

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, a public university and member institution of The University of Texas System ("UTRGV"), and La Feria Independent School District, a local government entity ("LA FERIA ISD"), enter into the following Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") effective September 1, 2021 ("Effective Date") through August 31, 2023. UTRGV and LA FERIA ISD are referred to collectively as the "Parties."

1. **PURPOSE and AUTHORITY:** The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate the enrollment of eligible students from LA FERIA ISD, in courses offered for dual credit through UTRGV. The UTRGV Dual Credit Program (the "Program") will provide the support services to enable enrollment in university courses for students from LA FERIA ISD. The Parties intend this MOU to conform to the rules set forth by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, as well as other applicable sections of the TAC and the Texas Education Code, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Parties enter into this MOU pursuant to Section 29.908 of the Texas Education Code, and authority for making this MOU also is granted by 19 TAC Section 4.84 (a) and Texas Education Code Section 61.076. In addition, Section 61.076 of the Texas Education Code provides the Board (as defined in Section 2 below) with the authority to regulate courses and programs offered by public institutions of higher education in cooperation with secondary schools.
2. **DEFINITIONS:** The following words and terms, when used in this MOU, shall have the meanings stated below, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.
  - a. *Academic Advising* -- An intentional process in which students seek and receive guidance with academic program planning and course selection to further post-secondary aspirations.
  - b. *Assessment* -- The criterion-referenced assessment instruments adopted by the Board to assess a student's readiness to enroll in college-level coursework or curricula.
  - c. *Board* -- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, or THECB.
  - d. *Core Curriculum* -- The approved list of courses that are part of UTRGV's 42 semester credit hour curriculum in the liberal arts, humanities, sciences, and political, social, and cultural history that all undergraduates of an institution of higher education are required to complete before receiving an undergraduate academic degree. A list of the courses that are part of the Core Curriculum are attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.
  - e. *Dual Credit* -- As defined by 19 TAC Section 4.83, refers to "a system under which an eligible high school student enrolls in college course(s) and receives credit for the course(s) from both the college and the high school." While dual credit courses may be taught on the secondary school campus to high school students only, certain sections of the rules under TAC Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, also apply when a high

school student takes a course on the college campus and receives both high school and college credit. Dual credit is also referred to as concurrent course credit.

- f. *Dual Enrollment* – refers to a system under which a student is enrolled in more than one educational institution (including high school and a public university). Dual enrollment is not equivalent to dual credit.
  - g. *Dual Credit Program (Program)* – The program that provides the outreach, student learning and support programs for students seeking to earn UTRGV college credit for dual credit courses simultaneously while enrolled in high school.
  - h. *Field of Study curriculum* -- A set of courses that satisfies the lower-division requirements for a baccalaureate degree in a specific academic area at a general academic teaching institution. A field of study curriculum affects academic degree programs at public junior colleges, public technical institutes, or universities as designated within the particular field of study curriculum.
  - i. *TAC* – Texas Administrative Code
  - j. *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)* – a state agency and four-year institution of higher education organized under the laws of the State of Texas.
  - k. *UTRGV Provost* – The chief academic officer of UTRGV, regardless of title currently assigned to the position.
  - l. *UTRGV Road Maps* -- A suggested sequence of courses for major fields of study, and a tool to determine course selection in tandem with the Core Curriculum.
3. **ELIGIBLE COURSES:** High school students admitted to the Program will be allowed to enroll in Core Curriculum courses offered by UTRGV during the term of this MOU. A list of the approved 42-hour Core Curriculum is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference. The LA FERIA ISD may award dual credit for any course completed under the terms of this MOU. Dual credit may be awarded for an equivalent course, elective credit, local credit, or to satisfy criteria for the Distinguished Achievement Program diploma. UTRGV will assume that dual credit will be awarded for enrollment under this MOU unless notified in writing otherwise by the LA FERIA ISD. Upon execution of this MOU, UTRGV and LA FERIA ISD will work collaboratively to design a course crosswalk listing UTRGV courses for which the district students may receive high school credit. UTRGV and the LA FERIA ISD agree to post the course crosswalk must be in a timely manner to their respective websites. Students successfully completing courses under this MOU will receive academic credit as documented on an official UTRGV transcript. Exceptions to these requirements shall be considered by the UTRGV Provost or designee on a case-by-case basis.
4. **COURSE APPLICABILITY AND TRANSFERABILITY:** By offering Core Curriculum courses in the Program, UTRGV does not guarantee the applicability of individual courses for satisfying future degree plan requirements of individual students. UTRGV will adhere to applicable TAC or other statutory requirements governing the transferability of Core Curriculum courses between public institutions of higher education in Texas.

5. **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:** Students seeking dual credit opportunities with UTRGV will have an individual academic profile created based on a variety of factors, including without limitation:

- High School Class Rank;
- Grade Point Average;
- College Entrance Exams, e.g., SAT/ACT, PSAT/ACT-PLAN;
- Extracurricular Activities; and
- Community Involvement.

