

**SOUTHWEST**  
TEXAS★COLLEGE

# **SWTX** **FACULTY** **HANDBOOK**

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SOUTHWEST TEXAS COLLEGE  
2026-2027

## **Southwest Texas College Policy Manual**

Southwest Texas College has enlisted the services of Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) to review and update all legal and local College Policies. These policies will be online for all college trustees, administrators, faculty and staff access. TASB will continually keep all legal policies updated and will add any new local policies approved by the Board of Trustees of SWTX

The manual is available on the SWTX website and can also be found at the address listed below:

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=1174>

The items listed on the following page will be in the online manual. The manual has cross referencing and policies can be located by keying in a word or phrase, a policy code, or by using the browse index or section.

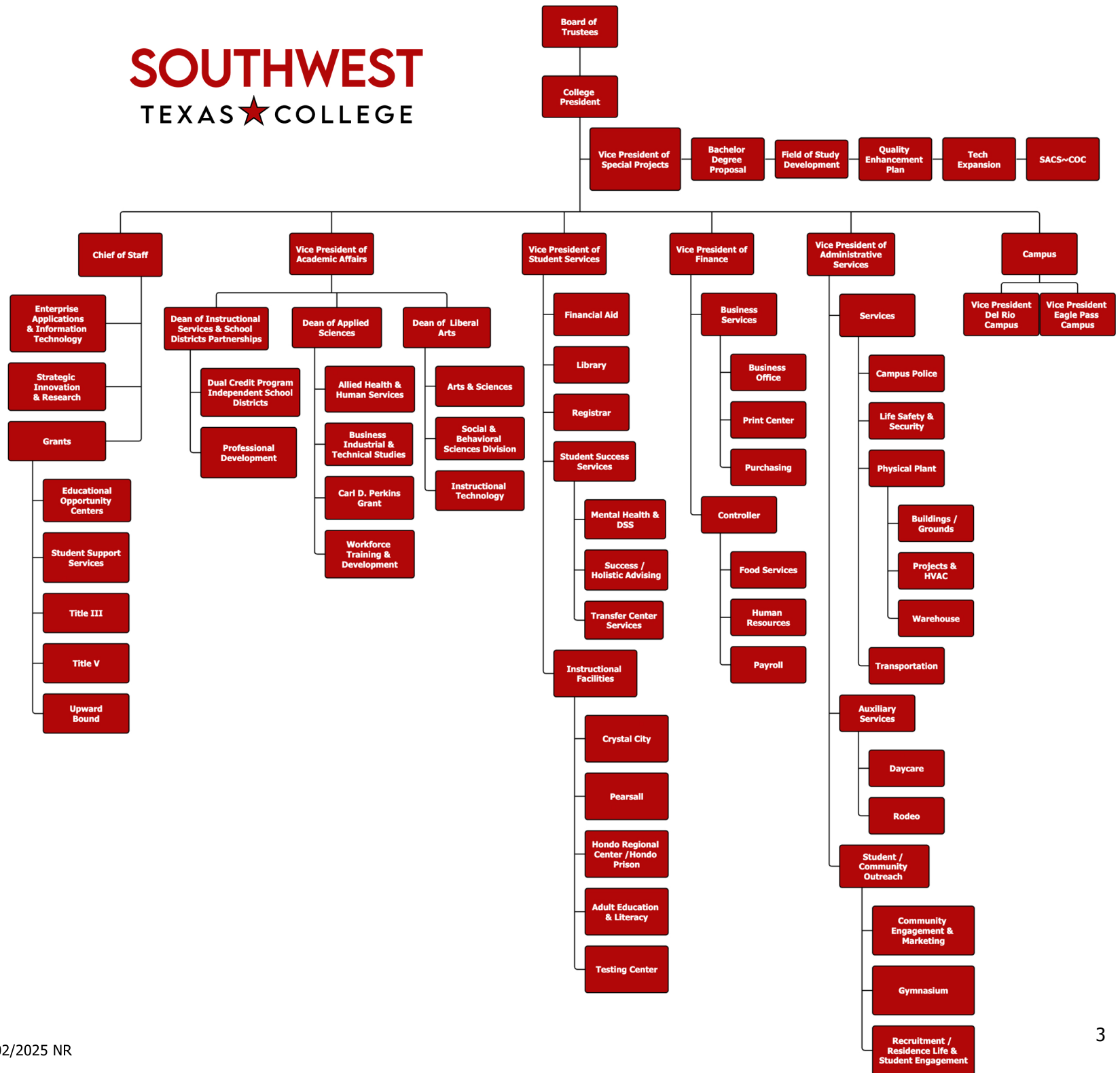
The Sexual Harassment Prevention training manual is on the college website. Each employee is responsible for completing the training, printing a certificate of completion and returning the certificate to the Human Resources Coordinator. All employees must have this training every two years with documentation in the personnel file.

## SWTX Policy Manual

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Academic Freedom	<a href="#">EJA (Local)</a>
Affirmative Action	<a href="#">DAA</a>
Board of Trustees	<a href="#">BA - BF</a>
College President	<a href="#">BFA - BFD</a>
Conflict of Interest/Intellectual Property Policy	DBD ( <a href="#">Legal</a> and <a href="#">Local</a> )
Contract/Non-Contract Personnel	DCA ( <a href="#">Legal</a> and <a href="#">Local</a> ), <a href="#">DCB</a>
Copyrighted Material	<a href="#">CT</a>
Curriculum Design	EFA ( <a href="#">Legal</a> and <a href="#">Local</a> )
Employee Rights & Privileges	<a href="#">DG</a>
Employee Standards of Conduct	<a href="#">DH</a>
Employee Welfare	<a href="#">DI, DIA</a>
Equal Employment Opportunity	<a href="#">DAA</a>
Examinations	<a href="#">EGAA, EGAB</a>
Faculty Absences	<a href="#">DEC</a>
Governance	<a href="#">BAA, BBE</a>
Grading and Withdrawals	<a href="#">EGA</a>
Grievance	DGBA ( <a href="#">Legal</a> and <a href="#">Local</a> )
Harassment	<a href="#">DIA</a>
Health Insurance	<a href="#">CKD</a>
Hiring Practices	DC ( <a href="#">Legal</a> and <a href="#">Local</a> )
Instructional Arrangements	<a href="#">ECC</a>
Instructional Resources/ Copyrighted Materials	<a href="#">EDA, CT</a> ( <a href="#">Legal</a> )
Instructional Workload	<a href="#">DJ</a>
Intellectual Property	CT ( <a href="#">Local</a> )
Leaves and Absences	<a href="#">DEC</a>
Miscellaneous Instructional Policy	<a href="#">EJA</a>
Mission and Purpose	AD ( <a href="#">Legal</a> and <a href="#">Local</a> )
Personal/Academic Conduct	<a href="#">DH</a>
Personnel-Management Relations Employee Complaints	<a href="#">DGBA</a>
Personnel Records	<a href="#">DBA</a>
Recruitment and Selection	<a href="#">BF</a>
Reduction in Force	<a href="#">DMC</a>
Sexual Harassment	<a href="#">DIA</a>
Professional Development	<a href="#">DK</a>
Student Absences	<a href="#">FC</a>
Substance and Alcohol Abuse	<a href="#">DH</a>
Term Contract Dismissal	<a href="#">DMAA</a>
Termination/Non-Renewal	<a href="#">DM, DMC</a>
Use of Tobacco Products	GFA ( <a href="#">Local</a> )
Workers' Compensation	<a href="#">CKE</a>

# SOUTHWEST TEXAS COLLEGE



# **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

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FACULTY HANDBOOK  
2026-2027

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The President of the College is responsible for the overall operation of the College District. The specific responsibilities of the office are to:

1. Act as executive officer of the Board of Trustees, charged with putting into effect its policies and regulations.
2. Act as executive officer of the faculty, charged with seeing that faculty policies and regulations are put into effect.
3. Bear responsibility of the Board of Trustees for the satisfactory government and administration of the college.
4. Participate in selecting a competent and harmonious teaching and administrative staff, and recommend their employment to the Board of Trustees.
5. Inform the Board of Trustees on all matters pertaining to the promotion, demotion, and dismissal of members of the teaching and administrative staff.
6. Represent the institution to its constituency, to the general public, and to educational groups.
7. Prepare and execute the annual budget for operation of the college.
8. Have ultimate control of the College District's fund-raising activities subject to Board approval of said activities.
9. Report to the Board of Trustees, to the standardizing agencies, and to the constituency of the college.
10. Foster the feeling of friendship and unity among teachers, administrators, the Board of Trustees, and the constituency of the College District.
11. Advance the long- range plans approved by the Board of Trustees to include students, facilities, staff, programs and revenue.
12. Act as an advisor for all College District construction.
13. Annually monitor and evaluate the progress of the College District toward achieving goals and objective necessary to perform its particular responsibilities contained in the mission statement.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE**

14. Promote awareness of the program quality to the Board of Trustees, the community, and to college personnel.
15. Maintain close communication with and serve as the administrative contact person for the chairs of the following committees:
  - a. Strategic Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness Committee
  - b. Long Range Physical Plant Committee.
16. Chair the President's Cabinet and as chair, lead the institutional effectiveness process for the college.
17. Coordinate the completion of the IPEDS report to the U.S. Office of Education.
18. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees.

**Qualifications**

**Minimum Academic Qualification**

- Master's Degree is required.
- Doctorate in a recognized academic discipline from a regional accredited institution is preferred.

**Other Qualifications**

- Experience as a successful senior-level administrator in a community college or other post-secondary institution.
- Experience and ability in a fiscal management.
- Successful faculty experience at a community college or other post-secondary institution.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the community college mission and student success.
- Knowledge of the accreditation process and a successful track record of participation in leading a college through the reaffirmation of accreditation.
- Administrative experience in institutional research and planning.
- Administrative experience in curriculum development.
- Administrative experience in strategic planning.
- Strong understanding of assessment of student learning outcomes, resource development and allocation, and personnel and faculty development.
- Accomplished written and oral communication skills, including strong computer skills.
- Demonstrate innovative educational leadership and planning.
- Knowledge of legislative processes and the ability to represent the college with local, regional, state and federal government groups and agencies.

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CHIEF OF STAFF**

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Chief of Staff is responsible for oversight of administrative policies and procedures of the college; for providing leadership for various strategic initiatives at SWTX; for handling complex situations for the Office of the President; for providing support on a broad range of college and external matters; and for representing the college president, as requested. The specific responsibilities of this officer are to:

1. Maintain oversight for ongoing projects that support the college's strategic vision and mission, ensuring that all are effectively moving according to plan objectives and established measurement criteria.
2. Support and sustain a culture of service, professionalism, and continuous improvement in the college's organizational units by actively participating in building communicative, collaborative, respectful relationships with those in leadership roles.
3. Provide oversight and development of strategic initiatives, data integrity, reporting processes, grants and grant development, marketing and public relations, and institutional effectiveness to support project/program effectiveness and efficiency.
4. Manage special/strategic projects including making recommendations, developing solutions, and creating business process models/concept maps.
5. Prepare narrative and statistical reports as required.
6. Effectively partner and collaborate within all areas of the college.
7. Supervise and oversee of the following departments/programs:
  - a. Strategic Innovation & Research Office
  - b. Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects
  - c. Grants Administration and Development
8. Oversee long-term operational/tactical, and short-term day-to-day work via a close and collaborative work relationships.
9. Recommend the development of and/or revisions to policies, regulations, and procedures in compliance with federal and state regulations as they relate to the college or specific program areas and/or services.
10. The direct or indirect management of all staff assigned to those departments listed above.
11. Participate in and oversee the selection, training, and evaluation of personnel.
12. Collaborate with Vice Presidents, Deans, and Directors to resolve issues and concerns on behalf of the President.
13. Serve on the President's Cabinet and other internal or external committees, teams, and task forces at the direction of the President

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Vice President of Student Services is generally responsible for all College functions and services traditionally associated with non-instructional efforts to support and develop the “whole student” during his/her college career. The specific responsibilities of this officer are to:

1. Supervise the student activities program.
2. Serve as foreign student advisor.
3. Supervise financial aid and veterans affairs.
4. Evaluate transcripts.
5. Supervise the counseling and testing programs.
6. Supervise the campus libraries.
7. Supervise the handling of students’ course additions, drops and withdrawals.
8. Supervise and coordinate all facets of admission, registration, and other activities concerning students of college.
9. Assist the President with the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the college toward achieving goals and objectives necessary to perform its particular responsibilities contained in the mission statement.
10. Provide for the coordination and oversight of institutional effectiveness processes and procedures in the respective areas of responsibility.
11. Maintain a close communication with and serves as the administrative contact person for various committees.
12. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the President.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES**

**Minimum Academic Qualifications**

- Master's Degree in Student Personnel Services or Counseling/Guidance; or in a related field required.
- Doctorate in a recognized academic discipline from a regionally accredited institution is preferred.
- Three to five years supervisory experience in Higher Education.

**Other Qualifications**

- Computer skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills; bilingual preferred.
- Ability to interact with a diverse student population and a variety of individuals with different interest and backgrounds.
- Knowledge of history, role, mission of community colleges.
- Knowledge of student activities and housing programs.
- Knowledge of financial aid, grants, and scholarships.
- Knowledge of transcript evaluation.
- Knowledge and implementation of policies.
- Knowledge and of marketing and student recruitment.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**  
**VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Vice President of Administrative Services is responsible for directing, planning, managing, organizing and controlling all areas of Transportation, Auxiliary Services, and Campus Police. This includes the supervision of special projects assigned by the College President, not limited to Construction Projects.

1. Supervise the following departments, areas, and services:
  - a. Physical Plant
    - i. Buildings/Grounds
    - ii. Projects and HVAC
    - iii. Warehouse
  - b. Transportation
  - c. Campus Police
  - d. Life Safety and Security
  - e. Residence Life
  - f. Student Community and Outreach
    - i. Community Engagement and Marketing
    - ii. Gymnasium
    - iii. Recruitment/Student Engagement
  - g. Auxiliary Services
    - i. Day Care
    - ii. Gymnasium
2. Act as advisor to the College President in matters of college policy related to issues of administrative support, physical plant, campus security, and construction.
3. Provide strategic level vision and planning in the development, operation and maintenance of college wide information technology and electronic infrastructure.
4. Participate in the development of strategic plan and accreditation.
5. Enhance community relations.
6. Oversee and manage the development, operation, and maintenance of all college construction projects. Serve as liaison between SWTX, architects, contractors, city and county officials and utility companies.
7. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the President.

### **Minimum Academic Qualifications**

- Master's Degree required
- Doctorate in a recognized academic discipline from a regionally accredited institution is preferred
- Three to five years of experience in higher education administration

### **Other Qualifications**

- Team oriented approach focused on building relationships
- Ability to interact with diverse populations
- Ability to interact with community leaders
- Ability to prioritize activities and responsibilities
- Must have strong organizational skills
- Requires discretion, able to work under pressure
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Vice President of Academic Affairs is generally responsible for supervision of the teaching personnel and the educational programs of the college. The specific responsibilities of the office are to:

1. Act as chief advisor to the President of the College in matters of college policy, particularly in instructional affairs.
2. Formulate educational policies and present them to the President and the faculty for consideration.
3. Preside over meetings of the faculty.
4. Direct attention of faculty members to changing educational thought and practice, particularly as they affect higher education.
5. Supervise, support, and collaborate with the Dean of Applied Sciences, Dean of Liberal Arts, and the Dean of Instructional Services & School District Partnerships.
6. Supervise curriculum, courses, and methods of instruction, and evaluate instruction.
7. Recruit new faculty members and cooperate with the Eagle Pass and Del Rio Campus Vice Presidents, Instructional Deans, and Division Chairs in the nomination of new members for the teaching staff, and make recommendations to the President regarding the promotion, demotion, or dismissal of members of the faculty.
8. Prepare reports of various kinds related to instructional personnel.
9. Make recommendations for improvements of the physical plant as it relates to the educational program.
10. Prepare the budget for instructional supplies and equipment.
11. Approve all requisitions for instructional supplies and equipment.
12. Prepare the schedule of classes in cooperation with the Division Chairs, Deans, Vice President of Eagle Pass and Del Rio, and Vice President of Student Services for day and evening classes.
13. Appoint faculty committees.
14. Calculate salaries each contract period for full-time and part-time faculty.
15. Approve faculty travel.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**  
**VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

16. Approve exceptions in courses required for graduation.
17. Make exceptions in attendance at graduation.
18. Schedule all classrooms.
19. Coordinate the production of the college catalog.
20. Inspect classrooms and equipment at various times.
21. Verify that official transcript(s) and application form is received on all faculty members.
22. Prepare *Faculty Handbook*.
23. Organize opening Faculty Meeting each semester.
24. Maintain close contact with, and serves as the administrative contact person for the chairs of various committees.
25. Assist the President with the monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the college toward achieving goals and objectives necessary to perform its particular responsibilities contained in the mission statement.
26. Supervise Dual Credit Department.
27. Supervise the Professional Development Department.
28. Supervise Workforce Training & Development Department.
29. Supervise the Instructional Technology Department.
30. Supervise Carl D. Perkins Grant, THECB grants, and other grants as appropriate.
31. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the President.

