DARA NEWTON

Associate Vice President for Strategic Enrollment
Director Undergraduate Recruitment

ANDREA YEN
Office of Undergraduate Recruitment

- Carlo Tamayo- Associate Director (Transfer)
- Lacy Culpepper- Outreach Rep (STC)
- Ruby Rodriguez- Outreach Rep (San Antonio)
- Brenda Rodriguez- Coordinator
- Krystal Marroquin- Coordinator
Academic Programs

• New College Structure
  – School of Nursing
  – School of Social Work
  – College of Health Professions

• New Department Structure
  – Sociology
  – Anthropology
Academic Programs

• Statistics (BS)- College of Science

• Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (BS)- College of Science

• American Sign Language Interpretation (BS)- College of Health Professions – Fall 2020
UTRGV Accomplishments

• Classified as Doctoral University- High Research Activity (R2)

• Ranked 3rd among public universities in Texas that provide the best value
  – Best Colleges for Your Money 2019 rankings
UTRGV Accomplishments

• Ranked 1st in Texas and 19th nationally with a 2019-20 price of attendance
  – Best Colleges for Your Money 2019 rankings

• “First Class” of UTRGV graduated December 2018 and May 2019
Commitment to Improvement

- Grand Openings
  - Brownsville: Interdisciplinary Academic Building
  - Edinburg: Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Building
Fall 2019 Enrollment

• Total Enrollment – 29,463*

• Freshman Enrollment – 4818*

• Transfer Enrollment – 1830*

*Enrollment as of 9-4-2019, Unofficial
Upcoming Events

- Discover UTRGV- New Fall Dates
- Vaquero Academic Excellence Day (Invite Only)
  - Brownsville: Nov. 15
  - Edinburg: Oct. 14, Nov. 1
- Transfer Tuesdays
  - Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 26
- UTRGV Promise Night- Early Spring
Other Items

• Counselor Packets
• Counselor Website
• Counselor Portal
MARYBEL VILLASENOR GARCIA

Director Undergraduate Admissions
New for Fall 2020

- Superscoring for SAT starting with applications for Fall 2020.
  - Highest score per section – all test dates matter!

<table>
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<th>Math</th>
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<th>Test Date</th>
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How to Apply

• Freshman Applicants
  – ApplyTexas (Domestic/International)
  – Essay (1 topic)
  – ACT/SAT scores
  – High School transcript or high school equivalency
  – Texas Private High School Certification form (if attended private HS in Texas)
How to Apply

• **International Applicants (additional requirements)**
  
  – Foreign credential evaluation – FCSA/WES (if attended foreign high school)
  – English language proficiency – TOEFL/IELTS (if attended foreign high school)
  – $50 application fee (International applicants only)
How to Apply

• Transfer Applicants

  – ApplyTexas (Domestic/International)
  – College Transcripts
  – $50 application fee (International applicants only)
Admissions - Reminders

• High school seniors that choose to attend another college/university after graduation, are eligible to apply to UTRGV as Transfer students for a later term.

• Transfer students must have an overall 2.0 GPA for admission and must submit transcripts from all college/universities attended.

• If transfer student has less than 24 earned hours, student must also submit ACT/SAT scores and final high school transcript.
Admissions - Reminders

• Applications for Fall 2020 available July 1st, 2019


• Essay and ACT/SAT scores needed for all Freshman applications, including top 10%.

• Encourage students with Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate scores to send them to UTRGV. Scores can be considered in holistic review.
Admissions - Reminders

• Encourage students who have Dual Credit to send college transcript to UTRGV, credit can be considered in holistic review.

• High school transcript must contain GPA, ranking (if applicable), junior year completed.

• TREX transcripts preferred.
Non-TREX transcripts can be uploaded by counselor through counselor portal or by student through the student portal. 
https://enrollment.utrgv.edu/documentcentral

Needed for Enrollment:

• Proof of TSI assessment and proof of vaccination against bacterial meningitis or exemptions are not considered during the admission decision process. These items are required as part of the enrollment process and are needed at time orientation/registration.
Communication to Students

• Applicants will receive:
  – Email acknowledging application receipt
  – Email with UTRGV credentials (for first time applicants)
  – Emails and Letters about missing documents
  – Email and Letter about admission decision

• Admitted students will also receive:
  – Emails to RSVP for New Student Orientation
  – Email about Texas Residency to qualify for In-State tuition (if applicable)
  – Email to submit final high school transcript
Admissions - Updates

• New Director for Undergraduate Admissions:

Marybel Villasenor Garcia
marybel.villasenor@utrgv.edu
(956) 665-2957
UTRGV STUDENT STORIES
Promise Coordinator- Student Academic Success

KIMBERLY GARCIA
The **UTRGV Promise** is **OUR** promise to **First Year Students** that we will support them in their journey to graduate in four years.
• This will save time and money.
• We will work with to help them take advantage of experiences like internships, undergraduate research, and service learning.
• We’ll even pay their tuition and fees if you follow the promise and don’t graduate in four years!
Connections to Students and Faculty
Access to Courses and Special Educational Experiences
Academic Advising and Career Development
The Student Will:

