scores aren't used as the sole deciding factor, they are factored into the admissions decision process. We encourage students to have scores sent directly from SAT/ACT to UTRGV. Here are our codes: ACT 6991, SAT 6568.

AP Classes

Taking an AP or advanced placement course is an excellent way to show a student's abilities for handling college level courses before enrolling with the university. While not required, students who perform well do stand out from other applicants by allowing the admissions team to better understand each applicant's abilities and strengths.

Extracurricular Activities

On ApplyTexas.org, students have the opportunity to tell us what sets them apart and how they have given back or been involved with the community. Our holistic review process takes the information contained in this section into consideration during the admissions process.

UTRGV Holistic Review

We take a holistic approach to admissions. All UTRGV entering freshman applicants will have their own admissions profile created from all the information submitted. Admissions decisions will be based on those profiles and the accomplishments achieved in high school. From the holistic review process, we hope to get a well-rounded picture of each applicant, their character and how they will contribute to our campus community.

Factors for review will include:

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

We are here to help

We want to make sure you and your students know and understand what we are looking for in every application. We are here to help. If you have questions or need clarification, we look forward to hearing from you.

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