**Minimum Academic Qualifications**

- Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction or Master's degree and five years curriculum development at the collegiate level.
- Doctorate in a recognized academic discipline from a regionally accredited institution is preferred.
- Two years of full-time teaching experience at the college level required.

**Other Qualifications**

- Evidence of experience in Higher Ed. Administration.
- Evidence of effective human relations skills and ability to relate to internal and external constituencies.
- A vision for strengthening the College's instructional programs and services.
- Experience in providing services to a diverse population.
- Knowledge of the accreditation process and successful track record of participation in leading a college through reaffirmation of accreditation.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

This is an administrator position responsible for managing the business, financial and information services of the college. This position exists to be an enabler or supporter for other administrators and department heads; helping them determine how to accomplish their objectives and thereby providing a supportive foundation for organizational success. As the college's chief financial officer, this position provides collaborative financial management leadership for the college; ensures the short and long-term fiscal health of the college; oversees the business practice of the college; ensures that the budget is linked to and supports the college's strategic plans; and ensures that information and informational technology is ever evolving and is supported by the college budget.

**Supervises:**

- Controller
  - Payroll
  - Human Resources
- Business Office Director
  - Accounting Receivables
  - Cashiering
  - Accounts Payable
- Purchasing Manager
  - Procurement
  - Print Shop

**Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Advise the college President on matters of college finance and business management.
2. Received all funds due the college from federal, state, and local sources.
3. Manage the college's program of funds investment.
4. Prepare the annual operating budget.
5. Manage the college's short and long term debt programs.
6. Prepare financial reports required by the College Board of Trustees, President, general administrative offices of the college, and state and federal agencies.
7. Develop and maintain a system of budgetary controls consistent with policies established by the Board of Trustees and college administration.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**  
**VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE**

8. Cooperate with the independent auditor employed by the Board of Trustees to perform the annual audit and such other auditors as may from time to time conduct specialized audits of the college finances for state and federal agencies.
9. Cooperate with the director of student financial aid in administering and disbursing the funds available for student aid under the various federal, state, and local assistance.
10. Coordinate institutional fiscal management services.
11. Coordinate the purchasing activities of the college, including contract management.
12. Assist the President in monitoring and evaluating the progress of the college toward achieving goals and objectives necessary to perform its particular responsibilities contained in the purpose statement.
13. Approve the use of college facilities by outside groups.
14. Performs other duties as may be assigned by the President.

**Minimum Academic Qualifications**

- Bachelor's Degree in Business or relevant field required.
- Master's Degree in Business or relevant field preferred.
- CPA preferred.
- Five years of financial and management experience, specifically in developing and monitoring budgets.
- Experience in higher education.

**Other Qualifications**

- Strong organizational skills.
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills.
- Leadership qualities.
- Strong computer skills.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
VICE PRESIDENTS AT EAGLE PASS AND DEL RIO**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Vice Presidents of the Del Rio and Eagle Pass campuses are responsible for the overall operation of the campuses. The general responsibilities of the position are:

1. Improvement and evaluation of instruction, including faculty development.
2. Oversight and supervision of facilities.
3. Inter-campus and inter-departmental coordination and communication.
4. Recruiting, advising, counseling, and placement of students.

The specific responsibilities of the position are to:

1. Make initial recommendations regarding the budget needs of the campus, with respect both to operations of the facility, supplies, equipment and staff.
2. Plan the program of course offerings at the site in cooperation with faculty and the appropriate Dean.
3. Coordinate student registration.
4. Provide, when necessary, a credentialed substitute and appropriate class materials upon an instructor's absence.
5. Advise the Vice President of Academic Affairs regarding the time schedule and room schedule for courses at the campus.
6. Cooperate with Instructional Division Chairs in all curricular and instructional issues.
7. Assist in the recruitment, interviewing, and employment of faculty members.
8. Report to the College President the progress and evaluation of the campus, including evaluation of faculty members at the campus.
9. Give approval to purchase requisitions and work orders.
10. Serve as a member of the President's Cabinet.
11. Serve as a liaison between SWTX, service area communities, Sul Ross Rio Grande College, and other constituencies as appropriate.
12. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the President.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
VICE PRESIDENT AT EAGLE PASS AND DEL RIO**

**Minimum Academic Qualifications**

- Master's Degree in Education or a relevant academics discipline required.
- Three to five years' experience in Higher Education teaching, administration, or institutional research and planning required.
- Doctorate in Educational Administration or in an academic discipline from a regionally accredited college preferred.

**Other Qualifications**

- Strong organizational skills.
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills.
- Leadership qualities.
- Strong computer skills.
- Ability to interact with a diverse population.
- Ability to interact with community leaders

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEAN OF APPLIED SCIENCES**

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Dean of Applied Sciences is generally responsible for overseeing programs in Business, Industrial and Technical Studies, Health Sciences, Public Safety, and Human Services. Additional responsibilities include managing Carl Perkins funding and reporting to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), maintaining Guidelines for Instructional Program in Workforce Education (GIPWE) standards, and developing workforce initiatives to enhance career readiness and employment opportunities for students.

1. Act as chief advisor to the Vice-President of Academic Affairs in matters of college policy, particularly in instructional affairs.
2. Formulate educational policies and presents them to the Faculty, the Curriculum Committee and the appropriate Vice-President for consideration.
3. Preside over meetings of the faculty.
4. Direct attention of faculty members to changing educational policy, thought, and practices, particularly as they affect higher education.
5. Supervise curriculum, courses, methods of instruction, and evaluate instruction.
6. Recruit new faculty members and cooperate with Division Chairs and Director of Workforce Training & Development in the nomination of new members for the teaching staff, make recommendations to the Vice-President of Academic Affairs regarding the promotion, demotion, or dismissal of members of the faculty.
7. Prepare reports of various kinds relating to faculty issues.
8. Make recommendations for improvements of the physical plant as it relates to the educational program.
9. Prepare the budget for the appropriate Divisions.
10. Approve requisitions for expenditures.
11. Each semester prepares the schedule of classes in cooperation with the Division Chairs and Vice-President of Student Services for day and evening classes.
12. Approve faculty travel.
13. Meet with Division Chairs and Director of Workforce Training & Development collaboratively on a weekly basis.
14. Inspect classrooms and equipment at various times.

15. Approve and follow up on maintenance work orders for faculty members.
16. Serve on the following:
  - Curriculum Committee
  - Faculty Development Grants Committee
  - Instructional Long-Range Planning Committee
  - Service and Operations Committee
17. Assist the Vice President of Academic Affairs with monitoring and evaluating of the progress of the college toward achieving goals and objectives necessary to fulfill the college's mission.
18. Respond to service area business, industry, and agency requests for training/continuing education.
19. Support economic and workforce development efforts and initiatives throughout the Southwest Texas College service delivery area.
20. Develop relationships with communities, employers and regional agencies in support of the department's goals and objectives. Assist other partnering institutions/departments with a similar mission.
21. Oversee coordination and delivery of all workforce training programs, courses, workshops, and seminars. Along with the Director of Workforce Training & Development, oversee program operation, budget, student recruitment, assessment, enrollment, and placement along with faculty/staff supervision.
22. Review annual strategic goals for departments and programs.
23. Contribute to grant applications and maintain state and national certification/licensure programs.
24. Develop and promote new programs following GIPWE guidelines and reporting to THECB.
25. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the President.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
DEAN OF APPLIED SCIENCES**

**Minimum Academic Qualifications**

- Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction or MBA preferred, or Master's Degree and five years curriculum development at the collegiate level; Master's Degree required.
- Two years of experience in supervising Workforce/Continuing Education programs preferred; one year required.
- Two years of full-time teaching experience at the college level required.

**Other Qualifications**

- Excellent oral and written communication skills; Bilingual desired.
- Ability to work with diverse constituencies, including local Workforce Boards, School Districts, State and Federal agencies.
- Familiarity with writing grant applications, managing grants, and grant reporting requirements.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
DEAN OF LIBERAL ARTS**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Dean of Liberal Arts is responsible for overseeing programs in Arts, Humanities, Communication, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. Additional responsibilities include providing effective oversight of Distance Education programs, Instructional Technology, and collaborating with the Vice President of Academic Affairs on initiatives within the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

1. Act as chief advisor to the Vice-President of Academic Affairs in matters of college policy, particularly in instructional affairs.
2. Formulate educational policies and presents them to the Faculty, the Curriculum Committee and the appropriate Vice-President for consideration.
3. Preside over meetings of the faculty.
4. Direct attention of faculty members to changing educational policy, thought, and practices, particularly as they affect higher education.
5. Supervise curriculum, courses, and methods of instruction, and evaluate instruction.
6. Recruit new faculty members and cooperate with Division Chairs in the nomination of new members for the teaching staff, make recommendations to the Vice-President of Academic Affairs regarding the promotion, demotion, or dismissal of members of the faculty.
7. Prepare reports of various kinds relating to faculty issues.
8. Make recommendations for improvements of the physical plant as it relates to the educational program.
9. Prepare the budget for the appropriate Divisions.
10. Approve requisitions for expenditures.
11. Each semester prepares the schedule of classes in cooperation with the Division Chairs and Vice-President of Student Services for day and evening classes.

12. Approve faculty travel.
13. Meet with Division Chairs and the Instructional Technology Supervisor collaboratively on a weekly basis.
14. Inspect classroom and equipment at various times.
15. Approve and follow up on maintenance work orders for faculty members.
16. Approve and review Instructional Technology updates.
17. Serve on the following:
  - Curriculum Committee
  - Distance Education Committee - Chair
  - Faculty Development Grants Committee
  - Instructional Long-Range Planning Committee
  - Service and Operations Committee
18. Assist the Vice President of Academic Affairs with monitoring and evaluating of the progress of the college toward achieving goals and objectives necessary to fulfill the college's mission.
19. Support economic and workforce development efforts and initiatives throughout the Southwest Texas College service delivery area.
20. Develop relationships with communities, employers and regional agencies in support of the department's goals and objectives. Assist other partnering institutions/departments with a similar mission.
21. Review annual strategic goals for departments and programs.
22. Contribute to grant applications, state, and federal reporting.
23. Review the Professional Development plans and semester teaching loads for all academic faculty.
24. Collaborate with the Vice President of Academic Affairs regarding THECB, Texas Pathways, SACSCOC, and other state and federal initiatives.
25. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the President.

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEAN OF LIBERAL ARTS**

### **Minimum Academic Qualifications**

- Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction or MBA preferred, or Master's Degree and five years curriculum development at the collegiate level; Master's Degree required.

Two years of full-time teaching experience at the college level required.

### **Other Qualifications**

- Excellent oral and written communication skills; Bilingual desired.
- Ability to work with diverse constituencies, including local Workforce Boards, School Districts, State and Federal agencies.
- Familiarity with writing grant applications, managing grants, and grant reporting requirements.
- Evidence of experience in Higher Education Administration.
- Evidence of effective human relations skills and ability to relate to internal and external constituencies.
- A vision for strengthening the College's instructional programs and services.
- Experience in providing services to a diverse population.
- Knowledge of the accreditation process and a successful track record of participation in leading a college through reaffirmation of accreditation.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES AND SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS**

**DEAN**

The Dean is responsible for the operation of the SWTX Dual Credit program, including class scheduling, instructor assignment, supervision, and evaluation, and course evaluation. The Dean works cooperatively and closely with Division Chairs and other Deans. The Dean advises the Vice President of Academic Affairs on all matters concerning Dual Credit academic and career technical programs. The Dean is the primary SWTX contact point for partner School District Administrators, thus maintaining rapport and regular communication with them.

Instructional Leadership

- Supervises the evaluation and professional development of adjunct faculty and full-time faculty teaching SWTX courses for dual credit
- Assists with the on-boarding of dual credit faculty: screening, interviewing, arranging professional development

Curriculum and Assessment

- Researches, explores, and recommends new programs for dual credit sites
- Oversees efforts to monitor and maintain SWTX standards of course quality and academic rigor
- Assists the VPAA, Deans, Division Chairs, and the SIR Office with monitoring the completion of Strategic Plan Initiative Goals and Instructional Program Outcomes Assessment
- Ensures that dual credit program activities contribute to objectives intended to achieve Strategic Plan Goals
- Assists with SACSCOC, NACEP, and other relevant accreditation efforts
- Serves as a voting member of the Curriculum Committee
- Supervises the development of annual revisions of dual credit Memoranda of Understanding

School District Engagement and Enrollment Management

- Assists the Vice President of Student Services and VPAA with interdepartmental collaboration intended to develop and achieve dual credit enrollment management objectives
- Coordinates professional development events for ISD administrators, faculty, and counselors – in cooperation with the VP of Student Services, the VPAA, and the Director of Professional Development
- Stays current with policies and data from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, from the Texas Education Agency, and from the SWTX SIR. Makes recommendations for responses/use of those policies and data to affected SWTX offices
- Serves as primary liaison between District personnel and SWTX for: meetings with District Administrators, ECHS Advisory/Steering Committees, Dual Credit events, faculty/student/parent dispute mediation

### Budget

- Submits annual budget for the Office and related dual credit operations
- Oversees budget outlays and approves purchase requisitions for relevant areas

### Supervision

- Directly supervises Dual Credit Coordinators and Outreach Director
- Directly supervises Administrative Assistant
- Shares with Deans and Division Chairs the supervision of faculty teaching SWTX courses for dual credit

Directly supervises the Professional Development Director.

# **INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL**

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FACULTY HANDBOOK  
2026-2027

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL**

### **DIVISION**

The instructional program of Southwest Texas College is organized into five instructional divisions: Allied Health and Human Services; Arts & Sciences; Social & Behavioral Sciences; Developmental Studies and Adult Education and Literacy; and Business, Industrial, & Technical Studies. The number and structure of the units of the instructional divisions are determined by the SWTX Administration based upon the needs of the college and recommended by the President of the College to the Board of Trustees.

### **DIVISION CHAIR**

The Allied Health and Human Services, Arts and Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Business, Industrial, and Technical Studies divisions are headed by a Division Chair who is formally appointed by the Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the President of the College. The Division Chair is an integral part of the college administration. His/her principal role is to assist the Deans in organizing, leading, managing, and evaluating the college's instructional program.

### **SELECTION/APPOINTMENT**

Persons serving as Division Chairs are recommended to the President of the College by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, based on the results of a committee interview process. Division Chairs hold 11-month contracts.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The criteria governing the selection of division chairs are (a) professional training/or experience in instructional supervision and (b) demonstrated ability to work effectively with faculty, supervisors, and other officers of the college administration to achieve the goals of the college's instructional program.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL DIVISION CHAIR**

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Division Chair is responsible for organizing, supervising and coordinating the work in his/her particular division. The general responsibilities of the position are:

1. Evaluate and improve instruction, including faculty development.
2. Coordinate Inter-departmental communication.
3. Assist in recruiting, advising, and placement of students.
4. Conduct regular meetings for communicating information, discussing issues, and making decisions.
5. Communicate faculty perspectives and concerns to the appropriate Dean and other segments of the campus community as appropriate.
6. Ensure that each department within his/her division meets all accountability standards of the College, the Coordinating Board, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and other applicable agencies or boards.
7. Collaborate with Administration, faculty, and the Strategic Innovation & Research Office to support the institution's assessment, planning, and evaluation cycles.