The student's academic profile will be created with submitted documentation and an admission decision will be rendered based on the information and accomplishments in the academic profile. In addition, the school district must have a current memorandum of understanding (MOU) on file with UTRGV. Students pursuing dual credit must meet the following criteria:

- Be classified as a Junior or Senior in High School; and
- Be eligible to graduate under the Foundation w/Endorsement or Distinguished Achievement Plan.

Dual credit students typically will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Ranked in the Top 20% of their class;
- Have a 85 GPA or higher;
- Achieve an ACT Composite of 20 or higher;
- Achieve an SAT Total of 1110 (EBRW & MATH combined) or higher;
- Achieve a PSAT Section Score of 460 (EBRW) and 510 (MATH) or higher; or
- Achieve a PLAN Composite of 23 or higher.

6. **ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:** Admission criteria stated herein for the UTRGV Dual Credit Program will apply to those participants admitted for any enrollment during the term of this MOU. Each student will complete a UTRGV online admission application (Apply Texas Application) and provide additional required documents as follows:

- a. most recent high school transcript, and
- b. official SAT or ACT scores (if applicable), and
- c. a Program Authorization Form signed by the high school principal, counselor, and parents.

7. **ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

a. Upon admission to UTRGV, students must attend an Academic Advisement and Registration session/Dual Credit Program Orientation, prior to being allowed to register for coursework. Sessions may be held on one or both of the UTRGV campuses, or virtually. School Districts or high school campuses can request arrangements to accommodate larger groups. Specific information on how to complete this process will be provided to eligible students via email and to their respective high school counselor(s). Prior to attending an academic advisement session/dual credit orientation, each student who is not exempt from the provisions of the Texas Success Initiative, shall be assessed for readiness to enroll in university courses. For this

assessment, UTRGV may use any instrument otherwise approved by the Board for purposes of the Texas Success Initiative, in accordance with 19 TAC Sections 4.54 (relating to Exemptions/Exceptions) and 4.56 (relating to Assessment Instrument), including but not limited to STAAR-EEOC/SAT, and ACT scores. UTRGV Program Staff will collaborate with designated ISD Counselors and Administrators to provide academic advising to students and families on appropriate course selection aligned with state endorsements offered by the district and students declared UTRGV major field of study. The academic advising process shall be at the foundation of the program to promote rigor, access to the university experience, and strategic acceleration to facilitate transition to post-secondary education and success. The parties agree that the UTRGV Road Maps developed by the Academic Advising Center will be used as a resource to align course selection with major field of study. See Section 24 of this MOU and Exhibit C for more information.

b. Students must meet all prerequisites for individual courses such as minimum score requirements for respective course enrollment (e.g., minimum score on the specified placement test, minimum grade in a specified previous course, etc.) or any associated prerequisite courses. Individual exceptions to prerequisite requirements will be considered by UTRGV on a case-by-case basis.

c. Students admitted into the Program will be limited to enrollment in a maximum of two dual credit courses per semester or term. In special circumstances, students in the Program may be given approval to enroll in more than two dual credit courses per semester or term. Exceptions to this requirement for students with demonstrated outstanding academic performance and capability (as evidenced by college grade-point average, SAT or ACT scores, or other assessment indicators) must be approved by the principal of the high school and UTRGV Provost or designee.

8. **ELIGIBILITY FOR UTRGV SERVICES:** Program students enrolled in UTRGV courses are eligible to request a UTRGV ID card through established institutional procedures and shall be eligible to utilize the same or comparable academic and instructional support services that are afforded to university students on all UTRGV campuses. UTRGV is responsible for requiring timely and efficient access to such academic and supplemental services. For example, some (but not all) of these services include the following: Learning Assistance Center services like tutoring, academic advising, learning materials, library resources and other academic and instructional benefits for which the student may be eligible.
9. **ACADEMIC STANDING:** Students are expected to maintain a level of scholastic achievement that allows them to meet the grade requirements for continued enrollment in UTRGV and for college/high school graduation. Any Program student who fails to earn a grade of A, B, or C in any UTRGV course will be placed on academic suspension from the Program. Additionally, if a student withdraws from UTRGV or drops a course more than once during their participation in the Program, they will be placed on academic suspension from the Program. As UTRGV

students, Program students are subject to institutional standards regarding academic probation or suspension as outlined by the Office of the Registrar. Program staff are not eligible to override a decision on academic standing as determined by the Office of the Registrar.

