

# Student Life

## Activities, Organizations, and Student Union

The Office of Student Life, located in MB 2120, provides a wide range of services and programs to help UTPB students develop leadership skills, designs and implements activities for UTPB students to enjoy between, before, or after classes, and creates a welcoming atmosphere in the center of campus for students to relax, study, watch television, or participate in on-campus programs.

**Falcon Ambassadors:** Experienced student leaders are honored at U. T. Permian Basin by being nominated and selected as Falcon Ambassadors. The Ambassadors assist with Commencement, Honors convocation, and a few other university events each year.

**Miss U. T. Permian Basin:** A group of students plans a campus pageant and assists the winner in representing the University at the state level.

**New Student Orientation:** The Office of Student Life coordinates summer and January orientations for new students. Orientation leaders are all older students who can help new students become familiar with programs, services, and other resources available to them on campus. Some hOLA (Orientation Leaders Association) members are paid for a portion of the year, but most are volunteers with an expressed interest in helping new students.

**Pep Band and Mariachi Band:** A band director oversees the recruitment and training of these two music groups. Members in the Pep Band play at most home intercollegiate athletic events. The Mariachi Band also plays at most major on-campus events and focuses on the music of central and south America.

**Publications:** The Office of Student Life supports the dissemination of news and information of student interest and the publication of literary and artistic student work.

*The Sandstorm*, an annual magazine-yearbook publication, is a collection of poems, short stories and essays submitted by students and selected by a panel for publication. The magazine also prints photographs of student art that includes painting, sculpture, pottery and photography. The editor and staff of this student publication are selected from the student body. Applications for editor are received from returning students and incoming students with publication experience.

*The Mesa Journal*, the award-winning student newspaper for U. T. Permian Basin, is a bimonthly newspaper that publishes news and information regarding the University, its students, and national or international news that affect the University community. *The Mesa Journal* provides an opportunity for students to gain newspaper journalism experience while attending the University and serves as an academic tool through the Mass Communications discipline. The editor and staff for *The Mesa Journal* are selected from the student body by the Humanities Department.

**Student Senate:** The Student Senate of U. T. Permian Basin is the elected student organization representing the interests and needs of the student body and is recognized by the administration of U. T. Permian Basin and by the Board of Regents of the U. T. System. Officers are elected at the end of each spring semester and Senators are elected at the end of spring and early in the fall semester. Candidate registration forms are available through the Student Senate Office. Students are encouraged to seek elected offices. The Student Senate makes recommendations to the administration on policies that affect the student body and appoints students to sit on important University committees with faculty and staff members.

The U. T. Permian Basin Student Senate co=sponsors the Halloween Carnival, Battle of the Bands, and many other activities that benefit the University community, the Odessa community, and the Permian Basin area. The Student Senate also provides limited funding for individual students and clubs to attend academic and professional conferences.

**Student Program Board:** The student program board is responsible for identifying, budgeting, and developing cultural, social and recreational programs for the student body. Students are encouraged to contact the program board to get involved as volunteer activity programmers or as paid part-time staff members. The U. T. Permian Basin Student Program Board brings in a variety of well-known and aspiring artists and entertainers, sponsors karaoke night in the Student Union, and takes students to regional and national leadership development conferences.

**Student Clubs and Organizations:** Students are encouraged to join or develop clubs and organizations that unite members with a common cause or interest. Such organizations allow students to pursue specialized interests and to have an opportunity to interact with classmates and professors in an atmosphere different from that of the classroom. Involvement in student organizations also provides a means of practicing leadership skills.

The Office of Student Life is responsible for the registration of student clubs and organizations and publishes a guide for the development of clubs and organizations. The Office of Student Life also provides various resources for student organization development, work stations and materials, and training on U. T. System policies.

**The UTPB Student Union:** The Student Union is situated in the north half of the second floor of the Mesa Building and contains a work area with lockable work stations for student clubs and organizations. The Student Union reception desk is open from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. There are quiet study areas, a game room, meeting rooms, televisions and television rooms, and Playstations in the Student Union.

**The Gymnasium/Pool Complex:** This three-story building is designed for recreational use by students, faculty and staff and their families. Dependent family members of students may use the Gymnasium/Pool Complex for a nominal fee.

The Gymnasium/Pool Complex consists of four racquetball courts, two volleyball, 4 badminton courts, and three basketball courts. The complex has an exercise room equipped with free weights and a full set of station weight machines and cardio exercise machines, such as treadmills, steppers, stationary bikes, and elliptical trainers. In addition, there is an athletic field, four lighted tennis courts, and 3.5 miles of walking, jogging and skating trails. The Olympic-size swimming pool is the largest outdoor pool in Odessa. It is heated for comfort and has certified lifeguards on duty during operating hours. The pool is open year round except from mid-October to mid-March.

**Housing.** The University of Texas of the Permian Basin offers a variety of options for students who desire on-campus residence. Many single students prefer the apartment-style units. These units are constructed as two and four bedroom fully furnished apartments for same sex occupancy. The two bedroom apartments are double occupancy; four students to an apartment. For a slightly higher price, students may select the four bedroom apartment with single occupancy bedrooms. The housing units are arranged around a centrally located laundry/recreational building for easy access. The University also offers single and married students options in its modular housing units. Students may select from efficiency, one bedroom, two bedroom, or three bedroom units.

The housing area is within easy walking distance of the University Mesa Building, the Visual Arts Building, the Library/Lecture Center and the science laboratories. All Student Housing prices include the cost of electricity, water, sewer, garbage collection, maintenance and police security. Student Housing is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and students must be enrolled full time. For additional information contact the Student Housing Office.