

**South Texas College  
Board of Trustees  
Education and Workforce Development Committee  
Ann Richards Administration Building Board Room  
Pecan Campus, McAllen, Texas  
Wednesday, May 13, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

“At anytime during the course of this meeting, the Board of Trustees may retire to Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.071(2) to confer with its legal counsel on any subject matter on this agenda in which the duty of the attorney to the Board of Trustees under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Further, at anytime during the course of this meeting, the Board of Trustees may retire to Executive Session to deliberate on any subject slated for discussion at this meeting, as may be permitted under one or more of the exceptions to the Open Meetings Act set forth in Title 5, Subtitle A, Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Texas Government Code.”

- I. Approval of Minutes for the Tuesday, February 10, 2026 Committee Meeting ..... 2 - 6
- II. Update on Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Fifth Year Interim Review..... 7 - 13
- III. Review and Recommend Action on Proposed 2027–2028 and 2028–2029 Academic Calendars ..... 14 - 21
- IV. Review and Recommend Action on the South Texas College Core Curriculum for AY26-27 ..... 22 - 33

**Approval of Minutes for the Tuesday, February 10, 2026 Committee Meeting**

The Minutes for the Education and Workforce Development Committee meeting of Tuesday, February 10, 2026 are presented for Committee approval.

**South Texas College  
Board of Trustees  
Education and Workforce Development Committee  
Ann Richards Administration Building Board Room  
Pecan Campus, McAllen, Texas  
February 10, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

The Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 in the Ann Richards Administration Building Board Room at the Pecan Campus in McAllen, Texas. The meeting commenced at 3:11 p.m. with Ms. Victoria Cantu presiding.

Members present: Ms. Victoria Cantu and Mr. David De Los Rios via teleconference.

Other Trustees Present: Dr. Alejo Salinas, Jr. and Mr. Danny Guzman.

Members absent: Ms. Dalinda Gonzalez-Alcantar

Also present: Dr. Ricardo J. Solis, Dr. Jesus Camos, Dr. Anahid Petrosian, Dr. Brett Millan, Mr. Javier Villalobos, Dr. Fernando Chapa, Dr. Rebecca De Leon, Mr. Tony Matamoros, Dr. Matt Hebbard, Ms. Melissa Renner, Dr. Shannon Perales, Ms. Mary Del Paz, Mr. Eddie Romero, Ms. Monica Benitez, Dr. Rodney Rodriguez, Dr. Marcos Silva, Dr. Margo Vargas-Ayala, Chief Ruben Suarez, Lt. Johnny Barboza, Ms. Lynda Lopez, Mr. Andrew Fish, Mr. Serkan Celtek, Ms. Stephanie Hinojosa, and Ms. Venisa Earhart.

**Approval of November 11, 2025 Education and Workforce  
Development Committee Minutes**

The Minutes for the Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting of November 11, 2025 were presented for Committee approval.

Ms. Victoria Cantu accepted the minutes as presented.

## **Review and Update of Strategic Plan Implementation, Alignment, and Monitoring Framework – South Texas College 2025-2031 Strategic Plan**

### **Purpose**

Administration will present the framework for implementing the South Texas College 2025–2031 Strategic Plan through unit-level Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Plans and for monitoring progress through institutional and departmental performance indicators.

The presentation will highlight how strategic goals and directions are operationalized through divisional and departmental objectives that align with institutional Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and established baselines and targets. Administration will also share how institutional KPIs and department-level performance indicators are used to monitor progress, promote accountability, and support continuous improvement across the College.

### **Justification**

The effective implementation of the 2025–2031 Strategic Plan requires systematic alignment between institutional priorities and unit-level planning, assessment, and resource allocation.

Through the Institutional Effectiveness (IE) planning process, departments and divisions translate strategic goals into measurable objectives supported by data-informed action plans and performance indicators. This alignment ensures that institutional priorities are advanced through coordinated and accountable action at all levels of the College.

By reviewing and affirming the implementation and monitoring framework, the Board reinforces its role in promoting transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in support of the College’s mission and long-term success.

### **Funding**

No funding is requested with this presentation.

### **Enclosed Documents**

Strategic Plan Implementation and Monitoring Framework Presentation Slides

### **Staff Resource**

Dr. Fernando Chapa, Dean for Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Strategic Planning; and Dr. Jesús Campos, Interim VP of Technology, Information, and Planning Services

**Recommendation** No action was needed at this time.

Dr. Fernando Chapa and Dr. Jesus Campos presented this item to the Committee.

## **Presentation on Emergency Student Assistance Framework - Overview**

**Purpose** Administration is providing an informational overview of the proposed **Emergency Student Assistance Framework**, which outlines the criteria, procedures, and governance for distributing one-time emergency financial assistance to enrolled students experiencing unforeseen life events that may jeopardize their ability to persist in their coursework.

**Justification** South Texas College continues to observe increased financial vulnerability among students resulting from rising living costs, health-related emergencies, family disruptions, and short-term employment instability. While traditional financial aid programs support long-term affordability, they are not designed to address immediate, short-term emergencies that can result in stop-out or withdrawal.