10. GRADE REPORTS: Grades posted for dual credit courses will be provided by UTRGV to the school designee or district designee in a manner agreed upon by LA FERIA ISD and UTRGV. Grades and academic records for Program students will be subject to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") rules in accordance with UTRGV guidelines.
11. TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS: Textbooks or materials required for each course shall be determined by the faculty and specified in the course syllabus. The costs of the textbook(s) will be paid by the student or the LA FERIA ISD. Policies for determining who will purchase textbooks or materials will be left to the discretion of the District.
12. TUITION AND FEES: UTRGV will waive all tuition and fees for participating students while they remain eligible to participate in the Program. Students who choose to enroll at UTRGV after graduating from high school, or whose student application status changes for any other reason, are no longer eligible to receive a waiver of tuition and fees through the Program.
13. LOCATION: Classes for the Program will be held at an approved UTRGV facility, classroom on one of the UTRGV campuses, an approved off-campus site, or online. Additional locations may be approved by the UTRGV Provost or designee on a case-by-case basis.
14. STUDENT COMPOSITION OF CLASS: Classes in the Program will be composed of UTRGV students and Program students unless otherwise indicated. All dual credit course content, student learning outcomes, and course requirements will be the same as other similar UTRGV course sections, meeting all requirements established under law by the Board or other applicable agencies.
15. ATTENDANCE: Attendance in all classes is mandatory according to the UTRGV academic calendar. Additionally, Program students must adhere to the attendance policy of the faculty of record, as stated in the syllabus for that class. Program students who do not meet the prescribed attendance policy may be dropped from the class. Excused absences may be allowed according to UTRGV academic policy and at the discretion of the faculty of record.
16. FACULTY SELECTION, SUPERVISION, and EVALUATION: The faculty who will teach courses in the Program will be selected, supervised, and evaluated as would any other faculty member teaching any other class at UTRGV. UTRGV shall require that courses offered under the terms of this MOU are comparable to any other courses offered by UTRGV and equivalent with respect to the faculty qualifications, curriculum, materials, instructional activity, and method/rigor of evaluation of student performance. UTRGV retains full oversight of its academic programs and offerings, and its faculty selection, supervision, and evaluation.

17. **ACADEMIC POLICIES:** All academic policies that apply to students at UTRGV will apply to students enrolled in the Program. This includes policies for academic dishonesty, the appeal process for disputed grades, drop or withdrawal policies, the communication of grading policy to students, distribution of the syllabus, and other similar policies.
18. **ENROLLMENT OF COURSES:** UTRGV will provide district or campus designees with support in developing appropriate course sequencing and selection. UTRGV will also facilitate course registration and will provide a point of contact for enrollment inquiries. Unless otherwise indicated, enrollment in individual courses is on a first-come, first-served basis; UTRGV does not guarantee every Program student the availability of a seat in any specific, individual course in any semester, whether in person at an approved UTRGV site or online.
19. **TRANSCRIPTING CREDIT:** For dual credit courses, high school as well as college credit should be included on a student's transcript immediately upon a student's completion of the performance required in the course. Transcription of college credit will be the responsibility of UTRGV and transcription of high school credit will be the responsibility of LA FERIA ISD. LA FERIA ISD will determine how UTRGV grades will be recorded in the high school transcript for GPA and ranking purposes. LA FERIA ISD is responsible for making parents aware and knowledgeable of the decision made by LA FERIA ISD concerning these matters.
20. **EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** UTRGV staff will be responsible for the development and implementation of an evaluation process to determine the effectiveness of the Program. Measures of effectiveness shall include (without limitation) successful student academic performance in college courses, grades in classes offered by the Program, GPA, retention rates, and graduation rates. UTRGV and LA FERIA ISD agree to the following distinct and/or overlapping responsibilities and/or services as outlined in Exhibit B attached to this document.
21. **LIMITATION ON ENROLLMENT:** LA FERIA ISD may impose additional limitations on student enrollment in the Program. UTRGV will honor the Program Authorization Form for each participating student until high school graduation, unless written revocation notice is provided to UTRGV by the respective school principal.
22. **TRANSPORTATION:** All transportation will be provided by the LA FERIA ISD or the individual student. Program students driving their own vehicles to campus will be subject to UTRGV parking rules and transportation rules as set by LA FERIA ISD.
23. **DUAL CREDIT RESOURCES AND RESEARCH:** The parties agree the tools listed below are available and appropriate to assist counselors, students, and families in selecting endorsements and dual credit courses. Additional tools may be adopted by mutual agreement of the parties. A sample of available resources includes:

TEA House Bill 5: Foundation High School Program Website:

[http://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Graduation\\_Information/House\\_Bill\\_5\\_Foundation\\_High\\_School\\_Program](http://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Graduation_Information/House_Bill_5_Foundation_High_School_Program)

THECB Dual Credit Overview: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1514.PDF>

THECB Dual Credit Education in Texas Research:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=D455C380-7BA9-11E8-AE230050560100A9>

UT System Dual Credit and Success in College Report:

<https://www.utsystem.edu/documents/docs/ut-system-reports/2018/dual-credit-and-success-college>

UTRGV Academic Advising Roadmaps:

<https://www.utrgv.edu/advising/one-stop-shop/know-your-roadmap-to-graduation/index.htm>

24. **Texas Senate Bill 25 (86<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session)**: In an effort to support high school students who participate in dual credit programs, Texas Senate Bill 25 (SB 25, 86th Legislature, Regular Session) established requirements for institutions of higher education to address postsecondary experiences for this population of students. Exhibit C summarizes the requirements outlined in the legislation and provides methods for meeting the respective requirement, specifically updates to programming and student support services.