The specific responsibilities of the position are as follows:

1. Make division-level recommendations to the appropriate Vice-President, after consulting the relevant Dean and other staff, regarding the budget needs of the departments with respect to supplies, equipment, other operational needs, and personnel.
2. Plan each semester's course offerings, including room assignments, in cooperation with faculty and the Registrar.
3. Implement and follow procedures developed by the Distance Education Committee regarding the approval of courses for online and videoconference delivery.
4. When necessary or appropriate, make arrangements for providing a credentialed substitute and/or class materials upon an instructor's absence.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL  
DIVISION CHAIR**

5. In cooperation with the appropriate Vice President, oversee the evaluation of the faculty members in the division, including conducting evaluation of instructors, making classroom visits, completing the "Division Chair's Evaluation of Instruction," reviewing student evaluation of faculty, and collaborating to develop an appropriate growth plan, if needed.
6. Serve on hiring committee for faculty and staff position within the Division.
7. Collaborate with faculty, the Professional Development Officer and the Strategic Innovation & Research Office in developing or contributing to:

Strategic Plan Initiative (SPI) Goals	Outcomes Manager
Program Review	Core Curriculum Development/Assessment
Attendance and Grade Reporting	QEP
Strategic Planning	
8. Gives division-level approval to purchase requisitions.
9. Ensure that departments meet Carl Perkins requirements, if applicable.
10. Actively participate in the college's registration, student-advising, recruitment, and placement activities.
11. Perform initial mediation or investigation of student or personnel complaints (including ADA situations).
12. Verify and approve monthly departmental absence reports.
13. Actively participate in required annual departmental Advisory Committee meetings.
14. Maintain Master Syllabi Templates.
15. Oversee textbook adoption processes.
16. Oversee program revision, including degree plans, course updates, etc.
17. Attend and participate in committee meetings as assigned.
18. Serve as first point of contact for faculty's reporting of custodial/maintenance issues.
19. May teach up to 6 semester credit hours per 16-week term, or up to 3 sch per shortened term, preferably online or outside the Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM timeframe, at the discretion of the appropriate Dean or the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
20. Perform other duties as assigned by the College President, Vice President of Academic Affairs or Deans.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL  
DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY PROGRAM**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Adult Education and Literacy Director is responsible for the administration and delivery of high-quality, comprehensive adult education services, including ESL, EL-Civics/Citizenship; ABE, & ASE/GED classes, employability, workplace literacy training, transitions classes, and career pathway classes. Major responsibilities include planning and coordinating the region's program operation, overseeing accountability reporting, performance measurement systems, and human resource management. The Director works cooperatively with area stakeholders and collaborating partners to develop partnerships with public and private sector entities for student recruitment, referrals, and on various satellite instructional classes. The Director provides leadership on issues associated with adult literacy and workforce development. Keeps abreast of emerging trends and new developments in the field; supports advocacy and coalition-building activities to build community and empower adult learners and families. In so doing, the Director is responsible for coordinating and administering all phases of the ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY (AEL) component at Southwest Texas College (SWTX). The Director reports directly to the SWTX appropriate Vice President.

The specific responsibilities of the position are as follows:

1. Develops yearly grants (State/Federal; TANF; El-Civics; Corrections; etc.) for the Adult Education and Literacy program.
2. Development and oversight of fiscal year budgets for each of the above grants in accordance with SWTX and Texas Workforce Commission guidelines.
3. Implements, monitors and oversees all AEL curricula.
4. Travels the region for the purpose of maintaining close supervision of all educational sites.
5. Leads the selection and participates in the recommendation of all part-time and full-time AEL employees.
6. Supervises and facilitates professional development opportunities (pre-service/in-service) for all AEL staff.
7. Ensures instructional staff is knowledgeable and adheres to the guidelines of the Adult Education Instructor Proficiencies, National Reporting System Guidelines, and State Assessment Policy.
8. Approves all purchase and expense requisitions.
9. Plans, schedules, and oversees all budget expenditures.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL**  
**DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY PROGRAM**

10. Develops and submits any necessary changes and/or amendments for current year grants and budgets.
11. Approves timesheets and payroll for the AEL program.
12. Negotiates and enters into contracts, Shared Service Arrangements (SSA) or Letters of Agreement (LOA) with county, city and/or school districts for the efficient and effective delivery of services throughout the region.
13. Adheres to TWC guidelines pertinent to adult education and inclusive, but not limited to, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Title II; American with Disabilities Act (ADA); Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); Department of Education Regulations (EDGAR); Office Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars; Texas Education Code; and State Board of Education (SBOE) guidelines.
14. Collaborates with the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) as well as with other SWTX departments in order to assist ASE/GED students in preparation to transition to higher education.
15. Collaborates with area school districts to establish adult education services in the service delivery area as needed.
16. Collaborates to deliver integrated and contextualized curriculum and training in the demand occupations.
17. Lifts, carries, drags, holds, pushes or pulls up to 20 pounds of materials or related equipment as required by the job.
18. Maintains hours established by the college or as assigned by immediate supervisor (Dean of Workforce Education) and observes college lunch and break policies.
19. Follows required rules, regulations, and safety procedures as outlined in the college employee handbook.
20. Performs all other functions as assigned and/or deemed necessary by immediate supervisor (Dean of Workforce Education) for the efficient operation of the program. Work rules, code of conduct, and other policies are part of the essential functions of the job.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL  
DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is understood that no specific description can denote every professional responsibility of the employee that might arise. When an individual accepts a position, he or she assumes the responsibility of serving the needs of the students and to actively assisting the College as it strives to fulfill its goals and objectives. Thus, these responsibilities will at times require the employee to undertake, in a cooperative spirit, professional duties not specifically mentioned on the job description.

The employee is generally responsible for the overall duties associated with coordination of assigned functions of the Office of Workforce Training and Development and is directly responsible to his/her Dean for the following:

1. Reports to the Dean of Applied Sciences. In the absence of the Dean, assures that all pertinent matters are handled appropriately and professionally.
2. Work with the Dean in support of College workforce development efforts and initiatives. Carry out the workforce development mission of the College and assist other partnering institutions that have a similar mission.
3. Develop and maintain relationships with College, community and regional agencies in support of the department's goals and objectives. Cooperate with and provide support for regional economic and workforce development initiatives. (e.g., Dual Credit, WIOA, Workforce Boards, etc.)
4. Responsible for development and oversight of Workforce Training and Development department budget in coordination with the Dean.
5. Supervise Workforce Training instructors and staff and approve timesheets.
6. Establish collaboration and act as liaison between employers and the Office of Workforce Training and Development for the promotion and delivery of employee training courses.
7. Responsible for the development of new programs, courses, workshops, and seminars in accordance with demand occupations and economic development trends within the College's service delivery area.
8. Coordinate and deliver presentations to businesses, clubs, organizations, and institutions to market the workforce and economic development resources of the college. Assist in developing social media advertising and other communication alternatives to inform the public of the College's workforce and economic development efforts.
9. Coordinate delivery of all workforce training programs, courses, workshops, and seminars as assigned by the Dean. Responsible for assuring all workforce education files are complete.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL**  
**DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**

10. Oversee and coordinate student registration, collection of fees and placement for all workforce training courses.
11. Oversee preparation of applications for and maintain state and national certification/licensure programs as needed.
12. Assist in seeking qualified instructors for workforce development courses. Provide information for input into instructor database.
13. Able to type, use word processing and spreadsheets, interact with a mainframe computer, be able to work with budgets, able to deal directly with people, and possess professional communication and telephone skills.
14. Able to travel to areas within and outside of our service area.
15. Able to maintain the confidence and discretion of a security-sensitive position.
16. Abide by College policies and procedures found in the SWTX Board Policy Manual.
17. Lift, carry, drag, hold, push or pull up to 20 pounds of materials or related equipment.
18. Maintain hours established by the College as assigned by the Dean and adhere to College lunch and break policies.
19. Follow required rules, regulations, and safety procedures as outlined in the College employee handbook.
20. Perform all other functions as assigned by the Dean for efficient departmental operation.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Within the Divisions, given programs are required by the State Boards/Agencies to have Program Coordinators.

The Program Coordinator is responsible for organizing, supervising and coordinating the work in his/her instructional program. The program coordinator is academically qualified to provide (1) program coordination including curriculum development and review, and (2) leadership in addressing program quality and compliance with accrediting authorities. The general responsibilities of the position as they relate to the program are:

- a. Coordinate all activities related to maintaining program relevance, effectiveness, viability, and compliance/accreditation.
- b. Evaluate instruction using appropriate assessment techniques and improves instruction by preparing and implementing Strategic Plan Initiative Goals.
- c. Cooperate with and provides documentation to the Strategic Innovation & Research Office as required to support the institution's assessment, planning and evaluation processes.
- d. Assist in the recruiting and advising, and placement students.
- e. Conduct regular meetings for purposes of communicating information, discussing issues, and making decisions on program matters.
- f. Ensure that the program meets all accountability standards of the College, the Coordinating Board, and other applicable agencies or boards. In pursuance of this, he/she provides, with faculty assistance, all data and information required by the Strategic Innovation & Research Office or other college offices.
- g. Work effectively with his/her department/division chairs and other officers of the college administration to achieve the college's goals for instructional programs.

The specific responsibilities of the position are as follows:

1. Develop and administer appropriate assessments of student program outcomes.
2. Use assessment information for program improvement, specifically in the development and implementation of Strategic Plan Initiative Goals for the programs.
3. Assist the department chair in scheduling and conducting advisory committee meetings (technical programs only).

**INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

4. Conduct an annual Employer Satisfaction Survey as specified by the Strategic Innovation & Research Office (technical programs only).
5. Maintain contact with employers and provides students with assistance in career planning and job placement (technical programs only).
6. Advise the department/division chairs regarding the time schedule and room schedule for courses in the program.
7. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Division Chair, Deans, or Vice President of Academic Affairs.

# **FACULTY REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES**

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FACULTY HANDBOOK  
2026-2027

## Faculty Titles

**Title ranks are Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Professor Emeritus, and Honorary Professor Emeritus.**

Full-time Faculty at SWTX are eligible to apply for Faculty Title promotions upon fulfilling the stipulations outlined for each respective title. Promotion is not automatic; it is earned through proof of successful teaching, professional growth, and service. All faculty members are actively encouraged to pursue these promotions as they progress in their careers, reflecting the college's commitment to fostering a vibrant and fruitful academic environment.

In recognition that title promotions without applying for tenure began during the 2024-2025 academic year, SWTX stipulates that only faculty members in full-time positions prior to the 2024-2025 academic year are eligible to apply for Faculty Title promotions aligned with their total years of consecutive full-time faculty service, notwithstanding any prior lack of title advancement.

Faculty hired full-time during or after the 2024-2025 academic year must advance through each title sequentially.

**Assistant Professor:** To be eligible for consideration for promotion to this rank, a faculty member must have completed a minimum of three (3) years as an Instructor at Southwest Texas College and provide documentation of satisfactory progress in two (2) areas of the criteria from C (Teaching Excellence), D (Professional Growth and Development), or E (Service) of the Checklist for Non-Tenured Faculty's Application for Title Promotion.

**Associate Professor:** To be eligible for consideration for promotion to this rank, a faculty member must have completed a minimum of three (3) years as an Assistant Professor at Southwest Texas College and provide documentation of additional progress in criteria C (Teaching Excellence), D (Professional Growth and Development), and E (Service) of the Checklist for Non-Tenured Faculty's Application for Title Promotion.

**Professor:** To be eligible for consideration for promotion to this rank a faculty member must have completed a minimum of four (4) years as an Associate Professor at Southwest Texas College and provide documentation of additional progress in criteria C (Teaching Excellence), D (Professional Growth and Development), and E (Service) of the Checklist for Non-Tenured Faculty's Application for Title Promotion.

**Professor Emeritus:** Upon retirement from Southwest Texas College, a faculty member must have attained the rank of Professor and received recognition for outstanding service, i.e. SWTC Outstanding Faculty Member Award, SWTC Faculty Association Teaching Excellence Award, or other awards approved by the SWTC Faculty Evaluation Committee and SWTC administration. Final approval will be granted by the Board of Trustees.

**Honorary Professor Emeritus:** In extraordinary cases and where a faculty member's service is strongly identified and worthy of continuing recognition, a recommendation for awarding this title may be made to the Faculty Evaluation Committee by any Southwest

Texas College employee. The committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Dean of Instructional Services, and final approval will be granted by the Board of Trustees.

**Evaluation:** Applications for title changes must be received by the Vice President of Academic Affairs no later than November 1st of the academic year in which the applicant is seeking a title change. The Faculty Title Promotion Committee will review applications during the following spring semester and make recommendations to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, who will forward them to the President for consideration.

## Checklist for Non-Tenured Faculty's Application for Title Promotion

Not all items may be applicable to your institutional work history and all included items listed will be taken into consideration when awarding promotional rank.

### A. Introduction

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Letter of Intent to Vice President of Academic Affairs to apply for promotion.

**Header** of letter should have the following information:

- (1) Name
- (2) Date of Application
- (3) Beginning month and year of continuous full-time faculty status
- (4) Total years of continuous full-time faculty status
- (5) Department
- (6) Title applying for

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Checklist

\_\_\_\_\_ c. Table of contents

### B. Promotion Documentation

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Current Curriculum Vitae (CV)

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Official transcripts of any additional academic credits earned since initial appointment.

\_\_\_\_\_ c. Annual Performance Evaluations by chair/supervisor for each year (except current year) since initial appointment

### C. Teaching Excellence

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Sample syllabi, assignments, final exams from courses taught

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Student surveys from teaching appointments with summary/analysis

\_\_\_\_\_ c. Evidence of curriculum development projects

\_\_\_\_\_ d. Evidence of instructional improvement projects

\_\_\_\_\_ e. Instructional innovation/course design projects

\_\_\_\_\_ f. Student advising activities

\_\_\_\_\_ g. Other (Any teaching related activities not listed above)

### D. Professional Growth and Development

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Conference and workshop attendance

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Conference and workshop papers/presentations

\_\_\_\_\_ c. Grant applications and work

\_\_\_\_\_ d. Professional membership

\_\_\_\_\_ e. Publications

\_\_\_\_\_ f. Certifications and additional education

\_\_\_\_\_ g. OTHER (Any Professional Growth and Development not listed above)

E. Service

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Evidence of service to the discipline/department/academia

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Service to the college

\_\_\_\_\_ c. Service to the community/common good

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY**

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is understood that no specific job description can specify every professional responsibility of the faculty member, which might arise. When an individual accepts a position as a faculty member, he or she assumes the responsibility of serving the needs of students and of actively assisting the college as it strives to fulfill its goals and objectives. Thus, these responsibilities will at times require the faculty members to undertake, in a cooperative spirit, professional duties not specifically mentioned in the job description.

The faculty member is generally responsible for the overall duties associated with instructing students. The faculty member is responsible to his/her students, the Division Chair, the appointed Dean, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs to:

1. Respond to evaluative processes including but not limited to:
  - a. Faculty self-evaluation
  - b. Chair evaluation of faculty
  - c. Dean's evaluation of faculty
  - d. Student evaluation of faculty
  - e. Programs/course review
2. Support the mission, goals, and objectives of the college.
3. Provide instruction intended to achieve the specific goals and objectives stated in the syllabi of the assigned courses, and create a wholesome, meaningful learning environment in the classroom and laboratory.
4. Advise students on their progress in courses. To this end, instructors are required to maintain accurate, current grades for each student in the required system or program (e.g., Canvas) every week.
5. Aid in planning and assessment of instructional programs and courses and policies within the college.
6. Be on time for classes and labs and promptly notify the respective Division Chair or the appropriate Dean in the event of an unscheduled absence.
7. Maintain each class/lab meeting for the entire scheduled time unless prohibited by a legitimate reason or event.
8. Maintain a five-day work week, M-F. When committee work, meetings, or other events require a faculty member to work outside their posted office hours, they are permitted to adjust their posted office times for that week provided they notify the students in their courses in advance, and post the temporary adjustment on their office door.
9. Post and maintain scheduled office hours with student advisement conferences and student activities in mind.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

### **INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY**

10. Maintain an accurate attendance record for each assigned class or lab, in the appropriate medium or system (Canvas, e.g.) and report excessive absences to the Registrar for processing. If continued absences occur after attempting to contact the student, faculty may report enforced withdrawals to the Registrar.
11. Submit the required "Student Attendance Report" as described below under the section "Student Absences."
12. Submit all required student grade reports to the Registrar's Office according to schedule.
13. Report learning environment disruptions or concerns to the Division Chair as deemed necessary.
14. Attend all faculty meetings, commencements, and other appropriate meetings called by Committee Chairs, Division Chairs, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, or the President.
15. Ensure, when applicable, that all departmental brochures and/or webpages are kept current.
16. Provide appropriate advising to students and present a positive attitude toward teacher-student learning relationships.
17. Order necessary textbooks, lab manuals, and other instructional material through the bookstore according to college procedures.
18. Develop in the adopted Syllabus Manager an updated syllabus for all assigned courses each semester.
19. Provide to students a current syllabus with information about the goals and requirements of each course, the nature of the course content, the methods of evaluation to be employed, and classroom policies, including required classroom behavior.
20. Share with other faculty members the responsibility of serving on committees as assigned by the Division Chair, appropriate Dean or Vice President, or the President.
21. Serve as faculty sponsor and/or support student organizations as appropriate for your department/interests.
22. Assist in the recruitment, promotion, placement and follow-up studies of students.
23. Assist in the recruitment and promotion of SWTX.

**FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES**  
**INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY**

24. Follow college policies and procedures as outlined in the Faculty Handbook and other published policy manuals.
25. Assist with student registration as appropriate for your department.
26. Pursue opportunities for professional growth.
27. Annually, electronically upload in the Office of Professional Development and use a professional development plan.
28. Be active in the governance of the College by maintaining a voice in the Dean's Forum and Faculty Association.
29. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Deans or the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING INSTRUCTOR**

**In addition to the Faculty duties and obligations outlined above, instructors teaching via Distance Education must:**

1. Complete a training program designed to familiarize teachers with distance learning equipment and techniques.
2. Make available to students at each site on the first day of class course syllabi and all other relevant materials (LMS required, print optional). All handouts and other papers that will be necessary throughout the semester should be available on site at the beginning of the semester.
3. Instructors are responsible for the establishment and maintenance of discipline at all sites.
4. Maintain the privacy of all distance learning students, be it electronically or otherwise.
5. Provide the Vice President of Academic Affairs with documentation of Distance Education Training.

