

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Daniel A. Brown, *Dean*
Eckhardt Hall 137. MSC 206. Extension 3290.

Lecturers

Delgado, Guerra, Jimenez, Lawrence, Moreno, Ogden, Ramirez, Torres, Villarreal, Wavell

Professional Staff

Juan Moreno, *Interim Director, Learning Assistance Center*

Juan (Tony) Ramirez, *Coordinator, Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Program/Academic Adviser*

Rebeka Silvas, *Associate Director, Retention Services*

Angelica Soliz, *Academic Adviser*

LaRue Stephens, *Director, Retention Services*

Anna Trevino, *Academic Adviser*

University College is the home of programs which help students achieve college readiness and develop essential academic success skills. These programs include Developmental Education, Retention Services, Freshman Convocation and the University Honors Program. In addition, University College coordinates academic aspects of the Javelina First Year Experience, including College Success Seminar and Javelina Learning Communities. It provides an academic home for the advisement of freshmen and transfer students with fewer than 30 semester credit hours, and is committed to creating a positive climate for learning. In addition, University College offers programs designed to enhance student success in the classroom. These programs include supplemental instruction, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) and tutoring. Programs which enhance the learning experience, including Freshman Convocation, College Success Seminar, Learning Communities and the University Honors Program are located in University College.

CURRICULUM

Texas A&M University-Kingsville is committed to the success of all students and provides developmental education course work in mathematics, reading and writing with the goal of helping students achieve college readiness. This program is designed to prepare students for successful entry into their regular academic classes. The courses are graded and the grade is calculated in the grade point average; however, these courses do not count as part of a degree program. Each student's academic background is reviewed and college preparedness is assessed as they are admitted to the university. Working with a University College academic adviser, student schedules are customized to reflect student academic needs. Details regarding the University College TSIP are published within the University College Enrollment Guide and Developmental Education Plan, which is submitted for approval on an annual basis to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Algebra (ALGE)

0300. Developmental Algebra I.

3(3-1)

Designed to provide students with an introduction to algebra. Topics include operations using real numbers, solving linear equations, problem solving techniques, introduction to graphing linear equations, simplifying exponential expressions and polynomials and an introduction to factoring. Placement is based on analysis of student ACT/SAT, TSI assessment and/or placement test scores. Students must be concurrently enrolled in a mathematics laboratory.

0301. Developmental Algebra II.

3(3-1)

Designed to provide students with more advanced algebraic skills necessary for success in college-level mathematics. Topics include a review of linear equations and problem solving techniques, rational expressions, graphing nonlinear equations and roots and radicals. Placement is based on analysis of student ACT/SAT, TSI and/or placement test scores. Students must be concurrently enrolled in a mathematics laboratory.

Reading (READ)

0300. Developmental Reading.

3(3-2)

Improvement of reading skills through individualized development of flexible speed, comprehension, vocabulary and study skills. Required of all students deficient in reading skills. Students must be concurrently enrolled in a reading laboratory.

Writing (WRIT)

0300. Developmental Writing.

3(3-1)

Intensive review of basic grammar and usage, study of various sentence and paragraph patterns leading to theme composition, development of vocabulary and reading skills. Recommended for all students deficient in basic English skills. Students must be concurrently enrolled in a writing laboratory.

College Readiness

- **Developmental Education.** Provide pre-college instruction in reading, writing, math and algebra. The developmental education program is designed to prepare students for successful entry into regular academic courses in a comprehensive program providing computer-assisted instruction, Supplemental Instruction, tutoring and mentoring.
- **Partners for Success.** Partners for Success is a cooperative effort by Texas A&M-Kingsville and Del Mar College to provide students with basic academic skills that will increase their chances of success at the university level. The participants of this program are co-enrolled at both institutions, with Del Mar College providing lower level developmental courses. These courses are conducted in University College classrooms, and the Del Mar College faculty and staff also are housed in University College. The program assures that students seeking higher education will have a starting point customized to their academic needs, thus allowing every student the opportunity for a successful academic future. Placement in these courses is based on an analysis of placement scores provided to TAMU-K as part of the admissions process.

Retention Services

University College programs are designed to support students as they develop their academic, personal and leadership skills. The following programs develop, enhance and enrich the undergraduate experience and while doing so, positively impact student retention and persistence to graduation.