25. **ALL PARTIES AGREE:**

- a. To be responsible for assuring all sites where Program students participate in this Program are compliant with applicable state or federal disability laws;
- b. To comply with all applicable provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (20 USC §1232g, *et seq*). For purposes of this MOU, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), each Party hereby designates the other as a school official with a legitimate educational interest in the educational records of the students who participate in the Program to the extent that access to the records are required by the receiving Party to carry out the Program. The Parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of the educational records in accordance with the provisions of FERPA;
- c. In all cases, to comply with all federal, state, and local laws applicable to this MOU; and
- d. To have in place and abide by a policy prohibiting harassment or discrimination on any basis prohibited by applicable laws of the United States or the State of Texas.

26. **AMENDMENTS:** This MOU may be amended by a written document specifically referencing this MOU and signed by authorized officials of each Party.

27. **TERMINATION UPON NOTICE:** UTRGV and LA FERIA ISD, reserve the right to terminate this MOU upon written notice to the other party ninety (90) days prior to the date of termination. In the event that there are less than ninety days remaining in any given semester when the decision to

terminate this MOU is reached, the actual date of termination will be the day after the completion of that semester. If this MOU is terminated during an academic term, students enrolled in Program classes will be allowed to finish their current coursework and receive appropriate course credit.

28. **INDEMNIFICATION:** To the extent authorized under Texas law and without waiving any defenses including governmental immunity, UTRGV and LA FERIA ISD each agree to be responsible for its own acts of negligence, which may arise in connection with any or all claims for damages, costs, and expenses to person(s) and property that may arise out of or be occasioned by this MOU or any of its activities or from any act or omission of any employee or invitee of the parties. Additionally, as UTRGV and LA FERIA ISD are governmental entities of the State of Texas, the applicable provisions of the Texas Tort Claims Act as set forth in the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code §100.001, *et. seq.*, and the remedies authorized therein regarding claims or actions that may be asserted by third parties for accident, injury or death shall apply. UTRGV and LA FERIA ISD do not waive any immunity, limits of liability, or defenses, which are afforded to either of them under law, including without limitation under the Texas Tort Claims Act.
29. **LIABILITY INSURANCE:** It is the policy of the State of Texas not to acquire commercial general liability for torts committed by employees of the State who are acting within the scope of their employment. Rather, third parties must look to the Texas Tort Claims Act for relief with respect to property damage, personal injury, and death proximately caused by the wrongful act or omission or negligence of an employee acting within the scope of employment. UTRGV and its employees are provided workers' compensation coverage under a self-insuring, self-managing plan as authorized by Chapter 503 of the Texas Labor Code. UTRGV will assure that its self-insurance will comply with applicable laws and regulations.
30. **NO ASSIGNMENT:** The parties may not assign this contract to any other party without written consent of the other party. Each party must conduct a criminal background check, at its own expense and consistent with its own policies, of all persons they appoint, employ, or assign to provide services under this contract.
31. **DISPUTES:** To address any dispute that may arise during the implementation of this MOU, a committee consisting of representatives from LA FERIA ISD and UTRGV will be established to discuss and resolve issues. This committee will meet on an "as needed basis" at the written request of any of the parties. The LA FERIA ISD and UTRGV President (or designee) will each select one member of the committee, and those two selected individuals will mutually agree upon a third committee member. The committee is expected to seek robust consultation with appropriate individuals who have knowledge of the issue(s) in dispute, and work together to reach compromise and agreement on a mutually beneficial position within 30 calendar days. In the event the committee is not able to resolve the issue(s) in dispute within 30 calendar days, the party may agree to refer the dispute to non-binding mediation. The parties may agree to select a mutually acceptable mediator and conduct the mediation within 45 calendar days.



Neither party may unreasonably withhold consent to selection of a mediator. The parties will share equally in the cost of mediation.