### **Procedures for Protecting the Privacy of Online Students**

Southwest Texas College protects the privacy of all its students, adhering to the same privacy standards for online students as it does for "face-to-face" students. Guidelines provided by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) govern all college efforts to maintain privacy and control of student information.

To further protect student privacy in online or hybrid courses, these procedures shall be followed:

- The arbitrary SWTX student Identification Number, assigned through Colleague, the institutional management system, will always be used to identify students, in lieu of Social Security Numbers.
- Students will access online learning materials via an approved Learning Managements System (LMS) all of which requires unique user names and passwords for access, and which students may select and change.
- Online faculty will instruct students never to reveal their log-in names or passwords to anyone.
- Student postings to course discussion boards, chat rooms, and class forums shall be accessible only to members of the class, the instructor, and SWTX staff specifically authorized and responsible for student learning assessment or oversight of the academic quality and integrity of the course.
- Instructors will communicate grades to online students via the secure gradebook communication capabilities of the LMS.

- Instructors or staff will not communicate grade information or other protected information via emails, which can be intercepted or viewed by someone other than the student.

Instructional support staff, such as monitors assigned to assist Dual Credit students, shall adhere to all procedures outlined above. In addition, such staff shall complete and submit to the Distance Learning Office at the Uvalde Campus the 'Southwest Texas College Distance Learning Department Confidentiality Agreement' at the beginning of his/her first semester of employment/assignment. This Agreement will remain in force until the staff member no longer holds the support position. Revision of the Agreement will require staff to re-submit the document.

## **LAB ASSISTANT**

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Lab Assistant is responsible for assisting the instructor of record in the preparation, organization, and facilitation of all lab activities. In addition, the Lab Assistant and the instructor(s) of record must meet regularly and work cooperatively in order to meet the goals and objectives outlined in the course syllabus/syllabi. Specific responsibilities for the Lab Assistant are:

1. Assist the instructor of record in planning and implementation of lab instructional activities.
2. Prepare lab for instructional activities.
3. Assist students in lab activities.
4. Assist the instructor of record in the assessment of student learning.
5. Assist in the advising of students on their progress in the course(s).
6. Assist in cleaning and organizing lab.
7. Monitor and maintain lab equipment.
8. Know, understand, and abide by the parameters set by the instructor(s) of record in the course syllabus/syllabi.
9. Support the mission, goals, and objectives of the college.
10. Work to improve teaching effectiveness and student learning.
11. Promote a positive attitude among the students toward the course(s), instructor(s), SWTX, and learning.
12. Perform other duties as assigned by the instructor(s) of record.

## **TEACHING ASSISTANT**

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The teaching Assistant (TA) is responsible for assisting the instructor of record in the preparation, organization, and facilitation of their assigned course(s). In addition, the TA and the instructor(s) of record must meet regularly and work cooperatively in order to meet the goals and objectives outlined in the course syllabus/syllabi. Specific responsibilities for the TA are:

1. Grade assignments using the grading criterion outlined by the instructor(s) of record.
2. Post grades and attendance in the grade book.
3. Aid in the planning and implementation of instruction.
4. Aid in the assessment of student learning.
5. Assist in the advising of students on their progress in the course(s).
6. Know, understand, and abide by the parameters set by the instructor(s) of record in the course syllabus/syllabi.
7. Process and submit reports, such as Drop forms, grade and attendance reports, CORE assignments, etc., as requested by the instructor(s) of record.
8. Support the mission, goals, and objectives of the college.
9. Work to improve teaching effectiveness and student learning.
10. Promote a positive attitude among the students toward the course(s), instructor(s), SWTX, and learning.
11. Perform other duties as assigned by the instructor(s) of record.

## **FACULTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES INSTRUCTIONAL WORKLOAD**

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Full-time instructors with academic assignments are required to work at least thirty hours per week. Instructors with a teaching load of fifteen contact hours are to schedule at least fifteen hours per week as office hours, and those instructors with a teaching load of eighteen contact hours are to schedule at least twelve office hours per week. Exceptions to this policy will be for instructors in programs that are regulated by external agencies and for other paraprofessionals who teach in non-credit-hour programs.

Contact hours for overload courses must be calculated in addition to the required number of hours per regular work week. Five (5) of the office hours may be scheduled for travel if off-campus classes are assigned as part of the regular load or may be scheduled as club sponsorship, student activities or official college committee assignments in which the instructor may be involved. One (1) of the office hours must be reserved for institutionally directed purposes such as assessment/planning activities and professional development. This hour is not necessarily scheduled on a weekly basis but rather to be counted in a total of eight (8) hours committed to these purposes over the course of a semester.

The office schedule should be: (1) posted on the office door of the instructor, (2) included in the course syllabi and (3) submitted to the Division Chair and the Vice President of Academic Affairs as part of the Load Sheet.

## **FACULTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES INSTRUCTIONAL WORKLOAD**

### **ONLINE INSTRUCTION**

Instructors who teach courses online as a part of their regular load must maintain an equal amount of time at an appropriate college site equal to the number of contact hours required for the online course(s).

#### **Distance Education Policy**

Faculty teaching via Distance Education modalities (online, video-conferencing, hybrid, e.g.) must be aware of and fulfill the requirements of SWTX "Distance Education Policy":

Southwest Texas College Distance Education Policy

#### **I. Institutional Policies**

##### **A. Mission**

To provide quality education to students who prefer or require an alternative classroom setting. To accomplish this, SWTX makes use of online, interactive video, and other technologies either singly or in combination.

##### **B. Definitions**

1. **asynchronous**: the use of learning technologies to deliver course material to students that are at a different time and place than the instructor
2. **blended (hybrid)**: more than 50% and less than 100% of content delivered online resulting in some reduction in the number of seat days
3. **distance educational/learning**: a form of learning where the learner is physically separate from the instructor and other learners for more than fifty percent of instruction; methodologies include online, blended (hybrid), web-facilitated, and interactive video
4. **interactive video (or video-conference)**: an interactive delivery mechanism that uses 2-way audio and video to facilitate synchronous (real-time) interaction between presenters and learners who are separated by significant distance
5. **online**: more than 100% of course content delivered in an asynchronous internet-based format.
6. **synchronous**: the use of learning technologies to deliver course material in real time to students who are at a different place than the instructor

## **C. Distance Education Standards and Practices**

Distance Education courses, certificates, and degree programs adhere to Best Practices, as established by the accrediting agencies and educational organizations that govern SWTX. These include:

### **1. Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges**

[Best Practices for Electronically Offered Degree and Certificate Programs](https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/commadap.pdf)

<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/commadap.pdf>

[Distance Education and Correspondence Courses Policy Statement](https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/07/DistanceCorrespondenceEducation.pdf)

<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/07/DistanceCorrespondenceEducation.pdf>

### **2. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**

[Principles of Good Practice for Distance Education](https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/principles-of-good-practice-for-academic-degree-and-certificate-programs-and-credit-courses-offered-at-a-distance-2023/)

<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/principles-of-good-practice-for-academic-degree-and-certificate-programs-and-credit-courses-offered-at-a-distance-2023/>

## **D. Evaluation of Distance Training for Distance Education**

The responsibility for evaluation and revising distance education policy resides with the college's Distance Education Committee. Revisions are presented first as recommendations to the college's Curriculum Committee and then to the President's Cabinet for approval.

## **E. Support and Training for Distance Education**

The college will:

1. Provide training and support to enhance the added skills required of distance education faculty.
2. Provide administrative and technical support for the delivery, supervision, and evaluation of distance education.
3. Utilize effective evaluative and screening measures to match student needs and abilities with distance education requirements.
4. Provide empirical data to assist in the evaluation of distance education success, student and faculty satisfaction, effectiveness of course design, retention, and faculty effectiveness in order to assure continuous distance education improvement.
5. Inform faculty and staff of current distance education policies and procedures.
6. Provide distance education students with academic advising, personal counseling, technical support services, library and learning resources, and financial aid (if eligible).

## **II. Institutional Policies**

### **A. Academic Quality of Distance Education**

Distance education instruction will meet the quality standards applicable to traditional instruction, as outlined in the faculty handbook in the faculty regulations and procedures section. In addition, distance education courses will comply with all descriptions, policies, and uses as stated in the current college catalog. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Syllabi
2. Textbooks
3. Grading
4. Assessment of learning outcomes

### **B. Oversight of Distance Education Courses**

As with all academic activities, distance education courses are subject to approval and review by the Curriculum Committee, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and the President's Cabinet. All distance education instructional content shall be administered by the same department administering the corresponding traditional instruction.

### **C. Approval of Distance Education Faculty**

Distance education faculty will be selected and evaluated by the same standards, review, and approval procedures used by the institution to select and evaluate faculty responsible for traditional instruction. Faculty who desire to teach distance education courses must demonstrate knowledge and skills related to best practices in distance education.

### **D. Approval of Distance Education Courses**

All distance education courses must be approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs for delivery.

Prior to scheduling a distance education course, faculty must submit an Online Course Approval form or a Video-Conference Instructor Approval form to their respective Division Chair.

The forms must be reviewed and approved by the:

- Online Committee
- Division Chair
- Instructional Dean
- Vice President of Academic Affairs

### **E. Delivery of Distance Education Courses**

1. Faculty assigned to teach a distance education course will be responsible for the design and delivery of instruction. As with traditional courses, distance education faculty are responsible for the following:
  - a. Maintaining the rigor and quality of the course.

- b. Making reasonable efforts to guarantee the authenticity of student work.
- c. Planned interaction and timely feedback between students and faculty that is detailed in the course syllabus. Faculty response to student e-mail inquiries will be made within 24 hours during normal business days.
- d. Evaluating courses every semester to revise content and delivery to improve student success.
- e. A customized Canvas class page to include course information, delivery method, access point, syllabus, introduction and orientation.
- f. Providing for appropriate interaction between faculty and students. This interaction may occur during faculty office hours, or it may take place via telephone, email, electronic chats, on-site meetings, video teleconference or other methods. Appropriate interaction for a course depends upon the course delivery mode and the technology used by faculty.
- g. The number of posted office hours held per week equals the number of hours of traditional courses. In addition, faculty teaching an online course shall make themselves available to students for additional office hours equivalent to the contact hours of the course. For example, an online class which would have met on campus for 2½ hours per week requires the instructor to be available to students 2½ additional hours per week.
- h. Five (5) hours of a faculty member's office hour requirement may be designated as online office hours and may be held off campus. Online courses with extensive student contact via email, electronic chats, or additional activities, may have the required additional on-site office hours reduced by submitting a Conversion of Posted On-Campus Office Hours to Electronic Office Hours form to the appropriate Dean.
- i. A proctored mid-term and/or final assessment for all online courses during the 16-week fall and spring semesters; during summer terms and any other shortened semester, two assessments for online courses will be proctored.

## 2. Student Responsibilities

- a. Before taking an online course, a student must be assessed to determine readiness to benefit from the online mode of instruction.
- b. Students must submit a reservation request for all proctored examinations and present a valid picture identification card at the time and location of their reserved examination.
- c. Students may be required to sign an affidavit declaring their understanding of ethical uses of technology.

## **F. Accessibility (ADA)**

As with traditional courses, students taking distance education courses may request accommodations to meet individual needs of the learner. In distance education courses, special arrangements may be made to deliver the course in an alternative format as needed.

## G. STANDARD VIDEOCONFERENCE PROCEDURES

### Classroom Monitor

Videoconference	Classroom Monitor	Originating Campus
<p>A conference in which participants in different locations are able to communicate with each other through sound and vision.</p> <p><i>SWTX classes are scheduled to connect 5 minutes before the scheduled class time.</i></p>	<p>Classroom monitors act as a liaison between professor and students, maintaining an effective learning environment locally by monitoring the class, facilitating communication, and reporting issues to the instructor.</p>	<p>An SWTX videoconference instructor will physically teach a videoconference class from one specific location throughout the semester called the "originating campus."</p>

### SMART CLASSROOM SUPERVISOR DIRECTORY

Uvalde: (830) 591-7261  
 Del Rio: (830) 703-1597  
 Eagle Pass: (830) 758-5068  
 Crystal City: (830)374-3378, ext. 7608  
 Pearsall: (830) 334-5004

### SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Monitors should follow college safety protocols – [https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/law\\_enforcement/Standard-Response-Protocol-EnglishSpanish.pdf](https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/law_enforcement/Standard-Response-Protocol-EnglishSpanish.pdf)

### STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Monitors may be required by the instructor to take attendance each class day through the semester. Monitors should ask the instructor if a sign in sheet is required at the start of the semester. Monitors should report students who arrive late or leave the classroom early. Students may not sign in for others.

**REPORTING ATTENDANCE** Monitors should arrange with the instructor a method for reporting attendance and report any issues with student attendance to the instructor.

### CLASS CONNECTION

All videoconference classes connect five minutes before the hour scheduled. For assistance with video conference connection, please call the appropriate Smart Classroom Supervisor.

**CLASS SCHEDULING**

The Academic Affairs Office determines all videoconference class schedules. Requests to change the schedule require approval from this office. Monitors and instructors cannot schedule or modify class schedules or the use of videoconference rooms.

**CLASSROOMS**

IT manages the use of all video conference rooms at all locations. Monitors cannot schedule the use of a videoconference room. Instructors must call the appropriate Smart Classroom Supervisor to schedule the use of a classroom outside of class hours.

Labs are not open labs and are to remain empty and locked outside of class hours. Monitors should not be in the classroom outside of scheduled monitoring hours. Students are not allowed in classrooms outside of class time. Only students enrolled in the course may be allowed in the classroom. Issues with the classroom should be reported to the appropriate Smart Classroom Supervisor.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT**

Monitors should report misconduct to the instructor and/or the appropriate Smart Classroom Supervisor.

Misconduct includes behavior that prevents maintaining an effective learning environment or any behavior or distraction that may hinder the ability of others to hear or focus on the lecture.

No one other than students enrolled in the class may be in the classroom. Children are not allowed in the classroom unless approved by the instructor prior to class.

Only bottled drinks with caps and quiet snacks will be allowed *so long as* students clean up after themselves.

The use of personal electronic equipment is not allowed during class unless specifically permitted by instructor or syllabus.

Class-related conversations should not hinder the ability of others to hear or focus on the lecture.

**EMPLOYEE CONDUCT**

Classroom monitors are required to always maintain a professional attitude towards students and instructors. Monitors should be polite and not raise his/her voice while communicating with instructor or students. Personal comments or opinions about the class, instructor, or the college should not be made.

**INSTRUCTOR ABSENCE** When an instructor is as much as fifteen minutes late to a class, students are entitled to a walk if no prior notice is given. Students enrolled in classes longer than 3 hours should wait 30 minutes before leaving. If applicable, students should sign the attendance sheet before leaving. Known class cancellations will be posted on the door to the classroom. Monitors should remind students to check email and Canvas for communication from the instructor.

## **POWER/INTERNET OUTAGES**

During internet or power outages, it is important for students to remain in class until the site supervisor receives instruction from the instructor.

## **EXAMS**

Monitors should communicate directly with the instructor for exam procedures such as materials allowed during testing and student instruction. Monitors should only monitor exams during class time and are not allowed to stay longer than class time to monitor exams. When administering an exam during scheduled class time, instructors must connect to their meetings and remain connected until students at all sites complete the exam.

**TESTING PROCEDURES** Ask the instructor what is allowed and not allowed during the exam before the exam begins. If paper copies of an exam are given, count these before giving to students.

Separate students throughout the classroom.

Follow the instructor's policy pertaining to the use of electronic devices.

Walk around the room during testing and report any infractions to the instructor after class.

If a paper test has been given, count these after they are returned by students.

## **BEFORE CLASS BEGINS:**

Be present in the classroom 5 minutes before the class begins.

Check for power to the system, turn on TVs, check volumes on TV and system, position cameras, unmute the microphone, and identify yourself and the campus to notify the instructor your site is connected.

## **IN THE CLASSROOM:**

Operate equipment, troubleshoot, and/or report technical issues to IT at the appropriate Smart Classroom Supervisor.

If the instructor is late or connection is lost, call the appropriate Smart Classroom Supervisor. *Students should contact the instructor via email for assignment instructions.*

Zoom the camera as needed to allow the instructor to have a clear view of the students.

Mute and un-mute the microphone as required for teacher/student interaction.

Always maintain an effective learning environment for students.