- **Academic Advising.** University College Advising Center personnel evaluate the academic background of incoming freshmen and assess student readiness for college course work. These advisers work with students to define and develop realistic goals, help students recognize their abilities and interests, identify any special needs and/or match students to available resources that may be required to aid in their journey to be successful. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisers on a regular basis to monitor their progress toward their educational and career goals. Advising provides a linkage between academic preparation and the world of work. Advising provides the foundation for students to pursue their educational and career goals.
- **Learning Assistance Center.** The Learning Assistance Center, located in the Jernigan Library, provides tutoring to students needing assistance in their courses. Peer mentors assist students and respond to specific questions regarding course content while assisting in the development of successful study skills and test-taking strategies in key courses.
- **Supplemental Instruction.** Supplemental Instruction (SI) provides a series of weekly review sessions for students taking historically difficult courses. Each SI section is guided by an undergraduate SI leader, a peer mentor who has previously taken the course and has received training in note-taking, study skills and test-taking strategies.
- **Texas Success Initiative Program (TSIP).** Administers the tracking, evaluating and reporting requirements of the TSIP. In addition, TSIP evaluates and validates student scores and program results relevant to retention and academic achievement.

Freshman Convocation

- **Freshman Convocation.** The mission of Freshman Convocation is to welcome students and to foster a sense of community, culture, pride and tradition in Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Held each fall semester, this program promotes an understanding of the role of higher education in life-long learning, formally introduces first-year students to faculty and staff and introduces important campus traditions to new students such as the *Javelina Pledge* and *Alma Mater*.

University Honors Program

- **Campus-Wide Honor Societies:** Each year, high-achieving freshmen are welcomed into Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society. Juniors and seniors ranking in the top 10% of their class are invited to join Alpha Chi Honor Society.
- **University Honors Program:** The University Honors Program provides opportunities for outstanding students to participate in academic and social programs throughout the school year. Students who successfully complete the Honors Program will receive appropriate notation on their academic transcript as they are identified as honors graduates at commencement. While offering opportunities for professional growth, the Honors Program fosters a collaborative learning environment through unique classroom and co-curricular activities.

The Javelina First Year Experience

- **College Success Seminar.** College Success Seminar focuses on the development of important academic skills such as writing and critical thinking while introducing students to the requirements for degree completion. Students are also engaged in discussions and activities which enhance their social transition to campus life. Research demonstrates that students completing a college success seminar are more successful in college as many pitfalls commonly experienced by first-year students are avoided.
- **Learning Communities.** Learning communities help students find their place in both academic and social settings as faculty and students work together in a collaborative learning environment. This allows students to make connections and form friendships as they achieve to the best of their ability. Research demonstrates that this integrated learning environment enhances student learning and success.

APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES (B.A.A.S. Program)

The purpose of the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (B.A.A.S.) is to offer students with formal training in a vocational-technical studies area the opportunity to obtain a baccalaureate degree without the significant loss of credits that normally occurs in pursuing a traditional degree. This program is especially appropriate for graduates of an Associate of Applied Science program. The degree is designed to afford both academic and professional depth to individuals who possess recognized competence in an occupational or technical field. It is designed to offer flexibility that will permit tailoring the program to the student's background and educational objectives.

Degree Requirements

The student must complete a baccalaureate degree plan (120 semester hours minimum) consisting of 36 hours in residence and transfer credit which includes the following:

- A. **General Education and Electives** (42 to 62 semester hours): This component is made up of freshman and sophomore-level courses which meet each of the criteria identified by the university as important aspects of a general education listed in the General Education Requirements.
- B. **Area of Specialization** (18-48 semester hours): Credits toward the area of specialization may be earned from junior or community colleges, vocational or technical schools, armed forces schools whose work can be equated to vocational/technical schools and work experience (maximum six semester hours).
- C. **Professional Development** (30 semester hours): The courses taken in this area are to be chosen to provide academic depth and breadth to the area of specialization and, in addition, afford substantive developmental knowledge in the student's professional career goals. The component focuses on areas of learning directly related to upward mobility and further extends a student's knowledge, skill and expertise. The professional development sequence of 30 semester hours will be selected from business, human relations or another relevant professional area. The professional sequence will be tailored to each student's needs.

Candidates for the B.A.A.S. degree must complete a minimum of 36 hours in residence. Students who choose the business emphasis of the B.A.A.S. degree must meet the same lower-division (field of study) course requirements as students pursuing the B.B.A. degree.

For more information, contact the University College Dean's office, (361) 593-3290. Details regarding this program can also be found at <http://www.tamuk.edu/universitycollege/BAAS.asp>.