32. GOVERNING LAW: This contract shall be construed under and governed by the laws of the State of Texas.
33. WAIVER: The failure of any party hereto to exercise the rights granted them herein upon the occurrence of any of the contingencies set forth in this MOU shall not in any event constitute a waiver of any such rights upon the occurrence of any such contingencies.
34. MISCELLANEOUS:
- a. Neither Party has authority for an on behalf of the other except as provided in this MOU. No other authority, power, partnerships, use of rights are granted or implied.
  - b. This MOU represents the entire MOU by and between the Parties and supersedes all previous letters, understandings, or oral agreements between the Parties. Any representations, promises, or guarantees made but not stated in body of this MOU are null and void and of no effect.
  - d. Neither Party may incur any debt, obligation expense, or liability or any kind against the other without the other's express written approval.
  - e. If the Board adopts new rules or guidelines applicable to the Program during the term of this MOU, the new rules or guidelines shall prevail.
35. NOTICES: Notices give pursuant to this MOU shall be sufficient if actually received and sent by certified or registered mail, postage fully prepaid to:

UTRGV:  
Dr. Janna Arney  
Deputy President and Interim Provost  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
1201 W. University Dr.  
Edinburg, TX 78539

LA FERIA ISD:  
Superintendent of Schools  
La Feria Independent School District  
203 E. Oleander Ave.  
La Feria, TX 78559

**Executed effective as of the Effective Date by the following duly authorized representatives of the Parties:**

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Name of Agency

By Janna Arney  
Authorized Signature

Dr. Janna Arney, Deputy President and Interim Provost  
Title

Date 9/16/2021

<sup>DS</sup>  
MS

Reviewed by Dr. Christine Shupala

La Feria Independent School District

Name of Agency

By Dr. Cathy L. Hernandez  
Authorized Signature

Superintendent  
Title

Date 7/26/21

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Name of Agency

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Date \_\_\_\_\_

La Feria Independent School District

Name of Agency

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibits:**

Exhibit A – Approved 42-hour Core Curriculum

Exhibit B – Goals for Dual Credit Programming

Exhibit C – Texas Senate Bill 25

Exhibit D – Sample Academic Course Crosswalk

Exhibit C: Texas Senate Bill 25  
Dual Credit Memorandum of Understanding: 2021-2023

**Introduction Statement**

In an effort to support high school students who participate in dual credit programs, Texas Senate Bill (SB) 25 (86th Legislature, Regular Session) established requirements for institutions of higher education to address postsecondary experiences for this population of students. The following section summarizes the requirements outlined in the legislation and provides methods for meeting the respective requirement.

**Filing a Degree Plan**

Students participating in a dual credit program must file a degree plan with an institution of higher education. Institutions must work with students who meet one of the following criteria to ensure a degree plan is on file:

1. **Earned a cumulative total of 15 or more hours at the institution.** Students must have a degree plan on file at the institution by the end of the semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the fifteenth hour or more was earned; or,
2. **Enrolled for the first at the institution with 15 or more hours.** Students must have a degree plan on file at the institution during their first semester or term of enrollment if the student has earned 15 or more hours from another institution.

For the purpose of this requirement, the phrase “file a degree plan” equates to “declares a major” in that students declare an intent to pursue a particular program of study that, upon successful completion, results in the awarding of a baccalaureate degree from the institution. A major is declared at the time of application to the university using the student’s intended major as listed in the official Apply Texas application.

Dual credit students are eligible to enroll in courses from the university’s core curriculum that have been identified by their respective high schools as also qualifying for equitable high school credit (i.e., course alignment crosswalk). Core curriculum classes are the most applicable to a range of degree programs and transferrable between institutions of higher education.

If a dual credit student decides to change their declared major from what was originally listed in their application to the university, they must follow the university’s standard procedures as outlined in the appropriate Undergraduate Catalog. The process outlined in the *Undergraduate Catalog for 2020-2021* may be found here: <http://utrgv.smartcatalogiq.com/2020-2021/2020-2021-Undergraduate-Catalog/Registration-Policies-and-Procedures/Registration-Policies>

**Notification of Process for Filing a Degree Plan**

Under SB 25, institutions of higher education are required to provide students with notification of the process for filing a degree plan. To the best of its ability, UTRGV commits to providing students with multiple active and passive information channels through which they are able to learn more about the process for filing a degree plan and other enrollment-related information, including:

1. **Website:** UTRGV maintains a Dual Credit Program website through which detailed programmatic information may be found. Admission and enrollment process are clearly outlined and provide specific information about filing a degree plan and accessing resources.

**Exhibit C: Texas Senate Bill 25****Dual Credit Memorandum of Understanding: 2021-2023**

2. **Dual Credit Student Guide:** A program guide specific to dual credit students is available electronically through the program's website, providing detailed program information and key concepts for students and families to consider.
3. **Dual Credit Program Orientation:** Prior to enrolling in dual credit courses at UTRGV, students must complete a program orientation session where important program information is reviewed. Content for this session includes but is not limited to: understanding the core curriculum; reviewing academic course policies and institutional calendars; introducing academic and individual support services; planning ahead for postsecondary enrollment; and, financial implications of participating in dual credit.

**Supporting Students' Postsecondary Success**

SB 25 requires institutions of higher education provide students with verification of their declared major and that the courses in which they are enrolled align with their intended major. UTRGV utilizes the Degree Works platform, which provides a clear and transparent report of a student's academic progress and time toward degree. To achieve the latter requirement of course alignment with intended majors, UTRGV utilizes a holistic approach that incorporates direct interaction with students and continued education for high school counselors.