- Complete the required high impact educational practices identified in your College Promise Plan.
- **Visit** your Promise Advisor at least twice a year.
- Complete required Career Connection activities each year to link academic progress to career development.
- Complete at least 30 academic hours each year (not including repeated or developmental courses)
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA and earn no lower than the minimum course grade required for those courses with a minimum grade requirement
- Complete the courses identified as critical on your College Promise Plan at the time indicated on the plan in order to stay on track.
- Register for classes on your degree plan within the first 48 hours of registration eligibility for Fall and Spring semester registration. Notify your Promise Advisor no later than the study day of the current semester if unable to register for a required major course offered in the next semester.
- Gain admission to their major by the beginning of the fall semester of your junior year if the major requires admission.
- Maintain good standing with UTRGV including with the Financial Aid, Student Accounts, and Student Rights and Responsibilities offices.
UTRGV Will:

• Maintain your same tuition and fee rates for the full four years of your undergraduate studies.
• Make sure that you have access each semester to the courses you need to make progress in your major and to graduate in four years.
• Provide high impact educational experiences to you during your undergraduate studies, such as access to academic internships, undergraduate research experiences, and writing-intensive courses.
• Provide opportunities to connect with peers through study groups, volunteer activities, leadership activities, and student organization activities.
• Provide supportive and accurate academic advising.

Provide opportunities for career exploration and preparation through the Career Center and through Career Connection activities designed for our Promise students.

• If you are unable to graduate in four years despite meeting your obligations, the university will either make appropriate adjustments in your course requirements so that you can graduate in four years or will pay the tuition and fees for any coursework you are required to take beyond four years.
Colleges:

Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship

College of Education and P-16 Integration (Bilingual, ESL, & Special Ed)

College Health Professions (Health & Rehabilitation Services)

College of Liberal Arts

College of Sciences
Fall 2020:

College of Engineering and Computer Science

College of Fine Arts

College of Nursing

College of Social Work
Scholarship Coordinator - Scholarship Office

JESUS BUITRON
Scholarship Team

Brenda Garcia
Director of Scholarships and Enrollment Communications
Phone: 956-665-2507
Email: brenda.garcia@utrgv.edu

Brenda Cowart
Assistant Director of Scholarships
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Jesus Buitron
Scholarship Coordinator
Phone: 956-665-2935
Email: jesus.buitron@utrgv.edu
Online Scholarship Application

www.utrgv.edu/ApplyScholarships

UTRGV Excellence Scholarship Application
- Deadline: December 1, 2019
- One-time award offer; must apply each year

VAMOS/UTRGV Endowed Scholarship
- Deadline: February 15, 2020
- 4 year renewable, valued up to $10,000

Application becomes available the 1st week of October

Students must be admitted prior to December 1st, 2019 to be considered for scholarships
Online Scholarship Application

UTRGV Scholarship Application

UTRGV Scholarships

Through this scholarship application, you may apply for a variety of scholarships funded by generous donors and foundations. To be considered for these scholarships, you must submit a completed application by the corresponding deadline. If this is your first time applying, Sign Up now.

Search Scholarships »

Create New Account

Login ...

Submit Recommendation

External Scholarships

Scholarships Office, ESSBL 1.197 1201 West University Drive Edinburg, TX 78539 | Phone: 956-665-2935 Email: scholarships@utrgv.edu

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**Student Profile**

- **UTRGV Student ID**: 19270030
- **First Name**: Jai
- **Last Name**: Bullen
- **Birthday**: 06/05/1989
- **Email**: jessibullen@gmail.com
- **Address**: 1261 W. University Drive
- **City**: Edinburg
- **State**: Texas
- **City**: 78539
- **Country**: United States

**Demographics Information**

- **Texas Resident**: Yes
- **Reside in Rio Grande Valley**: Yes
- **Citizenship**: US Citizen
- **College Generation**: First

**High School Information**

- **High School**: Los Fresnos Senior High School (Los Fresnos)
- **High School Graduation**: 2007

**UTRGV Information**

- **Did you attend UTRGV during the Fall 2018 through Summer 2019 academic year?**: No
- **Fall 2018 expected enrollment status**: Full Time
- **Will you be submitting a FAFSA/TASFA**: Yes
- **Current Classification**: High School Senior
- **Major**: Family Nursing Practice
- **Are you related to a regent in any way?**: No

**Certification**

I certify all information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge: Yes

I irrevocably grant UTRGV and affiliate the right to use my image, likeness, application information, and name in all forms and media: Yes

The four sections below are OPTIONAL, however not completing them reduces the possibility of being considered and/or selected for scholarships (overall minimum length recommended 350 words).

NOTICE: PLEASE SAVE YOUR WORK OFTEN AS IT WILL TIME OUT AND IT WON'T BE SAVED. PLEASE AVOID USING CERTAIN SPECIAL CHARACTERS AS THEY MAY CAUSE ERRORS TO YOUR APPLICATION.

**Are you a member of any student organization(s)?** If so, please explain your role in each.

- Have you participated in volunteer work, an internship or a job that has profoundly impacted you? If so, please explain the...
Merit Based Scholarships

• Merit-based scholarships are awarded competitively and do not require the submission of a scholarship application. Instead, students are selected holistically based on their admissions application.