The Emergency Student Assistance Framework establishes clear eligibility criteria, award parameters, documentation expectations, and oversight controls to ensure emergency resources are administered equitably, consistently, and responsibly. The framework is intentionally structured as a one-time intervention, not a recurring benefit, and reflects best practices observed among peer Texas community colleges.

This informational item is intended to apprise the Board of Trustees of the framework's design and safeguards in advance of implementation.

**Enclosed Documents** Emergency Student Assistance Framework – Overview (Presentation)

**Funding** Funding for emergency student assistance will be provided through philanthropic resources from the South Texas College Foundation, transferred to the College in accordance with established Foundation and institutional procedures. No new institutional operating funds are requested as part of this informational item.

**Staff Resource** Dr. Matthew S. Hebbard, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

**Recommendation** This item was for informational purposes only.

Dr. Matt Hebbard presented this item to the Committee.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting of the South Texas College Board of Trustees adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

I certify that the foregoing are the true and correct Minutes of the February 10, 2026 Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting of the South Texas College Board of Trustees.

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Mrs. Victoria Cantu, Presiding

## **Update on Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Fifth Year Interim Review**

**Purpose** Administration will provide the Board of Trustees with an overview of South Texas College's accreditation process and a status update on the College's upcoming Fifth-Year Interim Accreditation Review.

**Justification** Background

South Texas College holds institutional accreditation through SACSCOC, the regional accrediting body for degree-granting institutions in the southern states. SACSCOC accreditation is maintained through an ongoing cycle that includes a comprehensive decennial reaffirmation and a Fifth-Year Interim Review at the midpoint between decennial cycles. STC's most recent decennial reaffirmation was completed in 2021, making the 2026 Fifth-Year Interim Review the College's next required milestone.

Maintaining SACSCOC accreditation is essential to the institution. It enables student participation in federal Title IV financial aid programs, ensures that credits earned at STC are accepted for transfer to other accredited institutions, qualifies the College for federal and state grants requiring accreditation as a condition of eligibility, and serves as a mark of institutional quality and integrity that employers and universities rely upon when evaluating STC credentials.

The Fifth-Year Interim Review requires the College to demonstrate compliance with 21 of the 73 standards comprising SACSCOC's Principles of Accreditation by submitting a Compliance Certification—a written report accompanied by supporting evidence. This report is planned for submission on August 31, 2026, and the College is on track to submit on or before that date. Following the review, the College may be required to submit a referral report if additional documentation is requested, and a site visit may also be requested. The final review decision is anticipated in December 2026.

The College has been actively preparing for this review by auditing institutional practices and policies, drafting compliance narratives, and compiling supporting evidence across all applicable standards. This effort has involved core writers and staff contacts across all divisions, multiple rounds of internal review, and the support of an external consultant with extensive SACSCOC experience. Administration will provide the Board with ongoing updates on the College's progress toward successful completion of this review.

- Funding** No funding is requested with this presentation.
- Enclosed Documents** Fifth-Year Interim Accreditation Review Presentation
- Staff Resource** Dr. Fernando Chapa, Associate Vice President – Institutional Research and Planning; and Dr. Jesús Campos, Interim VP of Technology, Information, and Planning Services
- Recommendation** No action taken at this time.

# Accreditation Update Fifth-Year Interim Report

*Education & Workforce Development Committee Meeting*

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*



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## Overview

- What is SACSCOC?
- SACSCOC Standards Overview
- Accreditation Reviews
- SACSCOC Fifth Year Interim Report Timeline
- Final Submission Deadlines
- Next Steps

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# What is SACSCOC?

## Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

- Primary regional accrediting body for degree-granting institutions in the Southern U.S.
- Recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit higher education institutions

### Ensures institutional quality and integrity through:

- Continuous improvement
- Accountability
- Compliance with the Principles of Accreditation

### Accreditation is required for:

- Federal financial aid eligibility
- Institutional credibility and accountability

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# SACSCOC Standards Overview

The Principles of Accreditation are organized into **14 core sections**:

<b>1</b>	Integrity	<b>8</b>	Student Achievement
<b>2</b>	Mission	<b>9</b>	Educational Program Structure & Content
<b>3</b>	Basic Eligibility Standards	<b>10</b>	Educational Policies, Procedures & Practices
<b>4</b>	Governance	<b>11</b>	Library & Learning/Information Resources
<b>5</b>	Administration & Organization	<b>12</b>	Academic & Student Support Services
<b>6</b>	Faculty	<b>13</b>	Financial & Physical Resources
<b>7</b>	Institutional Planning & Effectiveness	<b>14</b>	Transparency & Institutional Representation

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## Accreditation Reviews

South Texas College participates in **two** primary SACSCOC review cycles:

- **Decennial Reaffirmation Process (Every 10 Years)**
  - Comprehensive Institutional Review
- **Fifth-Year Interim Report**
  - Mid-Cycle Compliance Review