While incorporating several standard core curriculum requirements, degree plans/majors are unique programs that must be followed in order to meet degree completion requirements. Moreover, adhering to these course/programmatic requirements is sometimes required in a specific sequence. Therefore, UTRGV utilizes the following methods for educating students, families, and high school counselors about degree requirements:

1. **Institutionally Designed Roadmaps:** UTRGV provides students with detailed, sequenced Roadmaps for academic planning purposes. Roadmaps include required courses, suggested courses, and a sample course sequence to maximize the student experience. Additional programmatic information (e.g., minimum grade requirements, pre-requisites, etc.) is also included. Roadmaps may be accessed electronically at <https://www.utrgv.edu/advising/one-stop-shop/know-your-roadmap-to-graduation/index.htm>.
2. **College-Specific Information Sessions:** The Dual Credit Program in collaboration with the Academic Advising Center and/or academic department host college-specific information sessions for students and families at strategic times during the year. Sessions are facilitated by UTRGV personnel who introduce important topics such as academic planning, career exploration, and degree pathways.
3. **Professional Development for ISD Counselors:** Recognizing the critical role counselors play in supporting dual credit students, UTRGV commits to offering ongoing professional development workshops on topics related to academic roadmaps, degree requirements, and supporting students through early and targeted academic advisement.

While students participating in dual credit at UTRGV are not required to meet with an institutional Academic Advisor, they are required to attend an orientation session associated with the Dual Credit Program and at least one college-specific information session (associated with the selected major on the student record) per year throughout their time in the program. Failure to attend either of these activities will result in a registration hold being placed on the student's academic record until such time that the requirement is fulfilled.

**The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**  
**General Education Core Curriculum**  
**2019-2020**

**010 - Communication (2 courses - 6 hours required; minimum grade of C)**

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ENGL 1301 Rhetoric and Composition I or ENGL 1387 (H<sup>1</sup>)  
 ENGL 1302 Rhetoric and Composition II or ENGL 1388 (H)      or      ENGL 1305 Writing Cultural Studies

**020 - Mathematics (1 course – 3 hours required; minimum grade of C)**

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MATH 1314 or MATH 1414 College Algebra	MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical Methods or MATH 1387(H)
MATH 1324 Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences	MATH 1343 Introduction to Biostatistics or MATH 1388 (H)
MATH 1325 Calculus for Business and Social Sciences	MATH 2412 Pre-Calculus
MATH 1332 Math for Liberal Arts or MATH 1382 (H)	MATH 2413 Calculus I or MATH 2487 (H)

**030 - Life and Physical Sciences (2 courses – 6 hours required; lecture only)**

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ASTR 1401 Introductory Astronomy I	ENVR 1402 Introduction to Environmental Science II
ASTR 1402 Introductory Astronomy II	GEOL 1403 Physical Geology
BIOL 1406 General Biology I or BIOL 1487 (H)	GEOL 1404 Historical Geology
BIOL 1407 General Biology II or BIOL 1488 (H)	PHYS 1401 General Physics I
BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I	PHYS 1402 General Physics II
BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II	PHYS 2425 Physics for Scientists and Engineers I
CHEM 1311 General Chemistry I or CHEM 1309 Chemistry for Engineers	PHYS 2426 Physics for Scientists and Engineers II
CHEM 1312 General Chemistry II	PSCI 1421 Physical Science I
ENVR 1401 Introduction to Environmental Science I	PSCI 1422 Physical Science II

**040 - Language, Philosophy & Culture (1 course – 3 hours required)**

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ANTH 1354 The Anthropology of Expressive Culture	PHIL 1300 Critical Thinking
ENGL 2313 Readings in Dramatic Literature	PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy or PHIL 1387 (H)
ENGL 2321 Introduction to British Literature	PHIL 1305 Introduction to Latin American Philosophy
ENGL 2326 Introduction to American Literature	PHIL 1306 Introduction to Asian Philosophy
ENGL 2331 Introduction to World Literature	PHIL 1310 Ethics, Happiness, and the Good Life
ENGL 2341 Introduction to Literature	PHIL 1312 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy
ENGL 2351 Introduction to Mexican American Literature	PHIL 1366 Philosophy and History of Science and Technology
ENGL 2387 Readings in World Literature I (H)	PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics
ENGL 2388 Readings in World Literature II (H)	PHIL 2322 Ethics, Health, and Culture
FREN 2382 Introduction to French Literature	PHIL 2326 Ethics, Technology, and Society
HIST 2321 World History I	PHIL 2351 Religious Diversity in the Global Community
HIST 2322 World History II	SPAN 2320 Latino Culture & Civilization
MASC 2301 Introduction to Mexican-American Studies	SPAN 2330 Intro to Spanish & Latin American Literature
MUSI 1309 World Music Cultures	