• To be considered, students must be admitted to UTRGV by December 1, 2019.

• Dual Enrollment students are required to submit their college transcript prior to December 1, 2019 in order to be considered for these scholarships.

Awards are offered on a first come first served basis until funds are exhausted.
UTRGV Scholar Cohort Program

Program Description:
• 4-year renewable scholarship offered to new entering freshmen
• To be considered, students must be admitted to UTRGV by December 1st, 2019.

**UTRGV Presidential Scholarship** – Valued up to $32,000
$8,000 per academic year ($4,000 Fall/Spring term)

**UTRGV Meritorious Scholarship** – Valued up to $20,000
$5,000 per academic year ($2,500 Fall/Spring term)

Awards are offered on a first come first served basis until funds are exhausted
UTRGV Gateway Scholarship

Program Description:
• One-time scholarship offered to new entering freshmen
• To be considered, students must be admitted to UTRGV by December 1st, 2019.

Award offer varies from $1,000 to $3,000

Awards are offered on a first come first served basis until funds are exhausted
UTRGV Housing Scholar Cohort Program

Program Description:
• 4-year renewable scholarship offered to new entering freshmen
• For out of area students only
• To be considered, students must be admitted to UTRGV by December 1st, 2019.

**UTRGV Housing Scholarship** - Valued up to $12,000
$3,000 per academic year ($1,500 Fall/Spring term)

Awards are offered on a first come first served basis until funds are exhausted
Congratulations Andrew on your $32,000 scholarship offer! It is with great pleasure that we inform you of your designation as a Presidential UTRGV Scholar at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

You will receive an $8,000 annual tuition and fee scholarship ($4,000 per fall and spring semester) renewable up to four years. Criteria related to maintaining your scholarship is enclosed.

Your scholarship goes a long way at UTRGV. Here is how our tuition and fees compare to state and national averages.

**Tuition and Fee Cost**

- **UTRGV**: $7,813
- **Texas Avg.**: $9,265
- **National Avg.**: $10,230

*College Cost – 2018-2019: Public Universities, Source: College for All Texans

**Average Published Undergraduate Charges by Sector and by Carnegie Classification, 2018-19, Source: CollegeBoard**

Confirmation of your award acceptance must be received by **January 31, 2019**, to avoid cancellation. Acceptance of the award certifies that you have read and understood the enclosed UTRGV Program Provisions.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (956) 665-2935 or scholarships@utrgv.edu.

Your discipline, zeal for learning and academic success are reasons why we extend this offer to you and welcome you to be part of our UTRGV community.

Sincerely,

Griselda C. Castilla
Associate Vice President for Strategic Enrollment
Enclosure
UTRGV Scholar Program Provisions

As a UTRGV Scholar, I understand that this scholarship is subject to the following provisions:

1. Attend a New Student Orientation and register by June 1, 2019; otherwise, the award will be canceled.

2. Enroll each fall and spring semester in a minimum of 15 hours leading to the completion of a baccalaureate degree.

3. Complete a minimum of 30 hours per academic year. To retain this scholarship, you must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours in each of the fall and spring semesters. Courses must be taken at UTRGV; transfer work or CLEP exams are not accepted.

4. Maintain a 3.0 Cumulative Institutional Grade Point Average (GPA). GPA is based on all grades received in college-level courses, including those taken while in high school. The cumulative GPA is recalculated and reviewed at the end of each semester after grades have posted. If the Institutional Cumulative GPA prevents a student from receiving the scholarship in any particular semester, the scholarship will be renewed when the GPA returns to the required level.

5. Scholarship may be retained for 4 years of undergraduate study or until graduation, whichever occurs first. This scholarship terminates upon transfer to another institution or upon non-enrollment at UTRGV for any fall or spring semester. In exceptional circumstances, prior approval for an absence from a fall or spring semester may be authorized, but you must first notify and get approval from the Scholarship Coordinator.

If you have any questions, please contact the Scholarship Office at (956) 665-2935 or scholarships@utrgv.edu

NOTICE: It is UTRGV’s policy not to award institutional scholarships to students who have received aid (including institutional, state, federal and private sources) in excess of their cost of attendance. If your cost of attendance is exceeded, any UTRGV institutional scholarship(s) may be reduced or canceled. In addition, the Scholarship Office may substitute a scholarship if a more favorable funding source is identified.
Scholarship Criteria

– Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident with a permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551.

– Be a permanent resident (5 or more consecutive years) of and have a permanent South or West Texas address in one of our 30 counties.

– Have earned/completed at least 12 undergraduate credit hours at a U.S. accredited college or university before applying for the scholarship.

– Have a minimum college cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale.

– Have completed a high school diploma or its equivalent prior to the Fall of the new academic year.

– Are enrolled in a U.S. accredited 2 yr. community college (enrolled part-time or full-time) in a degree-seeking program, or a 4yr. university undergraduate program (enrolled full-time) seeking a Bachelor's Degree, or a university graduate program (enrolled full-time) seeking a Master's, Law or Doctorate degree.
Application must be submitted online by the deadline. If selected, student will need to renew each year.