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Year Interim Report Process

- Compliance Certification Submission
  - Respond to 21 of the 73 Accreditation Standards
  - Referral Report if applicable
- Possible Site Visit for Off-Campus Sites
- Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Report

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## Fifth-Year Interim Report Standards

Section	Standard	Topic
5. Administration & Organization	<b>5.4</b>	Qualified Administrative/Academic Officers
6. Faculty	<b>6.1</b>	Full-Time Faculty
	<b>6.2b</b>	Program Faculty
	<b>6.2c</b>	Program Coordinator
8. Student Achievement	<b>8.1</b>	Student Achievement
	<b>8.2a</b>	Student Outcomes: Educational Programs
9. Educational Program Structure & Content	<b>9.1</b>	Program Content
	<b>9.2</b>	Program Length
10. Educational Policies, Procedures & Practices	<b>10.2</b>	Public Information
	<b>10.3</b>	Archived Information
	<b>10.5</b>	Admissions Policies & Practices

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## Fifth-Year Interim Report Standards

Section	Standard	Topic
10. Educational Policies, Procedures & Practices	<b>10.6</b>	Distance and Correspondence Education
	<b>10.7</b>	Policies for Awarding Credit
	<b>10.9</b>	Cooperative Academic Arrangements
12. Academic & Student Support Services	<b>12.1</b>	Student Support Services
	<b>12.4</b>	Student Complaints
13. Financial & Physical Resources	<b>13.6</b>	Federal and State Responsibilities
	<b>13.7</b>	Physical Resources
	<b>13.8</b>	Institutional Environment
14. Transparency & Institutional Representation	<b>14.1</b>	Publication of Accreditation Status
	<b>14.3</b>	Comprehensive Institutional Reviews
	<b>14.4</b>	Representation to Other Agencies

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## **Review and Recommend Action on Proposed 2027–2028 and 2028–2029 Academic Calendars**

<b>Purpose</b>	Administration seeks a committee recommendation for Board approval of the proposed 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Academic Calendars.
<b>Justification</b>	<p>The Academic Calendar Committee, which includes membership from each area of the College and Student Government representation, has developed the 2027 – 2028 and 2028-2029 Academic Calendars.</p> <p>The academic calendars were developed to align with local school district calendars and other Texas higher education institutions and were reviewed over a two-calendar-year cycle. Extending the review to two years supports the ongoing Workday Student implementation which allows students to build academic plans for their full educational journey. A two-year model also enables advanced coordination with K–12 partners and allows the College to reserve commencement venues further in advance, reducing the need for date changes due to venue availability. Faculty and staff reviewed the calendars during March and April, and their feedback was incorporated into the proposed calendars.</p> <p>The proposed calendars have been approved by the Academic Calendar Committee and have been reviewed by Faculty Senate, Council of Chairs, Academic Council, and the Institutional Leadership Council.</p>
<b>Enclosed Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final proposed calendars for 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 academic years</li><li>• Calendar committee membership and timeline</li></ul>
<b>Funding</b>	No funding impact
<b>Staff Resources</b>	Mrs. Christina Cavazos, Associate Dean – Curriculum, Planning & Compliance
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Committee recommends Board approval of the 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Academic Calendars as presented.

# 2027-2028 Calendar



**FINAL DRAFT: 3/3/2026**

## Fall Semester 2027 (August 23 - December 12)

August 11 (Wednesday)	New Faculty Start Date – New Faculty Benefits & Orientation (Human Resources)
August 16 (Monday)	Faculty Return – Academic Affairs Assembly/Division Meetings
August 17 (Tuesday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
August 18 (Wednesday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
August 19 (Thursday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Full-Time Faculty Teaching Dual Credit Courses PD Day/Departmental Meetings
August 20 (Friday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
August 21 (Saturday)	Adjunct & Dual Credit Faculty Professional and Organizational Development Day
<b>August 23 (Monday)</b>	<b>Classes Begin</b>
September 6 (Monday)	College Closed – Labor Day
September 8 (Wednesday)	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
September 24 (Friday)	College Closed – Fall Convocation*
October 4 (Monday)	Spring 2028 Registration Begins
November 11 (Thursday)	Last Day to Withdraw
November 25 – 28 (Thursday – Sunday)	College Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
December 6 – 12 (Monday – Sunday)	Finals
December 4 (Saturday)	Commencement Ceremonies <sup>1</sup> <b>OR</b>
December 11 (Saturday)	Commencement Ceremonies <sup>1</sup>
December 11 (Saturday)	Certificate and Degree Award Date
December 12 (Sunday)	End of Term
December 13 (Monday)	Last Day to Submit Grades
December 16 – January 2 (Thurs. – Sun.)	Winter Break (College Closed)

*\* Subject to change depending on availability of venue.*

<sup>1</sup> [Commencement](#) ceremony dates pending final approval and published once confirmed.