No one other than students enrolled in the class is allowed in the classroom unless guest speakers invited by the instructor are scheduled. Children should not be left elsewhere on campus unattended. Students must leave the classroom once the class ends. Class cannot continue without an instructor or a suitable substitute. Monitors are not a suitable substitute.

The use of personal electronic equipment such as cell phones, tablets, etc. is not allowed during class unless specifically permitted by instructor.

Monitors should be focused on class during class time and not bring any items that cause distraction.

#### **AFTER CLASS:**

Power down all equipment, turn off the lights, and lock the door.

# **Videoconference Instructor Approval Form**

This Videoconference Instructor Approval Form is designed to ensure that Southwest Texas College instructors providing remote instruction adhere to the Principles of Good Practice for Academic Degree and Certificate Programs and Credit Courses Offered at a Distance, as outlined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, meet the needs of students, and will be taught by qualified instructors.

All distance education instructors must complete the following agreement to be approved to offer courses that are videoconferenced.

_____ Name of Instructor Requesting Approval	_____ Division
_____ Course(s)	_____ Date of Request

By initialing, the instructor agrees that:

1. he/she will make accommodations for students as requested by Disability Support Services. Southwest Texas College is committed to accessible design for all students, including those with disabilities. Students with disabilities can request accommodations, including alternate formats. \_\_\_\_\_ (Instructor Initials)
2. the academic standards for this course are the same as courses delivered by any other means at Southwest Texas College. \_\_\_\_\_ (Instructor Initials)
3. he/she will use SWTX approved videoconferencing software for course delivery. \_\_\_\_\_ (Instructor Initials)
4. he/she will use SWTX approved LMS for course delivery, maintaining the standards set forth in the SWTX Faculty Handbook. \_\_\_\_\_ (Instructor Initials)
5. he/she must contact the Office of Professional Development for appropriate training in best practices for delivery of Videoconference Courses. \_\_\_\_\_ (Instructor Initials)
6. he/she has an understanding of the role of the monitor (see attached) in his/her course delivery. \_\_\_\_\_ (Instructor Initials)
7. it is his/her responsibility to follow copyright laws. \_\_\_\_\_ (Instructor Initials)
8. he/she must obtain training for equipment/software by contacting Technical Support at 830.591.7323 or [helpdesk@swtxc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@swtxc.edu). \_\_\_\_\_ (Instructor Initials)

_____ Signature of Instructor Requesting Approval	_____ Date of Signature
_____ Division Chair Approval Signature	_____ Date of Signature
_____ Dean Approval Signature	_____ Date of Signature
_____ Vice President of Academic Affairs Signature	_____ Date of Signature

H. Email IT with any issues pertaining to the classroom and/or connection:  
[helpdesk@swtxc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@swtxc.edu).

### **I. Copyright Compliance**

Faculty are expected to understand and adhere to the copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code), as updated by the Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization Act (TEACH Act). Copyright law must be followed when performances, displays, copies or other reproductions of copyrighted material are made available to students. This includes the posting of copyrighted material on any college learning management system. Under the TEACH Act, it is permissible to make copyrighted materials available to students, providing that such materials (1) do not exceed an amount or duration comparable to that typically displayed in a live classroom setting; (2) Are directly related to the course content; (3) are an integral part of the teaching content; (4) are intended solely for and are available only to students enrolled in the course; and (5) are retained only for the class session. The students must be notified that the materials may be subject to copyright protection.

### **J. Intellectual Property Rights**

SWTX supports the development, production, and dissemination of intellectual property by its employees. Intellectual property includes, but is not limited to, inventions, copyrightable works, trademarks, and tangible research property. (See Policy [CT - LEGAL](#) and [CT - LOCAL](#))

## **Student Support**

### **A. Student Complaints/Grievance Procedures**

Any student who wishes to make a formal complaint to the college should refer to the Student Handbook, which is available online at <http://swtxc.edu/pages//about-sSWTXhandbooks/student-handbook>.

### **B. Counseling and Advising**

Distance education students can access the same advising and counseling as their traditional counterparts. With offices on the Crystal City, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, and Uvalde campuses, the Counseling Centers assist students with academic, technical, career, and personal concerns in ways consistent with their personal and educational goals, and in ways which benefit them currently and in the future. Students needing specific support services should contact the Counseling Center, (830) 591-7366.

### **C. Student Success Services**

Distance education students can access the same student success services as their traditional counterparts. Services include tutoring, study plans, study groups, resource libraries, computer labs, university preparation, and transfer advising. Writing feedback and tutoring are offered online to off-campus, distance education students via the Writing Centers.

## **D. Library Resources**

The college ensures that students participating in distance education courses have access to adequate and appropriate learning resources. Students have access to the SWTX libraries and also the virtual library resources. The home page for the SWTX libraries is <https://library.swtxc.edu/>.

## **College Bookstore**

Information concerning the college bookstore can be accessed at its home page, <http://www.swtxcbookstore.com/home.aspx>

## **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Faculty members are assigned to various committees. Some assignments are made at the beginning of a given semester. Others are made during the regular school year as the need arises. Some committees are by circumstance more active than others. Committee assignments are an integral part of the instructor's work load and professional responsibility. This requirement assists in the overall operation of the College. No reduction is made in teaching load for committee assignments unless exceptional circumstances arise.

## **E. College Transportation**

The college provides college-owned vehicles to faculty who are teaching classes at other sites on a previously arranged basis each semester based on vehicle availability and the overall transportation needs of college personnel. Faculty members are expected to follow the policy on using college-owned vehicles. Any violation of this policy may result in the faculty member having this privilege removed and/or further administrative action.

<https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline?key=1174>

For any questions, reach out to the Vice President of Administrative Services.

FACULTY TEACHING LOAD FORM

***Please use the following link to access the load form.***

<https://www.swtxc.edu/faculty-and-staff/professional-development.html>

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

### **CLASS SIZE**

#### **Faculty Load Determination Criteria**

Faculty members are subject to assignment in day and evening, online, virtual, correspondence, and hybrid classes on or off of their "home/main" campus. For full-time faculty teaching "lecture only" courses in Academic disciplines, 15 contact hours per week (five 3-hour classes) define a "full load." For full-time faculty teaching "lecture+lab" courses (Biology, e.g.), 18 contact hours per week (3 classes with accompanying labs) define a "full load." "Full loads" for Applied Sciences "blocked" program faculty are driven by individual program contact hour requirements. An adjustment may be made for additional duties or for various class/lab combinations at the discretion of the college administration. No reduction is made in teaching load for committee assignments unless exceptional circumstances arise. Exceptions must be approved by the appropriate Dean or the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Individual Faculty members submit load sheets electronically to the Vice President of Academic Affairs' office for approval at the beginning of each semester.

The full-time teaching load for "lab-only" faculty members shall be six (6) labs.

Criteria for determining each faculty member's load are:

1. The first courses eligible for consideration as load are those in the discipline the faculty member is contracted to teach as their primary instructional duty.
2. As a general rule, a class section must have a minimum of 12 students on the first class day of a given semester to remain on the schedule (to have "made") and to be eligible for 'regular faculty load' status. Therefore, as a general rule, "load" courses will comprise those sections with 12 or more enrollments.

Courses remaining on a semester's offerings with enrollments fewer than 12 on the first class day of the semester will be considered full classes (and thus "load-eligible") based on the discretion of the Division Chair, Dean, and faculty member, collaboratively, and will remain only due to STUDENT "need": For example, only one face-to-face offering of INRW is offered, or students in a class section require the course for graduation. An exhaustive list of "need" circumstances cannot be anticipated.

3. Face-to-face dual credit courses placed on the schedule with a confirmed enrollment of at least 12, provided on an initial ISD roster, will be considered full classes regardless of the first-class day enrollment. Online Dual Credit sections with fewer than 12 students will be combined with other online sections for enrollment of up to 25 students.

Once the faculty member's load has been confirmed using the above criteria, all extra (overload) courses will be described on and paid via an Extra Duty contract. These classes will be paid based on the first-class day enrollments.

## **FACULTY REGULATION AND PROCEDURES EXAMINATIONS, GRADING AND WITHDRAWAL**

### **EXAMINATION FINALS AND MAKEUPS**

An open period for Final Examinations will be scheduled by the Registrar and placed on the academic calendar; all others by the instructors. Examinations missed as a result of absences not specifically excused through proper channels may be made up only with the consent of the instructor. The instructor is responsible for clearly stating his/her exam make-up policy in each course syllabus. The student is responsible for making arrangements with the instructor to take make-up examinations when allowed.

Instructors should post final examination and semester grades only through the approved electronic vehicles. Instructors must observe privacy rules and regulations provided through the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or otherwise provided by College policy.

The nature and content of examinations are left to the discretion of the instructor.

Some departments require common final exams. In this case the departmental instructors work collaboratively to develop the exam.

### **EARLY CLASS DISMISSAL**

Other than for online courses, instructors are expected to hold all classes and laboratories for the entire scheduled times. It is against the policy of the college for classes to be dismissed early unless scheduled tests absorb over half of the period. A ten or fifteen minute quiz does not justify dismissal of a class.

Online courses should be designed to require instructors and students to invest time, effort, and preparation similar to that required for success in 'face-to-face' courses.

### **GRADING METHODS**

A great deal of misunderstanding over grades will be avoided if the instructor explains grading methods to the students at the beginning of the school term. That explanation must accompany a written description of the instructor's grading method in the class syllabus, including numbers and types of exams, quizzes, etc., and their point or percentage values.

Instructors may follow any method of grading they desire, as long as it is based on a sound and fair academic procedure. Mid-term and semester grades are designated in terms of letters, which may be interpreted as follows:

A	=	Excellent	90-100
B	=	Good	80-89
C	=	Average	70-79
D	=	Passing	60-69
F	=	Failure	59-Below

## EXAMINATIONS, GRADING AND WITHDRAWAL

I	=	Incomplete
W	=	Withdrew
EW	=	Enforced Withdrawal
Q	=	Quit Assigned for students who have excessive absences but to not receive an "F" for the course

**I** becomes an **F** if the student does not complete remaining work during the first six-weeks of the subsequent semester. If the student completes the necessary work, the instructor should complete the "Request for Grade Change" and submit it to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. A student's grade may be changed to remove an "I," to correct miscalculation, or to correct a data entry error. A student who withdraws from a course before the published "last day to drop" will receive a "W." After that, an earned grade must be assigned by the instructor.

Developmental courses (college preparatory) are graded on an **A, B, C, F, P, W, and EW** basis. Developmental courses are calculated in the student's Overall GPA. The grade of **EW** stands for **Enforced Withdrawal**. This grade will be applied administratively to distinguish between an institutionally enforced withdrawal and a student-initiated withdrawal. Grade point averages are computed by assigning values to each grade as follows:

<b>A</b> .....	4 points	<b>F</b> .....	0 points	<b>W</b> .....	0 points
<b>B</b> .....	3 points	<b>P</b> .....	0 points	<b>EW</b> .....	0 points
<b>C</b> .....	2 points	<b>Q</b> .....	0 points		

It is also the policy of Southwest Texas College that student grades be determined on the basis of the students' performance in learning the course curriculum. Enhancement of grades based on students' participation in activities that take place outside the classroom, laboratory, or library is permitted if the activity is related to one or more of the approval learning outcomes of the course.

Under no circumstances shall academic credit be granted for fund-raising activities.

### PERMANENT RECORD GRADES

The "Request for Grade Change Form" will be completed by each instructor when a student's grade must be changed. This form will be kept in the student's permanent file by the Registrar.

REQUEST FOR "GRADE CHANGE" FORM

Date \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Colleague Assigned# \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade From

To

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

FACULTY INFORMATION

Name of Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Justification:

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Removal of "I"
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Miscalculation of Grade
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Other – Attach explanation

Semester/Year when course was initially attempted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President of Academic Affairs

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES RECORDS REPORTS AND SYLLABI**

### **REPORTS**

Instructors will file promptly reports required by the administrative officers of the college.

### **CLASS ROLLS AND MID-SEMESTER GRADES**

Mid-semester grades for all students must be submitted via Self Service by faculty according to deadlines provided by the Registrar's Office. Faculty will record mid-semester grades as 'A,' 'B,' 'C,' 'D,' or 'F.' These letter grades do not have to correspond to exact numerical grades but should represent students' status at mid-term.

### **GRADE BOOK**

Instructors must enter and save all student grades in the Grade Book feature/function of Canvas or the currently required Learning Management System. Instructors must enter and save grades in a timely manner, and students must have access to all grades assigned during a given semester.

### **SYLLABI**

All instructors are required to have a syllabus for each course and laboratory they teach and make the syllabi available to students. An electronic copy of each syllabus, by semester be on file in the Simple Syllabus. Division Chairs are responsible for maintaining current master Syllabi for all courses offered in their division.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE**

### **FACULTY ABSENCES**

When instructors are as much as fifteen minutes late to a class, students are entitled to a "walk". When unable to meet a class, instructors should notify, as appropriate, the Division Chair, the Vice President of their campus, the appropriate Dean, or the Vice President of Academic Affairs as far in advance as possible. All absences should accurately reflect the stated office and class meeting hours and be reported through Self-Service. Instructors should also provide, via electronic or other means, assignments and a brief description of the work to be done in their class (es) during their absence.

Instructors are expected to meet classes punctually and regularly. Unexcused absence is just cause for the college to withhold a day's pay. Unexcused tardiness is also just cause for the college to withhold one-fourth day's pay.

### **STUDENT ABSENCES**

#### **Regular College Class Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to regularly attend all classes in which they are enrolled and are responsible for the completion, if permitted, of all work missed because of an absence. Any class work missed because of an absence and not completed may affect the grade of the student regardless of the reason for the absence. The manner in which make-up work for absences is administered is left to the professional discretion of the individual faculty member. SWTX makes no distinction between excused or unexcused absences. Therefore, the instructor may count all absences except when prohibited by State law or statute.

According to State law there may be a valid reason for a student's absence from class. Acceptable reasons are, but not limited to: personal illness, death in the immediate family, religious holy days in compliance with Section 51.911 of the Texas Higher Education Code, military or legal obligations, or school trips. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of an absence related to one or more of the aforementioned categories and to ask for make-up work. A high school student who misses class due to a required function at their school district or a University Scholastic League (UIL) event will be excused. Documentation of such activities must be provided to the instructor. Arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to the absence. Students must be allowed to complete missed work due to an excused absence without penalty.

An instructor may request the withdrawal of a student from a class when the total number of absences exceeds SWTX criteria for "Excessive Absences" and the student has failed to make the appropriate contact with the instructor regarding the validity of the absence and the need for make-up work.

SWTX defines "Excessive Absences" as a student's number of absences having exceeded the equivalent of two weeks of class meetings in a 16-week course; specifically: (a) six absences from a class that meets three times per week (typical MWF schedule), (b) four absences from a class that meets two times per week (typical TTH schedule) and, (c) two absences from a class that meets once per week (typical evening course). SWTX defines "Excessive Absences" in a 6-week or 8-week course as (a) the entire first week of class, and/or (b) two absences. Attendance counting begins on the official first day of class. When a student reaches the "Excessive Absence" threshold, the instructor may report the student to the Vice President of

Academic Affairs. For attendance reporting purposes for online classes, "attendance" is defined as a student's having logged on and completed a reviewable/gradable activity. For hybrid courses, the absences for the in-person meetings and the online portion of the courses will be added together and will follow the guidelines above.

College policy requires faculty maintain student attendance records in the approved Learning Management System. The option of forced withdrawal is left to the course instructor.

The "Excessive Absences Drop Form" is used for this reporting. If the absences continue, the instructor may initiate an enforced withdrawal by using this "form." Following agreement by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the student will be dropped from the class. When an instructor requests the enforced withdrawal of a student from a class, a grade of "EW" will be recorded.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROGRAM OR COURSE**

The Curriculum Committee is the body charged with approving new programs or courses and for approving changes to existing programs.

#### **Members**

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Chair  
Dean of Applied Sciences  
Dean of Liberal Arts  
Each Division Chair  
Vice President of Eagle Pass and Del Rio  
Registrar  
One Advisor/Counselor  
Financial Aid Representative  
Library Representative  
Four Faculty Members  
One Faculty Association Representative  
One Student Representative

A recommending body to the President's Cabinet, the Curriculum Committee collects and analyzes educational program data and thereby:

1. Recommends and initially approves changes to SWTX curricula and to educational policy and procedures;
2. Recommends and initially approves changes to relevant portions of the College Catalog and the Faculty Handbook;
3. Serves as a forum for the presentation and exchange of general information regarding all educational functions of the college;
4. Ensures that college curricula comply with rules and regulations of the SACSCOC, THECB, the Texas Board of Nursing, and all other relevant agencies;
5. Ensures that the curricula directly relate to the statement of purpose and strategic goals of the institution.