Valued up to $29,000 for tuition and fees

Eligibility Criteria

- Have graduated or will graduate from high school by the end of the 2019-2020 academic year with a GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale;
- Are not enrolled in college at any time in the 2019-20 academic year (excluding enrollment in a high school pre-college or dual enrollment program);
- Intend to enroll full-time in an associate’s or bachelor’s degree program at one of TheDream.US Partner Colleges no later than the Spring of 2021;
- Are eligible for in-state tuition at the Partner College they wish to attend;
- Have DACA or TPS or certify that you meet the immigration eligibility criteria set forth below;
- You came to the United States before reaching their 16th birthday; and
- Have significant unmet financial need.
The Excellence Scholarship application is only available from **October 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2019 through December 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2019**

Students must be admitted to UTRGV **prior to December 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2019**

**Awards are offered on a first come first served basis until funds are exhausted**
Questions?

For more information
Call us: 956.665.2935
Or email: scholarships@utrgv.edu

Visit our website:
www.utrgv.edu/scholarships
Financial Aid Updates

Jael Perez
Teresa Villarreal
UTRGV Financial Aid Office
FAFSA/TASFA Updates
FAFSA Mobile App
myStudentAid App

- myFAFSA: complete the FAFSA safely and securely from your mobile device
- Profile: edit/manage an FSA ID
- myFederalLoans: view federal student loan and aid history
- Studentaid.gov: access FSA’s signature source of information on student financial aid products, processes and services
- Contact Us: contact information for FSA’s contact centers
myFAFSA Features

- The ability to begin, complete, and submit a new FAFSA form for the 2020–2021 FAFSA processing cycle;
- A customized experience based on whether they are a student, parent, or preparer. myFAFSA provides both guidance and assistance on how to answer the FAFSA questions, making the overall process more positive, engaging, and user-friendly; and
- A secure channel with the same data protections as completing the FAFSA form through fafsa.gov.
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2020-21 year will be available on October 1st at www.fafsa.gov.

A student Must be a US Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident in order to complete a FAFSA. DACA students are not eligible for Federal Student Aid, thus for the most part in Texas they should not be completing a FAFSA.

Parents’ citizenship status is not relevant.

Recommended Priority Deadline: January 15th

UTRGV Federal School Code: 003599
Information Needed

- Parents and student (if applicable) need to have their tax return and W2’s from 2018 year in order to complete the FAFSA or use IRS Data Retrieval.

- SSN number for student and parent (if applicable)

- Permanent resident card for student (if applicable)

- Other: Additional Financial Information and Untaxed Income information such as child support, veteran benefits, social security benefits, disability benefits.

- FSA ID for student and parent (if applicable)
FSA ID Tips

- Always create an FSA ID with an e-mail address (it’s the easiest way to retrieve if forgotten)
- Student and parent must use a different e-mail address
- Do not use a work or school e-mail. Use only a personal e-mail.
- Student and/or parent should access the e-mail account (on a separate browser) before starting to create an FSA ID
- Once FSA ID is created student/parent can validate e-mail immediately and this allows for their e-mail address to become the username for the FSA ID.

* If a parent does not have an SSN then he/she will sign the FAFSA using a signature page (do not use an ITIN for FSA ID)
IRS DATA RETRIEVAL

- The IRS DRT will be available to use with the 2020–21 FAFSA on the web.

- During the 2018-19 year additional security and privacy protections were added to address concerns that data from the tool could be used by identity thieves to file fraudulent tax returns.

- The IRS DRT remains the fastest, most accurate way to input tax return information into the FAFSA.
TASFA UPDATE
**FAFSA OR TASFA**

- **FAFSA**: Federal student aid is only available to U.S citizens or legal permanent residents (number from permanent resident card required).

- The **TASFA** is available for students applying at Texas public schools that are not U.S citizens or legal permanent residents, but that may be classified as Texas residents under SB 1528 law.

**Important** Students under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and meet the SB 1528 Law criteria should use the TASFA if applying for school accepting TASFA. Not a FAFSA. TASFA has a list of schools accepting TASFA.
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. This status protects individuals from deportation and provides work authorization and a Social Security number for work purposes. Deferred action does not provide lawful status or permanent residency.

- Due to federal court orders, USCIS has resumed accepting requests to renew a grant of deferred action under DACA. USCIS is not accepting requests from individuals who have never before been granted deferred action under DACA.

- Students under DACA are still not eligible for federal aid, only state aid under the laws mentioned before. These students sometimes submit a FAFSA instead of a TASFA in error.
New TASFA will become available on October 1, 2019.
Student must submit application in a timely manner, along with supporting information.
Due to limited state funding, the application must be submitted as soon as possible.
• Available at
  • www.collegeforallt texans.com
  • www.aie.org
  • www.utrgv.edu/finaid
• **Recommended Priority Deadline: January 15**
TASFA 2020-21 Document Needed

- Parent(s) or student that did not file a 2018 Income Tax Return but worked, can submit a Notarized Statement of Income.