# 2027-2028 Calendar



## Spring Semester 2028 (January 18 – May 11)

January 3 (Monday) .....	<b>College Opens</b> – Staff return
January 3 (Monday) .....	New Faculty Start Date – New Faculty Benefits & Orientation (Human Resources)
January 10 (Monday) .....	Faculty Return – Division/Department Meetings
January 11 (Tuesday) .....	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
January 12 (Wednesday).....	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
January 13 (Thursday).....	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
January 14 (Friday).....	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
January 15 (Saturday) .....	Adjunct & Dual Credit Faculty Professional and Organizational Development Day
January 17 (Monday) .....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – College Closed
<b>January 18 (Tuesday) .....</b>	<b>Classes Begin</b>
February 2 (Wednesday).....	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
February 11 (Friday).....	College Closed – College-Wide Professional Development Day*
March 13 - 19 (Monday - Sunday) .....	College Closed - Spring Break
April 3 (Monday) .....	Summer/Fall 2028 Registration Begins
April 13 – 16 (Thursday – Sunday) .....	College Closed - Semester Break
April 17 (Monday) .....	Last Day to Withdraw
May 5 – 11 (Friday – Thursday).....	Finals
May 11 (Thursday) .....	End of Term
May 5 – 6 (Friday - Saturday).....	Commencement Ceremonies <sup>2</sup> <b>OR</b>
May 12 – 13 (Friday - Saturday).....	Commencement Ceremonies <sup>2</sup>
May 13 (Saturday).....	Certificate and Degree Award Date
May 15 (Monday).....	Last Day to Submit Grades
May 29 (Monday).....	College Closed – Memorial Day

*\*Subject to change depending on availability of venue.*

<sup>2</sup> [Commencement](#) ceremony dates pending final approval and published once confirmed.

# 2027-2028 Calendar



## Summer Session 2028 (May 30 – August 4)

<b>May 30 (Tuesday)</b> .....	<b>Classes Begin</b>
June 14 (Wednesday).....	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
June 19 (Monday) .....	College Closed - Juneteenth
July 3 – 4 (Monday & Tuesday) .....	No classes (For Summer III only)
July 4 (Tuesday).....	College Closed-Independence Day
July 20 (Thursday) .....	Last Day to Withdraw
August 3 (Thursday) .....	End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-R)
August 4 (Friday) .....	End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-F)
August 5 (Saturday).....	Certificate and Degree Award Date
August 7 (Monday) .....	Last Day to Submit Grades

## SI – Minimester (May 30 – June 30)

<b>May 30 (Tuesday)</b> .....	<b>Classes Begin</b>
June 2 (Friday).....	Census Day - Fourth Class Day
June 19 (Monday) .....	College Closed - Juneteenth
June 23 (Friday).....	Last Day to Withdraw
June 29 (Thursday).....	End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-R)
June 30 (Friday).....	End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-F)
July 3 (Monday).....	Last Day to Submit Grades
July 4 (Tuesday).....	College Closed-Independence Day

## SII – Minimester (July 5 – August 4)

<b>July 5 (Wednesday)</b> .....	<b>Classes Begin</b>
July 10 (Monday).....	Census Day - Fourth Class Day
July 28 (Friday) .....	Last Day to Withdraw
August 3 (Thursday) .....	End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-R)
August 4 (Friday) .....	End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-F)
August 7 (Monday) .....	Last Day to Submit Grades

# 2028-2029 Calendar



FINAL DRAFT: 3/27/2026

## Fall Semester 2028 (August 21 - December 10)

August 9 (Wednesday)	New Faculty Start Date – New Faculty Benefits & Orientation (Human Resources)
August 14 (Monday)	Faculty Return – Academic Affairs Assembly/Division Meetings
August 15 (Tuesday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
August 16 (Wednesday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
August 17 (Thursday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Full-Time Faculty Teaching Dual Credit Courses PD Day/Departmental Meetings
August 18 (Friday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
August 19 (Saturday)	Adjunct & Dual Credit Faculty Professional and Organizational Development Day
<b>August 21 (Monday)</b>	<b>Classes Begin</b>
September 4 (Monday)	College Closed – Labor Day
September 6 (Wednesday)	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
September 29 (Friday)	College Closed – Fall Convocation*
October 2 (Monday)	Spring 2029 Registration Begins
November 10 (Friday)	Last Day to Withdraw
November 23 – 26 (Thursday – Sunday)	College Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
December 4 – 10 (Monday – Sunday)	Finals
December 2 (Saturday)	Commencement Ceremonies <sup>1</sup> <b>OR</b>
December 9 (Saturday)	Commencement Ceremonies <sup>1</sup>
December 9 (Saturday)	Certificate and Degree Award Date
December 10 (Sunday)	End of Term
December 11 (Monday)	Last Day to Submit Grades
December 18 – January 2 (Monday – Tuesday)	Winter Break (College Closed)

\* Subject to change depending on availability of venue.

<sup>1</sup> [Commencement](#) ceremony dates pending final approval and published once confirmed.