#### **New Program/Policy/Procedure:**

To recommend new programs of study or courses, or to recommend changes to existing degree plans, programs, courses, policies or procedures, the sequence below should be followed:

1. The President, Vice Presidents, Deans, Division Chairs, Program Directors, or their designees may propose a new offering or a change.
2. Academic Programs and Courses –  
Those making the proposal to the Curriculum Committee should conduct research on courses taught in senior colleges and universities in the first two years (concerning transferability) and on courses taught in other junior colleges. The course(s) must be listed in the current Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM).

3. Technical-Vocational Programs --  
Those making the proposal to the Curriculum Committee should conduct research based on the needs of the community and the needs of students. This involves the use of input from advisory committees. The course(s) must be listed in the current Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM).
4. Initiator reports to the Curriculum Committee after having submitted the appropriate paperwork to the Committee.
5. The Curriculum Committee votes approval/disapproval of new course, program, policy, or procedure.
6. The Curriculum Committee chair submits the approved item to the Cabinet and to the President of Southwest Texas College for approval/disapproval.

**Program Revisions after Cabinet Approval:**

1. The appropriate Dean submits proposed courses or programs to the Board of Trustees, Southwest Texas College, for its approval.
2. The appropriate Dean submits academic and vocational courses to the Coordinating Board for approval.
3. The Program Review process evaluates and monitors progress and degrees of success.
4. The Curriculum Committee reviews appropriate data provided by the Strategic Innovation & Research Office.
5. The Curriculum Committee makes recommendations to the Cabinet regarding strategy modifications.
6. The Curriculum Committee recommends to the Cabinet to implement, expand, reduce, or terminate specific programs.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES SPONSORS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & CLUBS**

### **FACULTY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The relationship between sponsor and students is crucial to the success of the student organization. The relationship will vary from semester to semester, year to year and individual to individual. It is critical that the advisor and the student organization members and officers clearly communicate expectations with each other. The following list contains duties and responsibilities for student organization advisors.

1. The sponsor recognizes and supports the role participation in student organizations plays in the educational and personal development of students.
2. The sponsor works with the student organization, but does not dictate the group's programs or activities. Advisors should be frank and honest in offering suggestions, ideas, and possible consequences, but does not exercise power or control over the policy of such organizations unless the policy violates College policy.
3. The sponsor should attend meetings regularly, consult frequently with officers, and be well informed as to the programs and activities of the student organization. The advisor should be familiar with the goals of the organization and should help members evaluate progress.
4. The sponsor should be familiar with the constitution and bylaws and help with interpretation and application. Ensures that a copy of the constitution and bylaws and a list of officers is on file in the Student Life office within the first month of each fall semester.
5. The sponsor should be highly familiar with College policies and procedures and work with the student organization to comply with them.
6. The sponsor should be aware of the financial condition of the student organization and work with the student members to keep accurate financial records. Sponsors will verify and sign all requisitions for the disbursement of organization funds; ensures that no student makes purchases for his/her club in the name of the College.
7. The sponsor should guide students in selection of program content and purpose, encourage the organization to provide opportunities for educational and personal development, and help ensure that activities and programs justify expenditure of students' time, abilities, energy, and dues.
8. The sponsor should help train new officers and help develop leadership skills among officers and members of the organization. Advisors should work closely with officers to understand their responsibilities and to interpret and apply policies and regulations.
9. The sponsor should discourage domination of the organization by any individual or group, encourage members to fully participate and take responsibility for group activities, and inspire balance between academics and co-curricular commitments.
10. The sponsor should be aware of liability issues, advise the organization to make prudent decisions regarding these issues in planning activities, and be prepared to deal with major problems or emergencies within the organization. The advisor should provide supervision of students on all off-campus trips.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

### **TRAVEL APPROVAL**

All trips for instructional purposes must be approved in advance by the appropriate Division Chair, Dean, and the supervising Vice President. Instructional trips will be approved when such experience is deemed to be an integral and essential part of a program of study. Students will be allowed to make up any classroom work that is necessary. The college will provide expenses for instructors and transportation on approved trips but the students must pay their own expenses unless the club has raised funds and properly deposited them in the Club activities account.

### **USE OF COLLEGE VEHICLES**

All trips sponsored by student organizations must be approved in advance by the Office of Student Life and by the Vice President of Student Services. All costs of such trips must be borne by the organization. If college vehicles are used for such trips, then prevailing institutional mileage rate charge will be applied.

College owned vehicles may be used for in state trips only.

### **APPROVAL OF DRIVERS**

Any driver that is not a SWTX regular employee must be approved by the Vice President of Student Services or the Vice President for Administrative Affairs prior to being allowed to drive for the trip. Personnel sponsoring the trip should submit in writing a request for approval allowing adequate time for approval prior to the trip. The request for approval must be accompanied by a statement signed by the proposed driver indicating all moving violations and/or accidents incurred within the last three years. All drivers of SWTX vehicles are subject to random drug testing. [Policy](#)

### **LIST OF ABSENTEES**

Sponsors scheduling trips or other school activities should provide the faculty, the administration, and the cafeteria with a list of the names of prospective absentees two days in advance of the event.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES TEXTBOOKS AND PRINTING CENTER SERVICES**

### **TEXTBOOKS**

Classroom texts are used for a minimum of two years unless exceptional circumstances apply. Requisition forms for book changes are available via the Curriculum and Instruction web page.

In order to provide adequate time for book changes to be processed and in order to establish consistency in ordering, book change requisitions shall be processed only during the summer months. This will allow for all books to be available in the fall semester of each year. All book changes must be approved by the appropriate Division Chair, Dean, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The bookstore manager shall notify the Division Chair of any books that are no longer available upon ordering, or if a book (new edition) is received other than the one ordered. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the appropriate Division Chair, Dean, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

### **PRINTING CENTER SERVICES**

Faculty and Staff should utilize the Printing Center whenever possible to meet printing or duplicating needs. Additional services include collating, stapling and binding of materials.

All routine work requests should be submitted three days in advance of the day needed. Larger projects or special projects should be submitted earlier. Clients should consult Printing Center personnel for a completion timeline projection.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES EVALUATIONS**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the faculty evaluation instruments shall be to (1) promote professional excellence and improve skills; (2) facilitate and enhance student learning and growth; and (3) provide for the continuous improvement of program quality by using the results for individual faculty improvement plans.

### **PHILOSOPHY**

The evaluation process at Southwest Texas College is built on mutual trust and open communication to maintain the dignity and worth of the individual and the college.

With the cooperation of the faculty, the administration shall be responsible for maintaining procedures and criteria for the evaluation of all teaching staff.

Evaluation is an assessment of the individual's fulfillment of contractual responsibilities and of support for and progress toward the college's goals and objectives.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To evaluate the effectiveness of the instructor in presenting knowledge, information, and ideas by appropriate means and methods.
2. To emphasize interaction between instructor and students.
3. To assist the instructor in the implementation of effective teaching techniques.
4. To provide the instructor with sources of information and material for self-development.
5. To provide data that indicates what is expected of the instructor.
6. To assist the instructor to find and understand his/her strengths and weaknesses in order to improve instructional performances and assist in reaching the overall objective of the instructional program.
7. To provide students with a means to express views which are relevant to faculty development and administrative decisions affecting personnel.
8. To increase among students, faculty and administrators the exchange and the interchange of ideas that will lead to general improvement in teaching performance.
9. To provide a comprehensive record for evaluation of teaching effectiveness; which can be used as one of the criteria when reappointment, tenure or promotion is being considered.
10. To continue to develop a sense of responsibility and to provide a response to the demand for accountability imposed by contractual agreement and *The Faculty Handbook*.
11. To promote institutional effectiveness.

## **FREQUENCY**

Self-Evaluations, Student Evaluations, and Division Chair Evaluations will be conducted every year. Additional evaluation procedures will occur if necessary. Deans will conduct the Division Chair Evaluations. Evaluation by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and other approved administrators will be conducted as needed. Please refer to the link below.

[www.swtxc.edu/documents/hr/Faculty-Evaluation-May-2023.pdf](http://www.swtxc.edu/documents/hr/Faculty-Evaluation-May-2023.pdf)

Faculty Evaluation of Division Chair: Faculty members may evaluate their respective Division Chair annually using the *Faculty Evaluation of Division Chair* instrument. At the request of a faculty member, the Dean distributes the instrument at the beginning of the academic year, and the Human Resources Office collects and forwards results to the Dean by the end of the fall term. The Dean confers with the Division Chair before the end of the academic year.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES NON-CREDIT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES**

Courses designated as non-credit or continuing education may be provided by the College in accordance with state statutes and the regulations and standards formulated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges. The following procedures and guidelines will be adhered to in order to offer a non-credit or continuing education course:

1. The Dean of Applied Sciences shall coordinate all non-credit and continuing education courses offered by the College, including recruitment and selection of instructors.
2. The intent of the costs levied for the course is for the course to be self-supporting. Therefore, a budget shall be developed and tuition determined to comply with this intent. If substantial costs for a course are defrayed by an outside entity, tuition and fees will be calculated accordingly.

A Continuing Education Unit is defined as ten contact hours of instruction in a non-credit course of study. Under this system ten contact hours equal one CEU.

The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) will be used as the basic means for recognizing an individual's participation in, and for recording the offering of non-credit classes, courses and programs.

The criteria established by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges for the awarding of CEU's shall be used to plan all non-credit courses.

The registrar or the office of the Dean of Applied Sciences, as appropriate, shall keep a transcript for each individual completing a non-credit course of study. This record will contain the following:

1. Course Title
2. Beginning Date
3. Ending Date
4. Number of Contact Hours
5. Number of CEU's Awarded

## **CRITERIA FOR THE AWARDING OF THE CEU AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NON CREDIT COURSE**

1. The non-credit activity is planned in response to an assessment of educational need for a specific target population.
2. There is a statement of objectives and rationale.
3. Content is selected and organized in a sequential manner.
4. There is evidence of pre-planning which should include opportunity for input by a representative of the target group to be served, the faculty area having content expertise, and continuing education personnel (personnel responsible for non-credit programs).
5. The activity is of an instructional nature and is sponsored or approved by an academic or administrative unit of the institution best qualified to affect the quality of the program content and to approve the resource personnel utilized.
6. There is provision for registration for individual participants and provision of data for individual reporting.
7. Appropriate evaluation procedures are utilized and criteria are established for awarding CEU's to individual students prior to the beginning of the activity. This may include the evaluation of student performance, institutional procedures, and course effectiveness.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC CONDUCT**

### **PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ETHICS**

All persons employed by the Board of Trustees of Southwest Texas College assume the obligation to conduct themselves in accordance with the ideals of the higher education profession. Their personal life should reflect integrity and dignity of conduct. Habits of dress, drinking or other activities that may dissipate the morals of the individuals or their students will be considered a breach of professional ethics by the Board of Trustees and will be grounds for terminating employment.

### **ACADEMIC PREPARATION**

Faculty members are expected to maintain themselves as competent scholars in their chosen academic fields, constantly growing in the knowledge of the subject and in the ability to present it effectively.

Faculty members should familiarize themselves with current degree plans in their major field to help students select their college program wisely.

### **FACULTY - DIVISION CHAIR**

It is important for faculty members to realize they are first responsible to the division chair of their academic division. Any question regarding college policy or any academic problem should be referred first to the division chair. This is a matter of courtesy and of policy.

### **FACULTY ADVICE AND COUNSEL**

Faculty Role and Responsibility in Institutional Governance

The responsibilities and authority of the Faculty on academic and governance matters are established through faculty representation on College committees. These Committees provide Faculty a voice in policy development and in decision related to College governance. Faculty members also have a role in governance matters through participation in institutional planning and the annual budget planning process.

## **FACULTY/STAFF REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT POLICY**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the IT equipment purchasing policy is to establish standards, minimum performance capabilities and security of information, which also provides cost-effective standards for all end user computer hardware, software, mobile devices, printers, storage, servers, and cloud services for Southwest Texas College. These standards allow Information Technology to leverage economies, streamline operations, minimize down-time and provide for a higher quality service.

### **IT Hardware & Software Procurement Guidelines**

- Information Technology is the primary authority for purchasing IT hardware, software, and services for the College. These include laptops, desktops, tablets, phones, mobile devices, printers, storage, servers, and cloud services.
- A department or individual must purchase computer hardware and software through IT. Hardware or software not purchased through IT may not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Items purchased using any college funds including individual grants, remain property of the College and not the individual or department.
- At a minimum all equipment must be tagged as an asset for inventory and tracking purposes.

### **IT's Commitment to the Process**

- Providing consulting services including designing the optimal specifications which meet the individual or department requirements.
- Obtaining the best price and/or service.
- Prompt delivery and installation of equipment and software.
- Installing College licensed software.
- Providing access to College assets including the Internet, networked drives and printers, wireless and wired networking.

If a specific requirement cannot be met by College standards then non-standard items (including but not limited to a major project) will be considered on an individual basis.

Justifications can be submitted on the appropriate Hardware/Software request form.

Purchasing will only process requests with approval from Information Services, and Information.

Services will only proceed with the requested approval of the party's immediate supervisor and the Department Vice President. Upholding these standards and regulations is a joint effort between Purchasing and the department of Information Technology.

- Requests are made through a Hardware/Software request Form that can be obtained from the Help Desk or the IT Directors Sharepoint site.

- Apple products cannot be purchased on a credit card from retail locations, or Apple.com, they MUST be ordered through a PO, and therefore may take longer to process than those items that are in stock.
- Non-approved app purchases on College-Owned Wireless Communication Devices will be the financial responsibility of the assignee.

Questions concerning items being purchased should be directed to the IT Help Desk at (830) 591-7323 or email [helpdesk@swtxc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@swtxc.edu).

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

### **PURPOSE**

These policies are for the purpose of providing information about the general guidelines and framework for the creation, use, and maintenance of social media by students and employees of Southwest Texas College. The stated policies are intended to maximize opportunities for educational growth, encourage the development and improvement of education programs and improve the effectiveness of instruction at all levels, in accordance with the Policy Handbook.

### **ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Social Media" is a category of websites and online media, in which users communicate, participate, share, network, and interact online. Social media websites include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, MySpace, LinkedIn, Friendster, Plaxo, Twitter, Blogs, YouTube, Bebo, and Flickr. For convenience, the term "social media" is used throughout this Policy and is intended to be construed broadly to comport to the principles set forth herein.
- B. "Employee" for the purposes of this Policy only, refers to every individual employed by the College, whether faculty or staff, salaried or hourly, or full-time or part-time.
- C. "College time" includes all time during which an employee of the College is being compensated for his or her work. For hourly employees, "College time" includes all hours during which the employee is on the clock or clocked in. For salaried employees, "College time" includes the time in which the employee is expected to perform duties pursuant to his or her employment with the College.
- D. "Constituents" include actual and potential online social media users and participants, including but not limited to current and prospective students, alumni, employees, donors, and members of the community.
- E. "Professional Use" refers to the use of social media in connection with employment by the College or as an official representative of the College.
- F. "Personal Use" refers to the use of social media for purposes other than those in the capacity as an employee or representative of the College.
- G. "Users" are individuals who access social media, email accounts, and other technology resources through an account or electronic device provided by, maintained by, or authorized by the college.

## **ARTICLE II: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE**

The College recognizes that online social media can be used to connect with constituents in many positive ways. However, the nature of online social media warrants certain caution. When using online social media, whether personally or professionally, employees of the College should be aware of the following:

- A. Users shall exercise discretion when posting onto social media sites that could reflect negatively on users or the College.
- B. Information posted on social media sites may continue to stay online even after it has been removed from the original social media site.
- C. Anything posted online is available to anyone in the world the moment it is placed online, even if access to the social media site is limited.
- D. By agreeing to a social media website's terms of service, the user may be granting permission for the online social media site to republish content, or share information with advertisers, third parties, and law enforcement, among others.

## **ARTICLE III: EMPLOYEE EXPECTATIONS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE**

The College recognizes that the use of social media has far reaching implications and may create risks for users of social media as well as the College. In consideration of these risks, the College expects its employees to adhere to the following policies regarding social media:

- A. Users shall exercise discretion when posting onto social media sites that could reflect negatively on users or the College.
- B. Users shall be discreet, respectful, and as accurate as possible in posting content onto social media sites.
- C. Users shall be aware of their association with the College. If the user identifies himself or herself as an employee or student of the College on the social media site, any content posted by that user shall be consistent with the provisions of this Policy and all other policies and procedures of the College, including the Student Handbook and/or the SWTX Employee Handbook of Policies and Procedures.
- D. Users shall not post any content onto a social media site, which discloses confidential or proprietary information of the College.
- E. Users shall not post content on social media sites, which violates any laws of the United States or the State of Texas, including but not limited to HIPAA, and FERPA.
- F. Users shall take ownership of content posted to a social media site, and should refrain from making anonymous posts.
- G. Users who choose to use social media should do so in compliance with applicable College policies and procedures, including the Student Handbook and/or the SWTX Employee Handbook of Policies and Procedures.