- Parent(s) or student that filed a tax return in the U.S will need to submit a copy of the 2018 Return Transcript for disbursement, but we will work with a copy of the 2018 tax return for awarding purposes. Return transcript can be requested at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) under Get My Tax Record section.

- Parent(s) that filed a foreign tax return, a copy will need to be provided

Selective Service Registration

- All male students, ages 18 to 25, must register with the Selective Service System.
- Students can register beginning 30 days before their 18th birthday
- If student has a SSN, can register at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)
- If student does not have SSN, Form must be mailed to SSS Administration (must enter zeros in SSN fields).
- A signed copy of the Selective Service Registration card or confirmation from SSS website must be provided to the Financial Aid Office.
Statement of Selective Service Registration Status

Student First Name: ___________  Student Last Name: ___________  ID: ___________

DSN: ___________  Primary Phone #: (_____) ________  Secondary Phone #: (_____) ________

An individual may not receive a loan, grant, scholarship, or other financial assistance funded by state revenue (including federal funds or gifts and grants accepted by this state) unless the individual files a statement of the individual’s Selective Service status with the institution or other entity granting or guaranteeing the financial assistance.

Are you currently registered with the Selective Service System?

☐ Yes, I am registered with Selective Service. Attached is a copy of the letter from Selective Service stating that I am registered.

☐ I am exempt from registration with the Selective Service for the following reasons (Check one below):

☐ Other (Please provide documentation if you are exempt from registration):

☐ No *If your answer is no, you are not eligible to receive federal or state aid. If you have questions on your eligibility please contact the financial aid office.

I, ___________, hereby certify that the Selective Service status provided is true and correct. I understand that I must provide documentation if requested by my institution. I understand that I may be required to complete a new statement for each academic year for continued eligibility. I understand that if I fail to provide accurate information, I may be required to reimburse The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and penalties may be imposed.

Student’s Signature: ______________________  Date: ___________

Under federal law, all male US citizens and male non-US Citizens between the ages of 18-25 years of age are required to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Male non-US citizens, between 18-25 years of age, residing in the United States must register within 30 days of arriving in the United States. For more information on Selective Service registration, please visit www.sss.gov.

Citations:
Student compliance with Selective Service registration: TEC 51.9095

Please submit to either of the following UTRGV locations:

The Tower, Main 1.150
One West University Blvd.
Brownsville, Texas 78520
Ph: (956) 882-4026
Fax: (956) 882-8229

Visitors Center 1.113
1201 West University Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78539
Ph: (956) 882-4026
Fax: (956) 665-2392
FAFSA/TASFA Reminders
Dependency

- The student was born before January 1, 1997.
- The student is married or separated (but not divorced) as of the date of the application.
- At the beginning of the 2020–2021 school year, the student will be enrolled in a master’s or doctoral degree program (such as MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.).
- The student is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or is a National Guard or Reserves enlistee called into federal active duty for purposes other than training.
- The student is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces (see the definition in the box on page 4).
- The student has or will have one or more children who receive more than half of their support from him or her between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.
- The student has dependent(s) (other than children or spouse) who live with him or her and who receive more than half of their support from the student, now and through June 30, 2021.
- At any time since the student turned age 13, both of the student’s parents were deceased, or the student was in foster care or was a dependent or ward of the court.
- As determined by a court in the student’s state of legal residence, the student is now, or was upon reaching the age of majority, an emancipated minor (that is, released from control by his or her parent or guardian).
- As determined by a court in the student’s state of legal residence, the student is now, or was upon reaching the age of majority, in legal guardianship.
- On or after July 1, 2019, the student was determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or was self-supporting and at risk of being homeless:
  - by a high school or school district homeless liaison
  - by the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - by a director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program
Who is considered a parent for FAFSA/TASFA

For FAFSA/TASFA purposes parent refers to:

- Biological parents
- Adoptive parents
- Step-parents—who is currently married to a living biological parent

For FAFSA/TASFA purposes a parent is not:

- Foster parents
- Legal guardians
- Any family member who has not adopted the minor
- A step-parent that is no longer married to biological parent or who is a widower of the biological parent

Note: It is important that student provides information for correct parent(s). If a student provides incorrect information can sometimes result in student owing thousands of dollars of financial aid. When in doubt please ask us!
FAFSA/TASFA Marital Status

FAFSA/TASFA Marital Status is as of the day the student completes the application. FAFSA/TASFA Marital Statuses cannot be updated after submission, they can only be corrected if they were reported incorrectly as of the day of FAFSA completion.

Student marital status options:

- Single-if on the day you sign the FAFSA you are not married/remarried
- Separated-if on the day you sign the FAFSA your divorced/separated and not living together
- Married/Remarried-if on the day you sign the FAFSA you are married/remarried
- Divorced or Widowed- on the day you sign the FAFSA you are married/remarried

Parent marital status options:

- Married/Remarried
- Never married
- Divorced or Separated
- Widowed
WHO'S MY PARENT WHEN I FILL OUT MY FAFSA®?

Dependent students are required to report parent information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For reporting purposes, “PARENT” means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or stepparent, or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent.

Use this guide to figure out which parent's information to include (depending on your family situation).