# 2028-2029 Calendar



## Spring Semester 2029 (January 16 – May 10)

January 3 (Wednesday)	College Opens – Staff return
January 3 (Wednesday)	New Faculty Start Date – New Faculty Benefits & Orientation (Human Resources)
January 8 (Monday)	Faculty Return – Division/Department Meetings
January 9 (Tuesday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
January 10 (Wednesday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
January 11 (Thursday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
January 12 (Friday)	Faculty Preparation Day/Departmental Meetings
January 13 (Saturday)	Adjunct & Dual Credit Faculty Professional and Organizational Development Day
January 15 (Monday)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – College Closed
<b>January 16 (Tuesday)</b>	<b>Classes Begin</b>
January 31 (Wednesday)	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
February 9 (Friday)	College Closed – College-Wide Professional Development Day*
March 12 - 18 (Monday - Sunday)	College Closed - Spring Break
March 29 – April 1 (Thursday – Sunday)	College Closed - Semester Break
April 2 (Monday)	Summer/Fall 2029 Registration Begins
April 16 (Monday)	Last Day to Withdraw
May 4 – 10 (Friday – Thursday)	Finals
May 10 (Thursday)	End of Term
May 4 – 5 (Friday - Saturday)	Commencement Ceremonies <sup>2</sup> <b>OR</b>
May 11 – 12 (Friday - Saturday)	Commencement Ceremonies <sup>2</sup>
May 12 (Saturday)	Certificate and Degree Award Date
May 14 (Monday)	Last Day to Submit Grades
May 28 (Monday)	College Closed – Memorial Day

*\*Subject to change depending on availability of venue.*

<sup>2</sup> [Commencement](#) ceremony dates pending final approval and published once confirmed.

# 2028-2029 Calendar



## Summer Session 2029 (May 29 – August 6)

<b>May 29 (Tuesday)</b> .....	<b>Classes Begin</b>
June 19 (Tuesday) .....	College Closed - Juneteenth
June 13 (Wednesday).....	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
July 2-3 (Monday & Tuesday) .....	No classes (For Summer III only)
July 4 (Wednesday) .....	College Closed-Independence Day
July 20 (Friday) .....	Last Day to Withdraw
August 6 (Monday) .....	End of Term/Finals
August 6 (Monday) .....	Certificate and Degree Award Date
August 7 (Tuesday).....	Last Day to Submit Grades

## SI – Minimester (May 29 – June 29)

<b>May 29 (Tuesday)</b> .....	<b>Classes Begin</b>
June 1 (Friday).....	Census Day - Fourth Class Day
June 19 (Tuesday) .....	College Closed - Juneteenth
June 22 (Friday).....	Last Day to Withdraw
June 28 (Thursday).....	End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-R)
June 29 (Friday).....	End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-F)
July 2 (Monday).....	Last Day to Submit Grades

## SII – Minimester (July 5 – August 6)

<b>July 5 (Thursday)</b> .....	<b>Classes Begin</b>
July 10 (Tuesday).....	Census Day - Fourth Class Day
July 30 (Monday).....	Last Day to Withdraw
August 6 (Monday) .....	End of Term/Finals
August 7 (Tuesday).....	Last Day to Submit Grades

## Committee Membership and Timeline

### Academic Calendar 2027-2028 & 2028-2029

March 27, 2026

#### Committee Membership

Christina Cavazos, Curriculum, Planning & Compliance	Yarileth Escobedo, Student Government (Starr)
Juan Miguel Galvan, Student Financial Services	Irania Juarez, Student Government (Mid Valley)
Elizabeth Hollenbeck, Library Public Services	Alejandra Cantu, Dual Credit Programs
Bradley Davis, IEA	Monica Perez, OVPPAAED
Cynthia Blanco, Admissions & Records	Monica Benitez, Staff Advisory Council
Jesus Ramirez, Admissions & Records	Liza Veliz Faculty Senate
Rosangela Mancillas, Communication & Creative Services	Joel Jason Rodriguez, Council of Chairs
Georgina Marr, Human Resources	Dr. Maria Cervantes, MSITB (faculty)
Marittza Adame, Cashier's Office	Erika Guerra, BPST (faculty)
Deyadira Leal, Purchasing	Dr. Rebecca Millan, LA (faculty)
Carla M. Rodriguez, Office of Sponsored Initiatives	Helen Meave, SBS (faculty)
Olivia de la Rosa, Continuing Education & Workforce Development	Dr. Theresa Garza, HSP (faculty)

#### Timeline and Process

February 27, 2026	Calendar Committee meets to review preliminary draft calendars. (Materials provided in advance)
February 28 - March 23, 2026	Committee members distribute the draft calendars to faculty and staff in their area for feedback. <b>Feedback due by March 23, 2026.</b>
March 27, 2026 (tentative)	Calendar Committee may meet to review collected feedback from faculty and staff and revise draft, if applicable.
March 30 - April 29, 2026	Draft Calendars will be presented to Academic Council, Institutional Leadership Council, Council of Chairs, Staff Council, and Faculty Senate.
April 30 - May 6, 2026	Calendar Committee members will vote on the Final Draft Calendars via email.
May 7, 2026	Final Calendars will be submitted to the Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs and Economic Development.
May 12, 2026	Final Calendars will be presented at the Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting.
May 26, 2026	Final Calendars will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