## **ARTICLE IV: EMPLOYEE EXPECTATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

The College acknowledges social media may be used by employees to enhance instruction; inform constituents about College activities and developments; build online communities for educational purposes; and share other relevant information between constituents.

- A. An employee shall notify his or her Division Chair, Dean or Director in advance, of the intention to use a social media website on which the employee will represent the College in an official capacity. The Division Chair, Dean or Director must approve, in advance, such a request from an employee.
- B. Employees maintaining a social media site for professional use are responsible for all content posted by the employee.
- C. Employees maintaining a social media site for professional use shall check the pages regularly to ensure the content is in compliance with the provisions of this Policy. It is recommended that social media sites for professional use be checked three (3) times each day.
- D. Employees maintaining a social media site for professional use are responsible for removing prohibited content from the site within a reasonable time after it is first posted. The following non-exhaustive list includes content which is prohibited from social media sites for professional use:
  - 1. Threats
  - 2. Gambling
  - 3. Obscene language and/or imagery
  - 4. Language or imagery depicting underage drinking, illegal drug use, or other inappropriate behavior
  - 5. Harassment
  - 6. Commercial use for personal financial profit
  - 7. Personal social relationships unrelated to College matters
  - 8. Content in violation of federal or state law
- E. Employees using social media sites for professional use shall include the following disclaimer:

*"Southwest Texas College accepts no responsibility or liability for any data, text, software, music, sound, photographs, images, video, messages, or other content generated by users and publicly posted on this site."*
- F. Each social media site maintained for professional use shall place the following statement in a conspicuous manner on the main page:

*"To report any concern about the content on this site please contact the Division Dean or the College President."*
- G. Upon termination of the employment relationship with the College, employees maintaining a social media site for professional use shall transfer maintenance of the site to the department.

## **ARTICLE V: POLICIES GUIDING PERSONAL USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

The lines between public and private, personal and professional are blurred with the use of online social media. By virtue of identifying oneself as an employee of the College, employees may act as a representative of the College. If an employee of the College chooses to create or participate in social media, the College expects each person to conduct him or herself with professionalism, courtesy and integrity. Nothing in this Policy is intended to discourage or prohibit an employee's use of social media sites. However, all uses should be consistent with guidelines and conform to the provisions set forth herein.

1. The College recommends employees using online social media for personal use include on the site the following disclaimer:
  1. "The views expressed on this site are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of my employer." Accessing social media during working hours shall be limited as follows:
2. Accessing social media during working hours shall be limited as follows:
  1. Hourly Employees are prohibited from accessing and utilizing social media sites for personal use during College time. This includes accessing these sites with any technology.
  2. Salaried Employees shall not access social media sites for personal use during college time if such access interferes with the employees' performance and/or completion of his or her job duties as an employee of the College. This includes accessing these sites with any technology, including, but not limited to college computers, PDAs, cell phones, Blackberries, and/or iPhones.
3. Employees are responsible for all content posted to the social media site by the employee. The College will not indemnify an employee for any loss or liability arising out of content posted on a social media site by the employee.
4. Employees are responsible for reading and complying with the terms of service for any social media site.
5. Employees are prohibited from posting any content, which plagiarizes work of the College or College employees. Employees are required to comply with copyright laws in posting content on social media sites.

## **ARTICLE VI: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- A. This Policy is intended to govern employee use of social media in accordance with all other policies and contracts between the College and its employees. To the extent this policy conflicts with the Master Contract, the provisions of the Master Contract control.
- B. Failure to comply with the guidelines set forth herein may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. Procedure for discipline under this Policy will be in accordance with applicable provisions of the Policy Handbook and Master Contract.
- C. Should any part of this Policy be rendered or declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidation of such part or portion of this Policy should not invalidate the remaining portions thereof, and they shall remain in full force and effect.

### **Recourse for misuse and/or non-compliance**

The guidelines in this document include steps to be taken to determine if users have misused SWTX computing resources. The protection of the rights of individuals accused of violating this policy statement applies.

Individuals who misuse SWTX computing resources, or do not comply with the written policy of SWTX are subject to one or more of the following:

- A. Temporary revocation of SWTX computing resource access
- B. Permanent revocation of SWTX computing resource access
- C. Disciplinary action taken by the appropriate administrative authorities up to and including expulsion of students or termination of employment for faculty and staff
- D. Subpoena of hardware, software, and data files
- E. Prosecution under applicable federal, state, or local laws and/or ordinances
- F. Possible legal sanctions, including fines and imprisonment

### **Report violations or request for additional information**

Violations, complaints, questions, or requests for additional information should be directed to the Information Services Department.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES ASSISTING FACULTY WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH**

### **PROCEDURES**

Southwest Texas College affirms that all courses (with the exception of foreign languages) will be clearly taught in the English language. The procedures for assuring that this policy is carried out are as follows:

1. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will assure the President of the College that each potential member of the teaching staff interviewed will make an oral presentation before a search committee as part of the interview process. This will allow opportunity for an assessment of the applicant's abilities in spoken English. Those determined to have a serious problem in being able to clearly teach in the English language will not be employed.
2. If it is determined that a person employed to teach has a surmountable problem communicating appropriately in the classroom, the Dean will suggest to him/her some improvement measures. The first consists of a diagnostic test given individually to the person.

If the results of the screening test confirm problems, then individuals needing to develop greater English language proficiency will be required to participate in English language instruction. Instruction may occur in any or a combination of the following formats:

Computer Assisted Instruction – SWTX has an interactive computer laboratory capable of providing instruction in English as a Second Language and Fundamentals of English for individuals performing from sixth grade through adult levels.

Individual Tutoring - SWTX employs professional English as a Second Language instructors who are available to work individually with faculty needing language skills development. Instructors are available in a laboratory setting during day and evening hours to accommodate the schedules of those needing instruction.

3. The attendance and participation of faculty participating in assistance activities will be monitored and reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Evaluation of progress will be conducted through post-testing and conference.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES POLICY FOR CAMPUS KEYS**

### **Key/Card Access Policy and Procedure**

#### **PURPOSE:**

To define a system for the issuance, replacement and tracking of Southwest Texas College (SWTX) Campus building and facility keys and Card access. The safety and security of the students, faculty, staff, visitors and College property must be paramount when deciding on the merits of issuing or not issuing keys or access.

#### **POLICY**

SWTX shall maintain a locking system for the protection of its community members, facilities, property, and information. All locks, keys, electronic access cards and access codes are the sole property of SWTX and will be issued to students and employees based on their need for access. The college reserves the right to change locks, keys, and access codes as needed.

No one may place or change a lock on the college facility, interior or exterior, or transfer their keys to another person without the express permission of the Vice President of Administration Services (VPAS), or their designees.

All keys and electronic access cards must be returned to SWTX upon termination or transfer of employment.

#### **GENERAL**

The Vice President of Administrative Services (VPAS) is responsible for the creation and assignment of the SWTX's Key Control Audit Team (KCAT) who in turn will be responsible for issuance and tracking of keys, replacement Keys, applications, and maintenance of the key code system.

SWTX Safety & Security Coordinator or Physical Plant staff shall be responsible for maintenance, repair of door opening, mechanisms, malfunctions related to locks and doors, installation of lock devices, and key duplication(s) when authorized by VPAS. All requests for keys must be submitted to VPAS. All office and door locks will be installed or supervised by the College and will be the design and manufacture designated by the Facilities Superintendent.

Individual departments and their respective supervisors are urged to maintain an inventory of keys issued within their department(s) or unit. To enhance security across campus, it is also recommended that each office area perform a periodic key audit to determine if there are any missing keys, or a potential breach of security due to any missing keys. From time to time, the VPAS may conduct random key audits with the assistance of SWTX's KCAT.

#### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

All buildings and facility keys must remain the property of SWTX. Improper or unauthorized use, such as reproduction, lending of, or use for entry to non-authorized areas may result in the revocation of key privileges and may include disciplinary action.

The VPAS reserves the right to deny key access to any member of the SWTX Community.

Access to locked areas of the SWTX is based upon need and security concerns.

Whenever possible, employees will be issued the minimum number of keys at the appropriate security level, which will provide access to their area(s) of assignment.

Master keys operate a sub-group of locks within a master system, such as in a department. Division chairs, Directors or Supervisors shall submit via an email request,

explaining the reason why a key is needed and signing the Entry Codes, Alarm Codes and Office Keys Sign-out form, final approval will be done by the VPAS. Any extra or unknown keys held by individuals, departments and officers should be turned into the VPAS or his/her designee.

Employees assigned keys are responsible for the security of the keys. Lost or stolen keys must be reported immediately to the Division chair or director and VPAS. A replacement charge of \$10.00 will be assessed for each lost or stolen access key. Keys lost, due to theft, must be accompanied by a police report. The employee or department can be held responsible for any cost associated with re-keying and re-coring of locks due to a lost or stolen key. Broken or damaged keys must be returned before a duplicate key may be issued.

Employees who are leaving or changing roles within the College must return all keys in their possession to the VPAS or designee, no later than on their last day of employment. Keys may not be left with the employee's department or transferred to another employee.

### Key Requests

All key requests must be submitted on the Entry Codes, Alarm Codes and Office Keys Sign-out form. Access keys will allow entry to individual offices or rooms. These are the primary keys issued to faculty and staff. Division chairs and Directors may suggest issuance of these keys based upon need; final approval will be done by the VPAS. To request a key, fill out the Entry Codes, Alarm Codes and Office Keys Sign-out form, along with the proper signatures (including the supervisor's), and forward to VPAS or his/her designee. Proper justification, including purpose and use will be required for all key requests. Upon notification by VPAS, keys can be picked up at the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) Office during normal business hours. The individual who will use the key must sign the Entry Codes, Alarm Codes and Office Keys Sign-out form. No keys will be issued without proper signatures.

### Adjunct, Temporary Employees and Student Lab assistants

Under normal circumstances, students and temporary employees will not be issued College keys. For any exceptions, the rationale for issuing, must be documented on the Entry Codes, Alarm Codes and Office Keys Sign-out form and approved by the respective Division chair or director's signature and a V.P. or appointed designee's signature. However, in no instance will any master key be issued to a student or temporary employee. Exterior building keys will only be issued to a temporary employee on a case-by-case basis.

### Public Safety

Personnel of Public Safety may be issued keys for assigned work areas only. Keys may be issued daily and returned at the end of each work shift to be verified by the supervisor. Permanent assignment of keys to personnel of Public Safety may be made in case of need, determined and authorized by the supervisor and Key Control Committee. Keys issued for high security areas must have additional authorization of the VPAS.

### External Contractors

Issuance of keys to contractors to perform repairs to campus facilities must be requested by the Maintenance Director or Facilities Superintendent's designated representative. Upon approval, the contractor may be issued a key and must return the key to Facilities Management by the end of each business day.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the VPAS. SWTX reserves the right to modify, amend, or terminate this policy at any time.

## **FACULTY/STAFF REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURE CAMPUS POLICE PROCEDURES CALLING CAMPUS POLICE OFFICERS**

In order to provide a quick and appropriate response to any situation on the Uvalde, Del Rio & Eagle Pass campuses that may require a campus police officer or Security Officer's assistance, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Uvalde Campus Call 830-591-7333, which is the cell phone number for on-duty Campus Police or Security Officer. The caller may also dial 911 and ask the Operator to notify the on-duty SWTX officer to respond. The caller should also use 911 to request assistance of Fire Department or EMS.
2. Del Rio Campus Call 830-900-4125, which is the cell phone number for on-duty Campus Police or Security Officer. The caller may also dial 911 and ask the Operator to notify the on-duty SWTX officer to respond. The caller should also use 911 to request assistance of Fire Department or EMS
3. Eagle Pass Campus Call 830-758-4199, which is the cell phone number for on-duty Campus Police or Security Officer. The caller may also dial 911 and ask the Operator to notify the on-duty SWTX officer to respond. The caller should also use 911 to request assistance of Fire Department or EMS
4. Faculty and staff located at facilities other than Uvalde, Del Rio & Eagle Pass should call 911 and request responses from local City Police or the Sheriff's Office, and or/local Fire Department and EMS.

Please review the Campus Safety website <https://www.swtxc.edu/about/campus-safety/index.html>

## **FACULTY/STAFF REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES CONCEALED CARRY POLICY**

Please follow the links below to view the Concealed Carry Policy:

<https://www.swtxc.edu/about/campus-safety/campus-concealed-carry-policy.html>

<https://www.swtxc.edu/about/campus-safety/campus-carry-faqs.html>

## **FACULTY/STAFF REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Southwest Texas College reaffirms the principle that students, faculty, and staff have a right to be free from any form of sexual offense. Sexual offenses are unlawful. They will not be tolerated.

Sexual assaults include rape, sexual battery, corruption of a minor, gross sexual imposition and public indecency.

Any student or employee who believes a sexual offense has occurred is strongly encouraged to report the matter promptly and to preserve any evidence intact.

Resident students should also report any sexual offenses to the most readily available hall director or resident assistant.

Complaints involving sexual abuse will be reported to the police who will take action pursuant to civil law. Victims should contact the police regardless of whether they intend to press charges. It is important that reporting the incident does not obligate the victims to press charges. Going to the hospital does not mean that the victim will have to press charges.

Victims should consider seeking support from a relative, resident assistant, good friend or counselor.

Complaints of sexual offense will be responded to promptly and equitably. The right to confidentiality of all members of the college community will be respected in so far as possible. Retaliation against individuals bringing complaints of sexual assault is specifically prohibited.

A victim who wishes to file an informal or formal complaint of sexual assault against a student should notify the Vice-President of Student Services, who will conduct the investigation and any hearing.

Possible sanctions for students found guilty of sexual offenses include those cited in the sanctions portion of the student conduct code in the student handbook.

### **Sex Offender Registration**

The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 62.153 requires that: "Not later than the later of the seventh day after the date on which the person begins to work or attend school or the first date the applicable authority by policy allows the person to register, a person required to register under Chapter 62.152 or any other provision of this chapter who is employed, carries on a vocation or is a student at a public or private institution of higher education in this state shall report that fact to the authority for campus security for that institution." The SWTX Police Department is such authority for Southwest Texas College and must receive the required offender registration.

Texas Government Code 508.225 provides for a parole panel to establish a "child safety zone" applicable to a releasee under given circumstances. The panel may require as a condition of parole or mandatory supervision that the releasee not "go in, on, or within a distance specified by the panel of premises where children commonly gather, including a school, day-care facility,..."The frequent presence of children on SWTX campuses and instructional sites requires that sex offenders on parole or probation check with their parole or probation officers to learn if an SWTX campus or other SWTX site has been set as a "child safety zone." Those releasees who fall under a prohibition referenced in this paragraph may take Distance Learning classes, but only if their presence on campus or on site is not required.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**

On-going professional development of the faculty and staff of Southwest Texas College is essential to the vitality of the institution and its instructional and service programs. Therefore, to encourage professional development, the College provides:

### **GENERAL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS**

When the Budget permits, each full-time faculty member shall be allowed \$400 per year in the Professional Development budget for faculty development. This amount is non-cumulative and may be used for attending graduate classes, professional conventions, or other activities contributing to the professional development of the individual. These activities shall be directly related to the instructor's teaching or other job assignment and shall be approved in advance by the appropriate Division Chair, Dean, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Budget constraints can affect the availability of this Professional Development money.

After attending the professional activity, the faculty member will submit a reimbursement voucher with receipts and mileage through normal channels for reimbursement up to \$400. The appropriate Travel Reimbursement Form is located via the Business Office Web Page. Local Reimbursement Form: [https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business\\_office/swtx-local-travel-reimbursement-form.pdf](https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business_office/swtx-local-travel-reimbursement-form.pdf) or Overnight Reimbursement Form:

[https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business\\_office/SWTX-overnight-travel-request-reimbursement-form.pdf](https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business_office/SWTX-overnight-travel-request-reimbursement-form.pdf)

### **SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANT**

The total sum of \$8000 shall be budgeted yearly to support a program of **Special Purpose Faculty Development grants**. Grants totaling \$8000 will be awarded in the fall and spring semester (\$8000 total for the year). This grant program shall be administered by a special committee known as the Faculty Development Grants Committee, which shall consist of the President of the Faculty Association, one Division Chair, elected by the committee, the Professional Development Director and one person appointed by the College President. The Committee shall review applications for grant awards and submit its recommendations to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval.

The purpose of the special development grant is academic enhancement. It is not the intention of the grant for funds to be used for expenses incurred for political or personal purposes.

#### **A. Criteria for Grant Awards**

1. To complete the required six hours of post graduate study for tenure purposes.
2. To complete graduate hour requirements for a second teaching field.
3. For academic development beyond mandatory requirements which shall be directly related to the instructor's teaching or other job assignment.