The following people are not your parents unless they have legally adopted you:

- Widowed Stepparent
- Grandparents
- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Older Brothers or Sisters
- Aunts or Uncles

If you’re not sure whom to report as a parent, you can visit StudentAid.ed.gov/fasa/filling-out/parent-info or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

'If you’re not sure whether you are a dependent student, go to StudentAid.gov/fasa/filling-out/dependency.
The information provided on the FAFSA or TASFA doesn’t always reflect accurately the family’s or student’s situation.

- The family has unusually large medical bills or nursing home expenses that are not covered by insurance
- The student or a parent lost his or her job or there has been a significant reduction in hours
- The student has no contact with the parents and thus cannot provide parental information

The best thing you can do to help a student who has unusual circumstances is to help them fill out the FAFSA/TASFA as best as possible and inform student about contacting financial aid office of college he/she will be attending.
• The 2020-2021 Web Demonstration site will be available at https://fafsademo.test.ed.gov on September 30, 2019. The demonstration site can be used as a training tool for new staff.

• You can access the demonstration site using eddemo as the Username and fafsatest as the Password.

• The test site provides information and FSA IDs for test students.

• Do not use real information on this site
Common FAFSA Mistakes

• Not answering High School Completion Status Question
• Legal guardianship
• Parent
• Number of Family members
• Number of Family members in College
• Confusing parent information with student information
• Entering information that doesn’t match the FSA ID information
• Not providing required information
Verification Updates
Dependency Confirmation Form

- If the answer to ALL questions is No parent information is required
  - The student should process a correction and update FAFSA with parent household, income tax data, and signatures
- If the answer to at least 1 question is Yes parent information is NOT required
  - The student should submit supporting documentation to the Financial Aid Office

Note: notarized letters are not acceptable, a court order, signed by the judge would be required.
Verification Worksheet

Dependent Student
- Student
- Mother
- Father
- Siblings under 24
- All other household members will each require a support worksheet

Independent Student
- Student
- Spouse
- Children under 24
- All other household members will each require a support worksheet
Support Worksheet

- If the total amount from Page 1 is greater than the total amount from page 2, the person can be included in the household.

Example
- Front Page Total = $750.00
  - Food $300.00 + Clothing $100.00 + Medical/Dental $250.00 + Personal Care $100.00.
- Back Page Total = $500.00
  - Social Security check $250.00
- Included in household
UTRGV Non-Tax Filer Form: Dependent Student

- For dependent students who did not file an Income Tax Return
  - Copies of W2’s, or equivalent documents, for the year required if the student worked

- A copy of the IRS Tax Return Transcript is required if the student filed an Income Tax Return

- The IRS Verification of Non-filing Letter (IRSNFS) is **NOT** required
UTRGV Non-Tax Filer Form: Independent Student and Spouse

- For each independent student, and spouse if applicable, who did not file an Income Tax Return
  - Copies of W2’s, or equivalent documents, for the year required if the student worked.
  - A copy of each of the IRS Tax Return Transcript is required if the student, and spouse if applicable, filed an Income Tax Return
  - The IRS Verification of Non-filing Letter (IRSNFS) or Verification of Non-filing Affidavit required for each
UTRGV Non-Tax Filer Form: Parent(s) with SSN

- For each parent(s) who did not file an Income Tax Return
  - Copies of W2’s, or equivalent documents, for the year required if the parent(s) worked
- A copy of each of the IRS Tax Return Transcript is required if the parent(s) filed an Income Tax Return
- The IRS Verification of Non-filing Letter (IRSNFS) or Verification of Non-filing Affidavit required for each
UTRGV Non-Tax Filer Form: Parent(s) without SSN/ITIN

- For each parent(s) who did not file an Income Tax Return
  - Copies of W2’s, or equivalent documents (Hacienda, SAT documents, letter from employer on letterhead), for the year required if the parent(s) worked
  - A copy of each of the IRS Tax Return Transcript is required if the parent(s) filed an Income Tax Return
IDENTITY AND STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

- Statement of Educational Purpose
  - Must be filled out in the presence of UTRGV staff, signed by UTRGV staff at time of submission
  - Notarized Statement – filled out with a notary, identification used with notary must be submitted

- Identity
  - Valid/unexpired government-issued photo ID

- High School Completion
  - An official high school transcript must be submitted to the institution
IRS Flag 06

- IRS Flag 06: The Parent or the Student initially used the IRS Data Retrieval Tool then another transaction was processed that called into question the use of the IRS retrieval.
  - UTRGV staff review file to see what additional documentation, if any, is required. Additional documents are added.
IRS Flag 07

- IRS Flag 07: The Parent or the Student used the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to import their tax information from the IRS and the IRS determined they amended their Income Tax Return.
  - A signed copy of the Amended Income Tax Return is required along with
  - The new Tax Return Transcript (with amended information) and
  - The printed original Tax Return Transcript
Comment Codes 400