## **Review and Recommend Action on the South Texas College Core Curriculum for AY26-27**

<b>Purpose</b>	Administration requests that the Education and Workforce Development Committee recommend Board approval of the South Texas College (STC) Core Curriculum for the 2026-2027 academic year.
<b>Justification</b>	<p>The Texas Higher Education Coordinating board recently adopted amendments to Texas Administrative Code (TAC) rules regarding the governing board and their role in the review of the institution's Core Curriculum. TAC rule §4.28 currently requires that each institution of higher education must implement a core curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours.</p> <p>The recent amendments include the review and approval of the core curriculum by the institution's governing board, with the initial review completed in 2026 and certification by January 1, 2027.</p> <p>Administration seeks to receive approval from the STC Board of Trustees on the STC Core Curriculum as presented.</p>
<b>Enclosed Documents</b>	STC Core Curriculum course listing.
<b>Funding</b>	There are no financial implications associated with this request.
<b>Staff Resources</b>	<p>Dr. Brett Millan, Associate Vice President for Academic Success &amp; Advancement</p> <p>Ms. Christina Cavazos, Associate Dean for Curriculum, Planning &amp; Compliance</p>
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Committee recommends Board approval of the STC Core Curriculum for the 2026-2027 academic year.

**SOUTH TEXAS CORE CURRICULUM  
2026-2027**

**COMMUNICATION** **6 credits**  
ENGL 1301 Composition I  
ENGL 1302 Composition II - Rhetoric

**MATHEMATICS** **3-4 credits**  
MATH 1316 Plane Trigonometry  
MATH 1324 Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences  
MATH 1325 Calculus for Business & Social Sciences  
MATH 1332 Contemporary Mathematics  
MATH 1414 College Algebra  
MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical Methods  
MATH 2412 Pre-Calculus Math  
MATH 2413 Calculus I

**LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES** **8 credits**  
AGRI 1329 Principles of Food Science  
AGRI 1407 Agronomy  
AGRI 1415 Horticulture  
AGRI 2330 Wildlife Conservation and Management  
BIOL 1406 Biology for Science Majors I  
BIOL 1407 Biology for Science Majors II  
BIOL 1408 Biology for Non-Science Majors I  
BIOL 1409 Biology for Non-Science Majors II  
BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I  
BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II  
CHEM 1405 Introductory Chemistry I for Non-Science Majors  
CHEM 1407 Introductory Chemistry II for Non-Science Majors  
CHEM 1409 General Chemistry for Engineering Majors  
CHEM 1411 General Chemistry I  
CHEM 1412 General Chemistry II  
ENVR 1401 Environmental Science I  
ENVR 1402 Environmental Science II  
GEOL 1403 Physical Geology  
GEOL 1404 Historical Geology  
GEOL 1445 Oceanography  
GEOL 1447 Meteorology  
PHYS 1401 College Physics I  
PHYS 1402 College Physics II  
PHYS 1403 Stars & Galaxies  
PHYS 1404 Solar System  
PHYS 1415 Physical Science I  
PHYS 1417 Physical Science II  
PHYS 2425 University Physics I  
PHYS 2426 University Physics II

**LANGUAGE, PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE & CREATIVE ARTS**

***Language, Philosophy & Culture***

ARTS 1304 Art History II  
DRAM 2355 Script Analysis **3 credits**  
ENGL 2321 British Literature  
ENGL 2326 American Literature  
ENGL 2331 World Literature  
ENGL 2341 Forms of Literature  
ENGL 2351 Mexican American Literature  
HUMA 1301 Introduction to Humanities I  
HUMA 1305 Introduction to Mexican-American Studies

HUMA 2319 American Minority Studies  
 HUMA 2323 World Cultures  
 MUSI 1307 Music Literature  
 PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy  
 PHIL 1304 Introduction to World Religions  
 PHIL 2303 Introduction to Formal Logic  
 PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics  
 PHIL 2307 Introduction to Social & Political Philosophy  
 PHIL 2316 Classical Philosophy  
 PHIL 2321 Philosophy of Religion  
 SGNL 2301 Intermediate American Sign Language I  
 SPAN 2311 Intermediate Spanish I  
 SPAN 2312 Intermediate Spanish II  
 SPAN 2313 Spanish for Native/Heritage Speakers I  
 SPAN 2315 Spanish for Native/Heritage Speakers II

