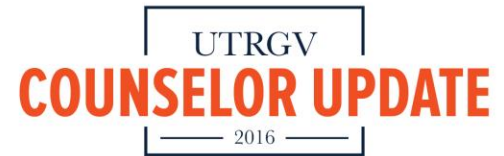


UTRGV  
**COUNSELOR UPDATE**  
— 2016 —

# WELCOME

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# Scholarships



## **Brenda Garcia**

Associate Director for Scholarships and Communications

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## **Teresa Villarreal**

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# Online Application



Types of Scholarships via this application

- UTRGV Endowed Scholarships
- VAMOS/UTRGV Endowed Scholarship  
(4 year renewable, valued at \$10,000)
- Students must be admitted
- [www.utrgv.edu/applyscholarships](http://www.utrgv.edu/applyscholarships)
- **Deadline: January 15, 2017**

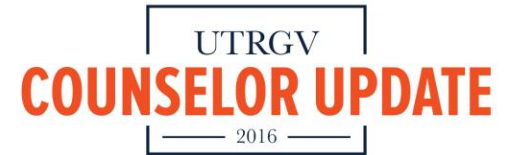
# UTRGV Scholars Program



## Description:

- ❖ 4-year renewable scholarship offered to new entering freshmen
- ❖ Student must be admitted to UTRGV
- ❖ Scholarship valued at \$20,000 (\$5,000 per academic year)
- ❖ No application is needed, students will be selected on a competitive basis

# UTRGV Housing Scholarships



## Description:

- ❖ 4-year renewable scholarship offered to new entering freshmen
- ❖ Student must be admitted to UTRGV
- ❖ Scholarship valued at \$12,000 (\$3,000 per academic year)
- ❖ No application is needed, students will be selected on a competitive basis

# UTRGV Gateway Scholarship



## Description:

- ❖ One Time Award
- ❖ Award varies from \$1000-\$3000
- ❖ Student must be admitted to UTRGV
- ❖ No application is needed, students will be selected on a competitive basis

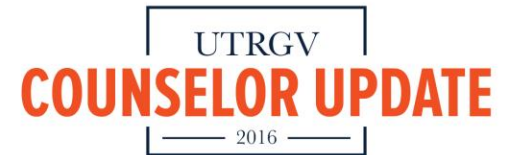
For more information

Call us: 956.665.2935

Email us: [scholarships@utrgv.edu](mailto:scholarships@utrgv.edu)

Visit us online: [www.utrgv.edu/scholarships](http://www.utrgv.edu/scholarships)

# Financial Aid



## **Jael Garcia**

Associate Director of Financial Aid Operations and Community Liaison

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## **Daniel Yarritu**

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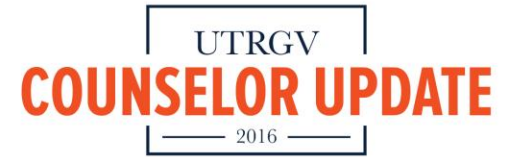


# Changes for the 2017-2018 FAFSA year

- ❖ For the first time students will be able to submit a FAFSA or TASFA for the 2017-2018 school year beginning on October 1, 2016
- ❖ Students and parents will use income information from an earlier tax year (2015)

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

# With these changes to FAFSA/TASFA, students and families will be able to:



- ❖ **File the FAFSA/TASFA earlier.** The FAFSA/TASFA was previously made available January 1 of each calendar year, yet it is uncommon for a family or individual to be prepared to file an income tax return in the month of January. Under the new system, the 2017-18 FAFSA/TASFA will be available in October 1, 2016, rather than January 1, 2017, and students can use the 2015 completed income tax return.
- ❖ **More easily submit a FAFSA.** The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), which allows automatic population of a student's FAFSA with tax return data and decreases the need for additional documentation, can be used by millions more students and families, since tax data 2015 would be readily available upon application.
- ❖ **Have more time to make necessary corrections or submit additional documents, if needed.** If students apply for aid earlier, they have more time to make corrections (when errors are made or missing signatures) and to submit documents if the student is selected for verification.

# 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. Not a FAFSA

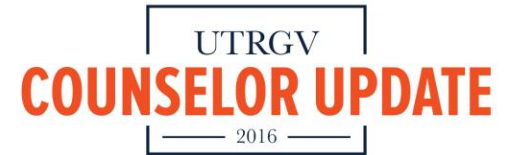
RECOMMENDED UTRGV PRIORITY DATE

March 15th

# 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.

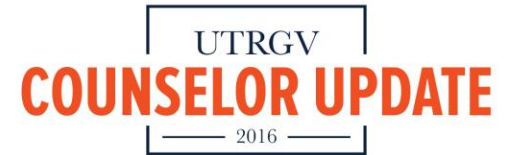
# UTRGV Achieve



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 \$45,000 or less and demonstrate financial need as reported on the FAFSA.
- 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 900 or be in the top 10% of graduating class
- Priority will be given to students that have filed the FAFSA for the upcoming academic year by March 15th

# UTRGV Assistance Scholarship



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 950, or be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class.
- Must be enrolled full-time
- Must file the FAFSA & 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)

# New Texas Grant Maximum Hours



- ❖ Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, the higher education coordinating board redefined the 150 maximum number of hours for Texas Grant
- ❖ It was redefined from hours receiving the Texas Grant to “attempted hours.”
- ❖ Attempted hours includes any hours taken while in high school

For more information

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[www.utrgv.edu/askrio](http://www.utrgv.edu/askrio)