- **For Parents of Dependent Students**
  - Parent is a tax filer (FAFSA Question 80) and the AGI retrieved from the IRS is zero, but the total income earned from work (FAFSA Questions 88 and 89) is greater than zero.
  - The total of the Additional Financial Information fields reported on the FAFSA form (FAFSA Questions 93a-f) is greater than the AGI transferred from the IRS.
  - Any item from the FAFSA list of Untaxed Income (FAFSA Questions 94a-i) is equal to or exceeds the AGI transferred from the IRS.
- UTRGV staff review file to see what additional documentation, if any, is required. Additional documents are added.
Comment Codes 401

• Not visible to student in ASSIST

• **For Dependent and Independent Students**
  – Student is a tax filer (FAFSA Question 32) and the AGI retrieved from the IRS is zero, but the total income earned from work (FAFSA Questions 39 and 40) is greater than zero.
  – The total of the Additional Financial Information fields reported on the FAFSA form (FAFSA Questions 44a-f) is greater than the AGI transferred from the IRS.
  – Any item from the FAFSA list of Untaxed Income (FAFSA Questions 45a-j) is equal to or exceeds the AGI transferred from the IRS.

• UTRGV staff review file to see what additional documentation, if any, is required. Additional documents are added.
Student Monthly Income Worksheet

• Required for students who:
  – Have children or legal dependents
  – Are dependent by age (less than 24)
  – Are not married
  – Report income less than $10,000.00

2019-2020 Student Monthly Income Worksheet
Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020

Student First Name: ___________________ Student Last Name: ___________________ Date: __________

You are required to submit this form because you answered YES to at least one of the following FAFSA questions and you reported less than $10,000 of total income.

• Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020?
• Do you now have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020?

Do your parents or someone else support you and/or your dependents? ___ Y ___ N

If your answer is Yes stop here and go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and update your answer(s) to the question(s) above to No and submit your parent(s) information.

If your answer is No please provide the information below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Monthly Income Information</th>
<th>Student Average Monthly Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wages/Salary</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Support Received</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Benefits</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid or SSI</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Stamps/SNAP</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Housing Assistance</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability or Social Security Benefits</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please Specify)</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Monthly Income</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I declare that the information reported on this form and any attachments hereto is true, complete and accurate, to the best of my (our) knowledge.

Handwritten Student Signature ___________________ Date __________

Document Uploader is available at https://enrollment.utrgv.edu/documentcentral/auth/login.aspx
Separation Verification

2019-2020 Separation Verification Form
Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020

Student First Name: ___________________________ Student Last Name: ___________________________
DOB: _____/_____/______ Primary Phone #: (_____) - _______ Secondary Phone #: (_____) - _______

If you receive public assistance or monetary assistance from family, provide proof.

3. Divorce Intentions: Do you intend to proceed with the divorce? ( ) Yes ( ) No
   If yes, provide our office with a copy of the court document submitted or a letter from the attorney representing you for the divorce proceedings.
   If no, proceed to STEP THREE.

   STUDENT:
   LAST NAME: ___________________________ FIRST NAME: ___________________________
   ID #: ___________________________

   STEP THREE

   Provide 2 reference letters from a third party (not a relative or friend) who may endorse your statement in detail within their professional capacity on their own letterhead. For example, a pastor, a marriage counselor, a licensed counselor, attorney general, etc. A notarized letter on your behalf is not acceptable evidence. If you do not provide the necessary letters, you will be required to provide your spouse’s information.

   By signing this form, you agree that it is complete, true, and to provide documentation that will verify the accuracy of your information, if requested. If you purposely give false or misleading information, in order to qualify for Title IV funds you will be referred to the Inspector General and you may be fined $10,000, sent to prison or both.

   Handwritten Student Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
   Handwritten Parent Signature (if dependent): ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

   Document Uploader is available at https://enrollment.utrgv.edu/documentcentral/Auth/login.aspx

As per HB 1922 (Subtitle A, Title 5, Government Code, Chapter 559), it is the policy of the state that an individual is entitled, on request, to review and/or correct any information about the individual, which has been submitted to UTRGV, with few exceptions. The information that UTRGV collects will be retained and maintained as required by Texas records retention laws (Section 441.180 et seq. of the Texas Government Code) and rules.
Tax Filing

• Filing requirements: In order to receive federal or state aid, individuals must follow IRS regulations and file a tax return when required. FAFSA has built in logic that will give an error when a student or parent enters wages above the tax filing threshold and have not indicated that have filed or will file. If you encounter this you cannot proceed without changing to “will file.” On the TASFA these thresholds will be checked when the TASFA is reviewed.

• Filing status for tax purposes-Determined by marital status as of the last day of the year (December 31).
   Single
   Head of Household
   Married filing joint return
   Married filing separate return-Need both tax returns
Married taxpayers can usually only file as married filing separately or married filing jointly. Same sex parents are considered married for IRS purposes if married in a state where it is legal.

Exception: a married person can file as Head of Household when a U.S citizen or permanent resident is married to a non-permanent resident spouse and they have dependent children. The non-permanent resident spouse cannot file as Head of Household too! There can never be two Heads of Household for the same household.

 Married spouses living apart due to temporary absences such as: illness, education, business, vacation, or military service are not considered separated.

In the case of unmarried parents living together only one parent can file as Head of Household.