***Creative Arts***

**3 credits**

ARCH 1301 Architectural History I  
 ARCH 1302 Architectural History II  
 ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation  
 ARTS 1303 Art History I  
 ARTS 1325 Drawing and Painting for Non-Art Majors  
 ARTS 2326 Sculpture  
 ARTS 2346 Ceramics I  
 ARTS 2356 Photography I  
 DANC 1305 World Dance  
 DANC 2303 Dance Appreciation  
 DRAM 1310 Theater Appreciation  
 DRAM 1351 Acting I  
 DRAM 2366 Film Appreciation  
 HUMA 1311 Mexican-American Fine Arts Appreciation  
 MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation  
 MUSI 1310 American Music

**AMERICAN HISTORY**

**6 Credits**

HIST 1301 U. S. History I  
 HIST 1302 U.S. History II  
 HIST 2327 Mexican-American History I  
 HIST 2328 Mexican-American History II  
 HIST 2381 African American History I  
 HIST 2382 African American History II

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**6 Credits**

GOVT 2305 Federal Government  
 GOVT 2306 Texas Government

**SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

**3 Credits**

ANTH 2301 Physical Anthropology  
 ANTH 2302 Introduction to Archeology  
 ANTH 2351 Cultural Anthropology  
 CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice  
 CRIJ 1306 Court Systems and Practices  
 CRIJ 1310 Fundamentals of Criminal Law  
 CRIJ 2313 Correctional Systems and Practices  
 CRIJ 2328 Police Systems and Practices  
 ECON 2301 Principles of Economics I – Macro  
 GOVT 2304 Introduction to Political Science  
 GOVT 2311 Mexican American and Latinx Politics  
 HIST 2301 Texas History  
 HIST 2321 World Civilizations I  
 HIST 2322 World Civilizations II

PSYC	2301	General Psychology
PSYC	2306	Human Sexuality
PSYC	2308	Child Psychology
PSYC	2314	Lifespan Growth and Development
PSYC	2315	Psychology of Adjustment
SOCI	1301	Introductory Sociology
SOCI	1306	Social Problems
SOCI	2301	Marriage and the Family
SOCI	2319	Minority Studies
SOCW	2361	Introduction to Social Work
TECA	1354	Child Growth and Development

**COMPONENT AREA OPTION**

**3-4 credits**

AGRI	1329	Principles of Food Science
AGRI	1407	Agronomy
AGRI	1415	Horticulture
AGRI	2330	Wildlife Conservation and Management
BCIS	1305	Business Computer Applications
BIOL	1322	Nutrition and Diet Therapy
BIOL	2406	Environmental Biology
BIOL	2416	Genetics
BIOL	2421	Microbiology for Science Majors
CHEM	2423	Organic Chemistry I
CHEM	2425	Organic Chemistry II
COSC	1301	Introduction to Computing
COSC	1320	C Programming
COSC	1337	Programming Fundamentals II
COSC	1436	Programming Fundamentals I
COSC	2425	Computer Organization
COSC	2436	Programming Fundamentals III
EDUC	1100	Learning Framework
EDUC	1300	Learning Frameworks
ENGR	1201	Introduction to Engineering
ENGR	1304	Engineering Graphics
ENGR	2301	Engineering Mechanics - Statics
ENGR	2302	Engineering Mechanics - Dynamics
ENGR	2405	Electrical Circuits I
ENVR	1401	Environmental Science I
GEOL	1404	Historical Geology
KINE	1164	Introduction to Physical Fitness and Wellness
MATH	2305	Discrete Mathematics
MATH	2418	Linear Algebra
MATH	2420	Differential Equations
PHIL	1301	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL	1304	Introduction to World Religions
PHIL	2303	Introduction to Formal Logic
PHIL	2306	Introduction to Ethics
PHIL	2307	Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy
PHIL	2316	Classical Philosophy
PHIL	2321	Philosophy of Religion
PSYC	1300	Learning Frameworks
PSYC	2301	General Psychology
PSYC	2314	Lifespan Growth & Development
SOCI	1301	Introduction to Sociology
SOCI	1306	Social Problems
SOCW	2361	Introduction to Social Work
SPCH	1311	Introduction to Speech Communication
SPCH	1315	Public Speaking
SPCH	1318	Interpersonal Communications
SPCH	1321	Business and Professional Communication

SPCH 2333 Discussion and Small Group Communication  
SPCH 2335 Argumentation and Debate

**Total credits: 42**

# 2026-2027 South Texas College Core Curriculum

Education and Workforce Development  
Committee  
May 12, 2026

**Presenters:**

Dr. Brett Millan, Associate Vice President for Academic Success & Advancement

Christina Cavazos, Associate Dean for Curriculum, Planning & Compliance



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## Presentation Outline



- Texas Administrative Code - Rule Amendments
- Texas Core Curriculum Requirements
- Institutional Review Process
- Next Steps

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## Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Governing Board Review

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) adopted amendments to the following rules regarding Core Curriculum:

### Texas Administrative Code §4.28:

Each institution's governing board must ensure that core curriculum courses provide a **strong educational foundation**.

### Texas Administrative Code §4.30:

Governing boards must review the core curriculum every **five years** for statutory compliance beginning in 2026.