4. To participate as an officer or on the program of a state or national professional organization having recognized standing in the instructor's area of disciplinary specialization and directly related to his/her teaching or other job assignment.
5. Other professional development activity as approved by the review committee which shall be directly related to the instructor's teaching or other job assignment.

**B. Additional Criteria:**

1. The instructor must have attended at least three (3) presentations (a. these could be local, b. at conferences, or c. through webinars) within the prior two years in his/her area of disciplinary specialization or interest or an area that will improve teaching effectiveness. In addition, the individual must be a full-time faculty member at SWTX and have completed at least two years as a full-time faculty member at SWTX. The applicant's PD record will reflect his or her participation which will be validated by the Professional Development Officer. This will include providing trainings and presentations to faculty on the material learned in the workshop, conference, or course.
2. The instructor must have used the annual Faculty Development provision (\$400) within the previous year to attend a professional development activity or conference, or to take a graduate course at an accredited college or university.
3. Final amounts per applicant will depend upon the number of recommended applicants, criteria being met, and the amount of remaining funds.

**C. Additional Procedures and Information:**

1. Final amounts per applicants will depend upon the number of recommended applicants and the amount of available funds.
2. Receipts for all expenses claimed should be submitted to the Professional Development Officer. The Professional Development Officer will forward the receipts with a letter of approval to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for final disposition.
3. The Faculty Development Grant review committee shall develop applications and review procedures including forms and deadlines.
4. Grants may be made in any amount not to exceed \$600 for any single grant. A special purpose grant may be combined with a general budget faculty development allocation.
5. The Staff Development and Professional Growth grants shall be awarded by the above committee with the concurrence of the Vice President of Academic Affairs upon the application of a faculty member on a first-come first-served basis. \$4,000 will be awarded in the fall semester and \$4,000 will be awarded in the spring semester.
6. A 50% advance on the approved amount may be drawn prior to the activity and 50% reimbursement will be given with receipts for conferences and workshops. Academic coursework will be reimbursed at 100% of the approved amount at the submission of a receipt and official transcript showing successful completion of the course.

7. A faculty member can only receive one grant per academic year unless there are leftover funds and no other applicants at the end of the semester.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

When budgets permit, the College will provide funds for the expenses of a faculty member's or administrator's membership in a professional or disciplinary organization. These expenses shall be reviewed and approved on an individual basis by the appropriate Dean.

Such memberships shall not include organizations that have as their main purpose the advancement of the individual professional interests of administrators or faculty members.

**FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES  
OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD**

**CRITERIA FOR OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER AWARD**

The Faculty Committee on College Policy has developed the following criteria for the award:

1. Effectiveness of Instruction
  - A. Well prepared and well informed in subject
  - B. Clear and well organized in presentation
  - C. Grades fairly
  - D. Creates a comfortable climate for discussion and learning
  - E. Inspires students
  
2. Enthusiasm for Position
  - A. Considers teaching his/her main occupation - not a sideline
  - B. Shows interest in curriculum and development of new ideas
  - C. Performs in an enthusiastic manner
  
3. Participation in Student Counseling and Advising
  - A. Is accessible to students
  - B. Shows an interest in students and their problems
  - C. Has a knowledge of basic counseling techniques
  
4. Cooperation
  - A. Cooperates with students, administration, and colleagues
  - B. Has a friendly, business-like way in dealing with people
  
5. Reliability
  - A. Punctual in attending meetings, turning in reports, returning students' work
  - B. Reliable in dealing with students and co-workers
  - C. Attends class regularly and promptly
  - D. Values college property
  
6. Professional Ethics
  - A. Observes good ethics in dealing with people
  - B. Personal life reflects integrity and dignity of conduct
  
7. Professional Growth
  - A. Progress in own field of study
  - B. Reads widely in field -- keeps up

8. Out of Class Activities
  - A. Interested in overall development of college
  - B. Active sponsor of student clubs or organizations
  - C. Makes contribution to college community
  
9. Community and District Activities
  - A. Works in the best interest of the College
  - B. Has community respect

**SELECTION**

A committee consisting of the Vice President of Academic Affairs and at least two former faculty recipients of the award will select the faculty member to receive the award. Final approval is given by the President of the College.

## **FACULTY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC CONDUCT**

### **Computer, Network And Internet Acknowledgement And Consent/Acceptable Use Policy**

The purpose of the computers and internet is to support research and education. Appropriate usage is defined as technology and/or Internet resources that are directly related to the curriculum/instruction.

#### **Prohibitions**

Employees are expected to act in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the Campus policy and accepted rules of network etiquette. Specifically, the following uses are prohibited:

1. Illegal activity.
2. Commercial or for-profit purposes.
3. Product advertisement or political lobbying.
4. Hate mail, discriminatory remarks, and offensive or inflammatory communication.
5. Unauthorized or illegal installation, distribution, reproduction, or use of copyrighted materials.
6. Transmission of material likely to be offensive to recipients.
7. Intentional obtaining or modifying of files, passwords, and data belonging to other users.
8. Impersonation of another user, anonymity, and pseudonyms.
9. Loading or using of unauthorized games, programs, files, or other electronic media, including, but not limited to, the usage of floppy diskettes, CD-ROMs (audio and computer), DVD-ROMs, and USB flash drives/USB storage devices.
10. Disruption of the work of other users.
11. Destruction, modification, abuse or unauthorized access to network hardware, software and files.
12. Quoting of personal communications in a public forum without the original author's prior consent.

## **Security**

System security is protected through the use of passwords. Failure to adequately protect or update passwords could result in unauthorized access to personal or official files. To protect the integrity of the system, the following guidelines shall be followed:

1. Employees and students shall not reveal their passwords to another individual.
2. Users are not to use a computer that has been logged in under another student's or employee's name.
3. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the network.

Employees and students must understand this policy and comply with it. The SWTX IT Department can be contacted @ 830-591-7323 if you are in need of additional information or clarification.

Additionally, please understand that if you violate this policy, you are subject to the SWTX discipline code as well as local, state, and federal legal recourse.

## **LIBRARY POLICIES**

Library Link is <https://library.swtxc.edu/>

Direct link to Policy and Procedures <https://library.swtxc.edu/about-us/policy-and-procedures>

## **BUSINESS OFFICE POLICIES**

All Business Office Policies and procedures are available via the following links:

### **BUSINESS OFFICE POLICIES**

General Accounting Policies and Procedures:

[https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business\\_office/Business-Office-General-Accounting-Policy-and-Procedure.pdf](https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business_office/Business-Office-General-Accounting-Policy-and-Procedure.pdf)

Purchasing Policy and Procedures:

[https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business\\_office/Purchasing-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf](https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business_office/Purchasing-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf)

Procurement Card (P-Card) Policy and Procedures:

[https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business\\_office/PCard-Policy-and-Procedures.pdf](https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business_office/PCard-Policy-and-Procedures.pdf)

Travel Policy and Procedures:

[https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business\\_office/Travel-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf](https://www.swtxc.edu/documents/business_office/Travel-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf)

## **NURSING MOTHERS' BREAK ROOMS**

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires employers to provide reasonable break time for an employee to express breast milk for her nursing child for one year after the child's birth each time such employee has need to express the milk. Employees are entitled to a place to pump at work, other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the public.

**The break time requirement became effective when the Affordable Care Act was signed into law on March 23, 2010** (see guidance here:

<http://www.dol.gov/whd/nursingmothers/>).

SWTX has designated a room at each comprehensive campus. At the Uvalde campus the designated room is in the library on the bottom floor to the left of the circulation desk. At the Del Rio campus the designated room is Library Study Room 2. The designated room on the Eagle Pass campus is located in Building C Room 129. All other facilities will designate a room upon request.

# **FACULTY COMMITTEES**

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FACULTY HANDBOOK  
2026-2027

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**Members**

Six Faculty Members  
One student representative

**Duties and Responsibilities**

This committee meets when petitioned by students placed on academic suspension whose appeal for admission has been denied by the Vice President of Academic Affairs. A review of the individual case shall be studied and admittance granted or denied. Appeals may further be made to the President of the College.

## **FACULTY COMMITTEES TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

### **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

#### **Members**

Vice President of Academic Affairs –Chair  
Dean of Applied Sciences and Workforce Education  
Dean of Liberal Arts  
Each Division Chair  
Senior Director of AEL & Student Community Engagement

Vice Presidents:

Del Rio  
Eagle Pass  
Student Services

Registrar

Advising/Counseling Representative

Financial Aid Representative

One Faculty Representative:

Del Rio  
Eagle Pass  
Academic  
Technical

Director of Student Engagement and Success

Professional Development Officer

Library Representative

Dean of Instructional Services & School District Partnerships

One Faculty Association Representative

Data Management, Integration Officer

Director of Strategic Innovation & Research

ERP Coordinator

Technical-Vocational Counselor

Chief of Staff

One Student Representative

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

A recommending body to the President's Cabinet, the Curriculum Committee collects and analyzes educational program data and thereby:

1. Recommends and initially approves changes to SWTX curricula and to educational policy and procedures;
2. Recommends and initially approves changes to relevant portions of the College Catalog and the Faculty Handbook;
3. Serves as a forum for the presentation and exchange of general information regarding all educational functions of the college;
4. Ensures that college curricula comply with rules and regulations of the SACSCOC, THECB, the Texas Board of Nursing, and all other relevant agencies;

5. Ensures that the curricula directly relate to the statement of purpose and strategic goals of the institution.

The Curriculum Committee also performs systematic reviews of college wide curricula at least every three years and on an as-needed basis when changes are requested.

## **FACULTY COMMITTEES TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

### **DISTANCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

#### **Members**

Dean of Liberal Arts, Chair  
Eight full-time faculty members  
Two part-time faculty members  
One library representative  
One student representative

#### **Committee Information Technology Liaison**

The Information Technology Director will appoint an information technology liaison for the committee.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Set standards for the delivery of distance learning (video conferencing) courses and periodically review such courses to assure compliance with SACSCOC and THECB requirements.
2. Review curricular and instructional issues related to the quality of distance learning and make recommendations as appropriate to the Curriculum Committee.

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS COMMITTEE**

**Members**

Faculty Association President, Chair  
One Division Chair Representative  
Faculty Representative appointed by the President

**Duties and Responsibilities**

This committee administers the Faculty Development Grants Program. Consistent with Board policy establishing the program, it develops procedures for receiving applications for faculty development grants, receives and evaluates grant applications, and makes grant awards with the concurrence of the College President.

Develops agenda and maintains minutes of meeting. Forwards these documents to the Strategic Innovation & Research Office.

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**Faculty Title Promotion Committee**

**Members**

Faculty Association President, Chair

One Division Chair Representative

Three Faculty Representatives (including one who received title promotion in the previous three years)

**Duties and Responsibilities**

This committee will accept and review applications for Faculty Title change using the Faculty Title change template as a guide. Applications for title changes must be received by the Vice President of Academic Affairs no later than November 1 of the academic year in which the applicant is seeking a title change. The Faculty Title Promotion Committee will review applications during the following spring semester and make recommendations to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, who will forward them to the President for consideration.

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

**Members**

Director of Library Services, Chair  
Seven Faculty Representatives

**Duties and Responsibilities**

1. To assist Librarians in making recommendations for policy changes for the library.
2. To review and re-evaluate student use of the library.
3. To advise the Librarians of any special needs the committee may find regarding faculty and student usage.
4. To develop agenda and maintain minutes of meeting. Forward these documents to the Strategic Innovation & Research Office.
5. To evaluate annually cooperative agreements for library services.

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**ONLINE COMMITTEE**

**Members**

A minimum of eight faculty members and no more than twelve

One library representative

One student representative

**Committee Information Technology Liaison**

The Information Technology Director will appoint an information technology liaison for the committee.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Set standards for the delivery of online (Internet-based) courses and periodically review such courses to assure compliance with SACSCOC and THECB requirements.
2. Review curricular and instructional issues related to the quality of online learning and make recommendations as appropriate to the Distance Education Committee.

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) and AI COMMITTEE**

**Members**

Eleven Faculty Members  
One Library Representative  
Division Chair

**Duties and Responsibilities**

The purpose of the OER Committee is to recommend, develop, and implement strategies that increase adoption of OER resources by faculty at Southwest Texas College in lieu of commercially published resources. The intended outcomes are to leverage OER to reduce the cost of textbooks and other course materials for students while maintaining or improving the quality of learning.

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**PHYSICAL FACILITIES LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Members**

President Southwest Texas College, Purchasing Agent  
Director of Physical Plant/Maintenance  
Vice President of Administrative Services  
Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Vice President of Student Services  
Vice President of Eagle Pass Campus  
Vice President of Del Rio Campus  
Construction Manager  
Vice President of Finance  
Assistant Director, IT Department, Network Engineer  
Dean of Applied Sciences  
Dean of Liberal Arts  
Faculty Association President

**Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Evaluates progress on institutional goals pertaining to physical plant.
2. Recommends additions and revisions to the Strategic Plan.
3. Basecamp Project Management

**Consultants**

Ferrell/Brown & Associates, Inc.  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dirksen Engineering  
Uvalde, Texas

Michael Kesterson  
Electrical Engineer  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Schneider Electric  
4400 Buffalo Gap Road  
Suite 3850  
Abilene, Texas

Estrada Hinojosa & Co.  
Financial Advisors  
100 West Houston Street  
Suite 1400  
San Antonio, TX

MEP Engineering  
Michael Calahan, P.E  
11503 NW Military Hwy. | Suite 215 |  
San Antonio, Texas 78231  
T 210 349 1400 | [mepengineering.com](http://mepengineering.com)

Davis Powell Architecture  
Davis Powell  
Phone: (830) 757-6750  
Fax: (830) 278-1335  
Email: [davispowell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davispowell@sbcglobal.net)  
1152 Ferry Street  
Suite B  
Eagle Pass, Texas 78852

Marco A. Arredondo, Inc.  
Marco A. Arredondo, P.E.  
610 Colonial Drive  
Portland, Texas 78374  
Phone: 361-777-1335  
Fax: 866-518-5687  
Cell: 361-215-7787  
Website: [marcoarredondo.com](http://marcoarredondo.com)

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**PRESIDENT'S CABINET**

**Members**

President  
Vice President of Student Services  
Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Vice President of Finance  
Vice President of Administrative Services  
Vice President, Eagle Pass  
Vice President, Del Rio  
Chief of Staff

**Duties and Responsibilities**

1. To give or deny final approval on policy and procedure recommendations made by the Curriculum Committee, Services Operations Committee, Faculty Association, and other relevant campus groups.
2. To coordinate strategic planning for the institution.
3. To improve communication among administrators of the college.
4. To coordinate and develop the annual College budget.
5. To provide a forum for discussion of current issues and problems.
6. To provide for the coordination of duties among administrative officers.
7. To provide and coordinate leadership for the betterment of the college.

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**Members**

One Counselor, Chair  
Director of Financial Aid  
Five Faculty Members

**Duties and Responsibilities**

The Scholarship Committee has as its primary responsibilities the receiving of scholarship applications, the reviewing and evaluation of those applications, and the recommending of recipients for scholarships to the President of Southwest Texas College.

## **FACULTY COMMITTEES TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

### **SERVICES AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

#### **Members**

Permanent Members Representing:

Academic Advising

Financial Aid

Student Engagement and Success

Registrar

Business Office

Facilities and Maintenance

Library

Outreach

Strategic Innovation & Research

Information Technology

Two Faculty Members (Each serving a two-year staggered term)

One Student Representative (One-year term)

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Performs a systematic review of all college services.
2. Identifies campus factors that affect quality and delivery of college services and makes recommendations to the Cabinet.
3. Improves knowledge of and communication between college service personnel and faculty.
4. Develops agenda and maintains minutes of meeting and forwards these documents to the Strategic Innovation & Research Office.

**FACULTY COMMITTEES  
TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

**STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE**

**Members**

Six Faculty Members

Three student representatives

**Duties and Responsibilities**

This ad hoc committee is convened by the Vice President of Student Services or the college President when required by Student Disciplinary procedures. The membership self-selects a Chair when convened.

## **FACULTY COMMITTEES TITLE, MEMBERS, AND DUTIES**

### **VIDEO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

#### **Members**

A minimum of eight faculty members and no more than twelve

One library representative

One student representative

#### **Committee Information Technology Liaison**

The Information Technology Director will appoint an information technology liaison for the committee.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Set standards for the delivery of video-conference courses and periodically review such courses to assure compliance with SACSCOC and THECB requirements.
2. Review curricular and instructional issues related to the quality of video-conference courses and make recommendations as appropriate to the Distance Education Committee
3. Review the institution's Distance Education Plan, policies and procedures, and make recommendations to the Distance Education Committee as needed.
4. Review technology components for video-conference based courses and recommend technological improvements.



**SOUTHWEST**  
TEXAS ★ COLLEGE

**SWTX**  
**FACULTY**  
**HANDBOOK**

2026-2027



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