**050 - Creative Arts (1 course – 3 hours required)**

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ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation	MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation
ARTS 1303 Art History I	MUSI 1308 Music History and Literature I
ARTS 1304 Art History II	MUSI 1310 History of Rock
DANC 2323 Dance Appreciation	PHIL 1330 Philosophy, Art, and Film
ENGL/FILM 2312 History of Film as Visual Art	THTF 1310 Theatre Appreciation
ENGL 2314 Appreciation and Analysis of Literature	THTF 2366 Cinema Appreciation
FREN 2323 Introduction to French Cinema in English	

<sup>1</sup> (H) designates Honors sections of courses.

**060 - American History (2 courses – 6 hours required)**

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HIST 1301 U.S. History I or HIST 1387 (H)	or	HIST/MASC 2327 Mexican American History I
HIST 1302 U.S. History II or HIST 1388 (H)	or	HIST/MASC 2328 Mexican American History II

**070 - Government/Political Science (2 courses – 6 hours required)**

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POLS 2305 U.S. Federal Govt & Politics or POLS 2385(H)	POLS 2306 Texas Government & Politics or POLS 2386 (H)
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**080 - Social and Behavioral Sciences (1 course – 3 hours required)**

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ANTH 1324 Human Evolution	ENGL 2315 Humans and Language
ANTH 2302 Introduction to Archaeology	PHIL 1362 Race, Sexuality, and Class
ANTH 2351 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	PSYC 2301 General Psychology
ECON 1301 Introduction to Economics	SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology
ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics	

**090 - Integrative/Experiential Learning Option (6 hours required)**

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**1. Applied Communication and Literacies (maximum 3 hours)**

COMM 1311 Introduction to Communication	COMM 1315 Public Speaking
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**2. Humanities (maximum 4 hours)**

PHIL 1102 Work and Human Flourishing

Students may also select an additional three-hour course from the Language, Philosophy, and Culture area to complete the six required hours in the (090) Component Area Option.

**3. Leadership (maximum 1 hour)**

MGMT 1101 Leadership and Career Lab

**4. Science Labs (maximum 3 hours)**

Students may use up to 3 hours from the lab component of any of the science courses listed in the Life & Physical Sciences component area (030) for the Integrative/Experiential Learning component area. Courses that have a separate lab are also listed below.

ASTR 1401 Introductory Astronomy I Lab	ENVR 1402 Introduction to Environmental Science II Lab
ASTR 1402 Introductory Astronomy II Lab	GEOL 1403 Physical Geology Lab
BIOL 1406 General Biology I or BIOL 1487 (H) Lab	GEOL 1404 Historical Geology Lab
BIOL 1407 General Biology II or BIOL 1488 (H) Lab	PHYS 1401 General Physics I Lab
BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	PHYS 1402 General Physics II Lab
BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	PHYS 2425 Physics for Scientists and Engineers I Lab
CHEM 1109 Chemistry for Engineers Lab	PHYS 2426 Physics for Scientists and Engineers II Lab
CHEM 1111 General Chemistry I Lab	PSCI 1421 Physical Science I Lab
CHEM 1112 General Chemistry II Lab	PSCI 1422 Physical Science II Lab
ENVR 1401 Introduction to Environmental Science I Lab	

**5. Interdisciplinary (maximum 4 hours)**

ANTH 2311 Global Health	INDS 2390 Humanities in the World
ENST 1301 Introduction to Environmental Studies	INDS 2190 Humanities and Service Learning
HONR 2388 Honors Humanities II (H)	QUMT 2398 Decision Analytics

**6. Technologies (maximum 3 hours)**

CSCI 1380 Computer Science I

**7. Language Diversity & Writing (maximum 4 hours)**

WRLS 1100 Language Exploration	WRLS 2301 Multilingual Writing
SPAN 2321 Spanish in the United States	