When in doubt use Interactive Tax Assistant www.irs.gov

FAFSA now asks for tax return filing status!

Following proper IRS regulations is mandated and incorrect information can often result not only in student owing thousands of dollars for financial aid received but also either student or parent owing thousands of dollars to IRS.
Schedule C

- When a non-tax filer earns $400.00 or more (cash or self employment) in the United States, they are generally required to file an Income Tax Return for the year.

- Schedule C is used to determine if after expenses the Net Profit is equal to or greater than $400.00
  - Net Profit $\geq$ $400.00$: required to file
  - Net Profit $<$ $400.00$: NOT required to file
Verification

- Even though students are notified at point of FAFSA completion. Do not submit verification documents until requested by UTRGV.

- Systems may not be in place to begin collecting documents for new year and documents submitted could get lost.

- All verification worksheets and documents will be found at [https://utrgv.edu/finaid](https://utrgv.edu/finaid) for appropriate year.

- Verification documents can be submitted via the document portal Document Central [https://enrollment.utrgv.edu/DocumentCentral](https://enrollment.utrgv.edu/DocumentCentral), via e-mail at finaid@utrgv.edu or in person at U Central or handed to a UTRGV representative visiting the campus. Please write student ID on any copies of documents submitted. Mailing forms is not recommended.

- It’s important to check back after having submitted documents. Often more questions arise after initial submission and additional documents can be requested.
Financial aid funding is limited for many programs, so it’s important for students to submit their applications on time.

- FAFSA priority deadline: January 15
- TASFA state application deadline: January 15
- UTRGV scholarship application deadline: December 1
- Summer notification priority deadline: February 15
- FAFSA deadline for the current year: June 30*
UTRGV Institutional Programs
UTRGV Achieve

The UTRGV Achieve Program will cover a gap in tuition and fee expenses and $500 of book expenses per semester for the regular academic year (fall and spring) that is not being covered by other forms of gift aid (grants or scholarships), including Federal, State, private, and institutional aid.

- Have a family income of $50,000 or less and demonstrate financial need as reported on the FAFSA/TASFA.
- Be classified as a Texas Resident
- Be enrolled for 15 hours or more per semester
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate in a degree-seeking program towards a first Bachelors’ degree.
- Entering Freshman with an ACT composite of 19, SAT composite of a 1010 or be in the top 10% of graduating class
- Priority will be given to students that have filed the FAFSA/TASFA for the upcoming academic year by January 15th
The scholarship is primarily intended to provide gift assistance to needy students currently receiving little or no gift aid. The maximum award amount is $2,250.

An entering freshman must:
- have minimum ACT composite score of 20, or a SAT composite score of a 1010, or be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class.
- Must be enrolled full-time
- Must file the FAFSA/TASFA & demonstrate high financial need
- Must not have TEXAS Grant
- Must be a Texas resident
- Must have Fall/Spring Pell under $3,000 ($1,500 per semester)
UTRGV Tuition Guarantee and Tuition Savings

- UTRGV tuition uses guaranteed tuition plans for resident and non-resident students. This means that tuition will not increase during the guarantee period. For example: a new entering freshman is guaranteed the same tuition rate for 4 years!

- UTRGV in-state tuition is capped at 12 hours per semester. This means that additional courses taken above 12 hours are free. So, if a student enrolls in 15 hours, the extra class is free. If a student enrolls in 18 hours, the two extra classes are free.
Reminder!!

• If a student is choosing to begin college during summer, he/she must complete the current year FAFSA (2019-2020) application before June 30.

• If a student is applying to UTRGV and is not TSI clear. He/she will be required to attend during the summer so he/she will need to complete the current year FAFSA (2019-2020) application before June 30.

• Best practice is to have any student that does not clear TSI on the first try and is attending UTRGV to complete a 2019-2020 FAFSA and then keep on trying to retest. There is no harm in completing a current year FAFSA and not needing it after the fact.

• Many students in this situation missed the deadline to complete a current year FAFSA this summer!
2019 FAFSA/TASFA Super Saturday

This year’s FAFSA/TASFA Super Saturday will take place on:

October 12, 2019
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Visitor’s Center in Edinburg
The Tower in Brownsville
Resources

For additional information, please visit:
www.utrgv.edu/finaid
www.utrgv.edu/scholarships
www.utrgv.edu/askrio
www.utrgv.edu/americorps
www.studentaid.gov
www.collegeforalltexans.com
www.rgvfocus.org
UTRGV Financial Aid Office

- www.utrgv.edu/finaid
- www.utrgv.edu/askrio
- FinAid@utrgv.edu
- (888) 882 – 4026
- **Edinburg Location:**
  1st Floor Student Services Building (SSBL)
  1201 West University Drive
  Edinburg, Texas 78539

**Brownsville Location:**
The Tower, Main 1.100
1 West University Boulevard
Brownsville, Texas 78520

**Hours:**
8:00 – 5:00pm M, W, Th, 8:00 – 6:00pm Tu, 8:00 – 5:00pm F
Contact Information

Jael Perez
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Brownsville • Edinburg • Harlingen
Associate Vice President for Strategic Enrollment

DARA NEWTON