### Texas Administrative Code §4.31:

Institutions must annually **submit core curriculum changes** and course lists to their governing boards for governing board oversight of changes and certify compliance.

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## Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Governing Board Review

### Considerations for Core Curriculum

- Course are **foundational** and **fundamental** to a sound post secondary education;
- Are necessary to **prepare** students for **civic** and **professional life**;
- Equip students for participation in the **workforce** and in the betterment of **society**;
- Ensure a **breadth of knowledge** in compliance with applicable accreditation standards

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# Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Texas Core Curriculum

### Legislative Authority and Requirements

In accordance with Texas Administrative Code Rule §4.28, institutions offering undergraduate academic degrees must design their core curriculum using the THECB approved:

- Purpose
- Objectives
- Foundational components

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# Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

## Texas Core Curriculum

### Foundational Component Areas

Core Curriculum is categorized into **nine** areas:

Communication	6 SCH
Mathematics	3 SCH
Life and Physical Sciences	6 SCH
Language Philosophy & Culture	3 SCH
Creative Arts	3 SCH
American History	6 SCH
Political Science	6 SCH
Social and Behavioral Sciences	3 SCH
Component Area Option	<u>6 SCH</u>
	<b>= 42 SCH</b>

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# Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM)

## Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM)

- The Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) provides a statewide, **faculty-vetted framework** for lower-division courses that are adopted for the Core Curriculum.
- Unlike most universities, **South Texas College** has only used **state-approved** courses from the ACGM
- Ensures **alignment** with the governing **statute**.

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# Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board South Texas College Core Curriculum

Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *ENGL 1301 – Composition I</li> <li>• *ENGL 1302 – Composition II - Rhetoric</li> </ul>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MATH 1414 – College Algebra</li> <li>• MATH 2412 – Pre-Calculus Math</li> </ul>
Life and Physical Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIOL 1406 – Biology for Science Majors I</li> <li>• BIOL 1407 – Biology for Science Majors II</li> </ul>
Language, Philosophy & Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PHIL 1301 – Introduction to Philosophy</li> <li>• PHIL 2306 – Introduction to Ethics</li> </ul>
Creative Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARTS 1301 - Art Appreciation</li> <li>• DRAM 1310 - Theater Appreciation</li> </ul>
American History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIST 1301 – United States History I</li> <li>• HIST 1302 – United States History II</li> </ul>
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *GOVT 2305 – Federal Government</li> <li>• *GOVT 2306 – Texas Government</li> </ul>
Social and Behavioral Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOCI 1301 – Introductory Sociology</li> <li>• PSYC 2301 – General Psychology</li> </ul>

*\*Offerings are restricted to courses listed.*

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## Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Academic Course Guide Manual

### Consideration for Curriculum Design

- Course alignment **minimizes excess credits**.
- Course alignment **reduces tuition and fees**, beyond required number of credits for each degree.
- Maximizes alignment for **fields of study** with **specialized** pathways.

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## Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Transferability

### Transfer of Credit

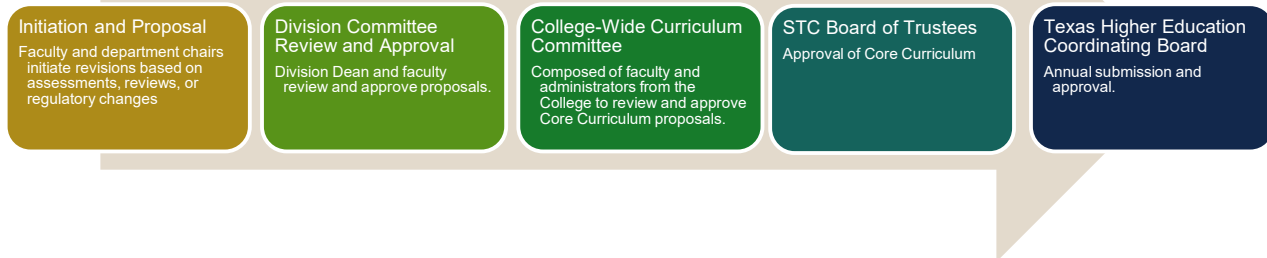
- The use of ACGM courses in the curriculum guarantees **transferability** across Texas public institutions, strengthening the academic foundation for student success.
- By law, **completion** of the 42-semester credit hour **core curriculum** at a Texas public institution of higher education must be substituted in transfer to any other Texas public institution of higher education for the **receiving institution's** core curriculum.

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## Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Institutional Review Process

South Texas College has always been ahead of the curve in our institutional review process:

- The STC Board of Trustees demonstrates **involvement** through approval of new academic **program development**.
- Expands oversight through approval of Core Curriculum.



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## STC Core Curriculum Approval



### Next Steps:

1. Recommend for approval STC Core Curriculum - STC Board of Trustees **(May 2026)**
2. Submit Core Curriculum to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board **(June 2026)**
3. Core Curriculum Compliance certification **(January 1, 2027)**
4. Core Curriculum Comprehensive Review **(April 2031\*)**

*\*official date will be provided once available.*

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# Questions