**Goals for Dual Credit Programming  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**

Goals	Metrics	ISD Responsibilities/Services	UTRGV Responsibilities/Services
ISDs and IHEs will implement purposeful and collaborative outreach efforts to inform all students and parents of the benefits of DC, including enrollment and fee policies.	Documentation summarizing collaboration and outreach efforts of IHEs and secondary school partners will be readily available and posted.	ECHS website to include MOU, crosswalk, and link to UTRGV's online resources.	Revised course chart (HB5), campus presentations to various groups, ECHS leadership teams, updated website, DC resource guide.
DC Program will assist HS students in the successful transition to and acceleration through post-secondary education.	Analysis of measures in enrollment and persistence through post-secondary education, disaggregated by student sub-population. Included here are: student enrollment in post-secondary after high school; time to degree completion; and, semester credit hours to degree.	PEIMS data for subgroups at the time of graduation; track students after graduation through national student clearinghouse.	Cohort tag for students who enroll at UTRGV in DC and then continue; persistence; time to degree; total number of hours to degree completion.
All DC students will receive academic and college readiness advising with access to student support services to bridge them successfully into college course completion.	Analysis of measures in enrollment and degree completion, disaggregated by student sub-population. Included here are: student enrollment in post-secondary after high school time to degree completion; and, decrease in excess number of semester hours beyond required hours to degree completion.	See above, plus: CCMR counseling services.	See above, plus: credit to degree alignment; targeted approach to services by UTRGV's Student Academic Success unit; professional development for counselors by UTRGV academic advisors.
The quality and rigor of DC course will be sufficient to ensure student success in subsequent courses.	Analysis of performance in subsequent course work.		Track subsequent grades in scaffolded courses: ENGL 1301/1302; MATH 1314/2412/2413; BIOL 1406/1407.

SAMPLE High School/UTRGV  
Course Listing and Alignment Crosswalk

<b>Category 010: Communication (2 Courses - 6 SCH)</b>					
<b>HS Course Number</b>	<b>High School Course</b>	<b>UTRGV Course Equivalent</b>	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>HS Grade Level (Jr./Sr.)</b>	<b>Semester Offered (Fall/Spring)</b>
	English III A/B	ENGL 1301			
	English IV A/B	ENGL 1302			
<b>Category 020: Mathematics (1 Course - 3 SCH)</b>					
<b>HS Course Number</b>	<b>High School Course</b>	<b>UTRGV Course Equivalent</b>	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>HS Grade Level (Jr./Sr.)</b>	<b>Semester Offered (Fall/Spring)</b>
	Algebra II A/B	MATH 1314			
	Statistics A/B	MATH 1342			
	Pre-Calculus A/B	MATH 2412	MATH 1314		
	Calculus A/B	MATH 2413	MATH 2414		
<b>Category 030: Life and Physical Sciences (2 Courses - 3 SCH)</b>					
<b>HS Course Number</b>	<b>High School Course</b>	<b>UTRGV Course Equivalent</b>	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>HS Grade Level (Jr./Sr.)</b>	<b>Semester Offered (Fall/Spring)</b>
	Biology A	BIOL 1406			
	Biology B	BIOL 1407			
	Chemistry A	CHEM 1311			
	Chemistry B	CHEM 1312			
	Physics A/B A	PHYS 1401			
	Physics A/B B	PHYS 1402			
	Physics/Astronomy	ASTR 1401			
<b>Category 040: Language, Philosophy, and Culture (1 Course - 3 SCH)</b>					
<b>HS Course Number</b>	<b>High School Course</b>	<b>UTRGV Course Equivalent</b>	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>HS Grade Level (Jr./Sr.)</b>	<b>Semester Offered (Fall/Spring)</b>
	Literary Genres	ENGL 2341			
<b>Category 050: Creative Arts (1 Course - 3 SCH)</b>					
<b>HS Course Number</b>	<b>High School Course</b>	<b>UTRGV Course Equivalent</b>	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>HS Grade Level (Jr./Sr.)</b>	<b>Semester Offered (Fall/Spring)</b>
	Art Appreciation	ARTS 1301			
	Music Appreciation	MUSI 1306			
<b>Category 060: American History (2 Courses - 6 SCH)</b>					
<b>HS Course Number</b>	<b>High School Course</b>	<b>UTRGV Course Equivalent</b>	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>HS Grade Level (Jr./Sr.)</b>	<b>Semester Offered (Fall/Spring)</b>
	U.S. History A	HIST 1301			
	U.S. History B	HIST 1302			
<b>Category 070: Government/Political Science (2 Courses - 6 SCH)</b>					
<b>HS Course Number</b>	<b>High School Course</b>	<b>UTRGV Course Equivalent</b>	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>HS Grade Level (Jr./Sr.)</b>	<b>Semester Offered (Fall/Spring)</b>
	U.S. Government	POLS 2305			
	U.S. Government II	POLS 2306			
<b>Category 080: Social and Behavioral Sciences (1 Course - 3 SCH)</b>					



**SAMPLE High School/UTRGV  
Course Listing and Alignment Crosswalk**

<b>HS Course Number</b>	<b>High School Course</b>	<b>UTRGV Course Equivalent</b>	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>HS Grade Level (Jr./Sr.)</b>	<b>Semester Offered (Fall/Spring)</b>
	Sociology	SOCI 1301			
	Psychology	PSYC 2301			
	Economics	ECON 2301			
<b>Category 090: Integrative/Experiential Learning Option (6 SCH Required)</b>					
<b>HS Course Number</b>	<b>High School Course</b>	<b>UTRGV Course Equivalent</b>	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	<b>HS Grade Level (Jr./Sr.)</b>	<b>Semester Offered (Fall/Spring)</b>
	Communication	COMM 1311, 1315			