

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas State University System

SRSU Policy Name: Academic Center for Excellence

SRSU Policy ID: FH 3.08

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The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) offers numerous academic support programs. The Center's committed faculty members teach developmental education courses in reading, writing, and mathematics. Tutoring is available in the Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) on the first floor of the Bryan Wildenthal Library. Academic Enhancement Seminars offer study skills workshops to students. Students up for an academic challenge should check out the SRSU Honors Program.

Organizationally, ACE is based in the School of Arts and Sciences.

I. Developmental Education

At Sul Ross State University, the Developmental Education program is housed in the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE). The Center aids students in gaining the academic knowledge, study skills, and critical thinking capabilities needed for success in college-level courses.

ACE offers developmental education courses in reading, writing, and mathematics.

A student's placement into any of these courses is determined by the student's placement scores on the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA), the only State-authorized placement test.

II. Honors Program

The Sul Ross State University Honors Program, administered through the Academic Center for Excellence, is a challenging and exciting integrative program of academic experiences designed to stimulate the more motivated student. This program offers the outstanding student an opportunity to take intellectually motivating academic classes and seminars. It is not an accelerated program but an in-depth approach to the understanding of ideas and relationships. It offers students a chance to go beyond the norms of traditional classroom experience and explore more challenging concepts and issues while applying critical thinking to the learning experience.

Students in the SRSU Honors Program have the opportunity to participate in honors sections of courses offered by individual departments. A second option is for students to enter into an Honors Contract with the faculty member of a regular course in which the student is already registered.

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In order to earn the distinction *Graduate in Honors Studies*, with the designation imprinted on his or her transcript, a student must meet the following requirements:

- complete a minimum of 24 semester credit hours in honors classes with a GPA of 3.50 or higher,
- have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher,
- complete an Honors Activities Form each semester, AND
- meet twice each semester with the SRSU Honors Program Director for advising.

A. Eligibility Requirements

Entering Freshmen: To qualify for the Honors Program, entering freshmen must meet one of the following criteria:

- be in the top 10% of their High School graduation class, **OR**
- have a composite score of 23 or better on the ACT, **OR**
- have a combined score of 1200 or higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) and Mathematics sections of the SAT.

Continuing Students or Transfer Students should have a minimum of 3.30 or higher cumulative GPA.

All Applicants must

- complete the Honors Program application,
- write an essay,
- provide at least one reference, and
- be TSI clear.

B. Scholarships

Honors Scholarships are awarded on an annual basis by the Sul Ross Honors Council. Students wishing to compete for scholarships should submit an application and essay to the University Honors Council of the Faculty Assembly (via the online Scholarship Application). **Students awarded an Honors Scholarship are required to join the SRSU Honors Program.**

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III. Academic Support and Services

A. Tutoring and Learning Center

The Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) is located on the first floor of the Bryan Wildenthal Library and staffed by student tutors. These tutors help students improve their academic skills as well as other life and study skills that are needed for success in higher education. The TLC's tutor training program has been certified by the College Reading and Learning Association's International Tutor Training Certification Program (CRLA/ITTCP) at Level One. All tutors are either certified at the CRLA/ITTCP Level One or are in the process of being certified. Tutors are available to help their fellow students in a variety of courses. The TLC attempts to have tutors in reading, writing, and math available during all Center hours. Dependent upon the discipline specialties of the tutors, they are often able to help in other academic areas such as the sciences and humanities.

B. Academic Enhancement Seminars

Periodically throughout the fall and spring semesters ACE faculty offer Academic Enhancement Seminars. In these seminars students are offered the opportunity to learn a variety of study skills needed to succeed in higher education. The seminars cover various topics, including, but not limited to, time management, study habits, note taking, sentence structure, comma usage, memory skills, and finals preparation. These workshops are offered free of charge to all SRSU students and last approximately one hour.

C. Lobo Literati League

Sul Ross State University's book club is the Lobo Literati League. The Lobo Literati League is open to the SRSU community, including students, faculty, and staff. The League is sponsored by the SRSU Honors Program as well as the Office of Residential Living, and its purpose is to share the joy of reading. Each academic year participants read six books, three fiction and three non-fiction, selected each year by vote by the entire SRSU community. The League meets for one hour three times during long semesters to discuss the current selection. Students are encouraged to volunteer to act as moderators.