**College of Applied Arts Facilities and Resources Boilerplate Language for Proposal Development**

*This language is updated annually. If you have questions or suggested improvements, please contact the College of Applied Arts Research Coordinator at* [*alyssalivernois@txstate.edu*](mailto:alyssalivernois@txstate.edu).

**History of the College of Applied Arts**

The following history was published in the report *The First Century: School of Applied Arts and Technology at SWT* by Dr. G. Sue Thompson for the Centennial Anniversary in 1999.

Texas State University was established in 1899 as a Normal School in San Marcos, which became Southwest Texas State Normal School in 1901, and the first classes were offered in 1903. In 1923, the university’s name changed to Southwest Texas State Teachers College. During the 1910 - 1911 academic year, The School of Applied Arts and Technology was “born” with the hiring of 3 faculty each teaching in a different academic discipline – Domestic Science, Manual Training, and Agriculture. Reorganization of the College occurred in 1934 which resulted in the creation of seven divisions, one of which was the Division of Practical Arts (Home Economics and Industrial Arts, and Business). The School of Applied Arts was established in 1965 and consisted of Home Economics and Industrial Arts, Business, Journalism, and Agriculture.

Southwest Texas became a university in 1969 with two colleges – the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Professional Schools. The College of Professional Schools was comprised of Home Economics, Agriculture, Aerospace Studies, Law Enforcement Department (renamed Criminal Justice in 1976), and Journalism. The Department of Military Science was formed in 1982 and became an additional member of the College of Professional Schools.

Another university reorganization occurred in 1983 when the College of General Studies and seven schools were created – Applied Arts and Technology, Business, Education, Fine Arts, Health Professions, Liberal Arts, and Science. At that time, the School of Applied Arts and Technology contained the following departments: Aerospace Studies, Agriculture, Criminal Justice, Home Economics, Military Science, and Technology. In 1994, Southwest Texas University (SWT) changed Home Economics (formerly Domestic Science) to Home Economics/Family and Consumer Science, establishing it as the only department to be housed continuously in Applied Arts and Technology since its inception. On September 1st, 2024, the Department of Agricultural Sciences transferred to the College of Science and Engineering.

**Student Enrollment Data**

As of Spring 2024, there are 3,673 undergraduates and 441 graduate students enrolled. 1,932 students are first-generation, and 1,514 students are Pell Grant recipients.

<https://catstats.txstate.edu>

**Faculty Data**

As of 2023, excluding the Department of Agricultural Sciences, there are 191 total faculty.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Academic Department** | **Number of Faculty** |
| Office of the Dean | 3 |
| Aerospace Studies | 4 |
| Criminal Justice & Criminology | 39 |
| Family and Consumer Sciences | 70 |
| Military Science | 6 |
| Organization, Workforce, and Leadership | 26 |
| Social Work | 43 |

<https://www.ir.txst.edu/university-data/employee-data.html>

**Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees – Major and Minors Offered**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Undergraduate Degrees** | | | |  | **Graduate Degrees** | | | |
| **Department/School** | **Majors** | **Minors** | **Certifications** | **Department/School** | **Majors** | **Minors** | **Certifications** |
| School of Criminal Justice and Criminology | 1 | 1 |  | School of Criminal Justice and Criminology | 4 | 1 |  |
| School of Family and Consumer Sciences | 11 | 5 | 3 | School of Family and Consumer Sciences | 8 |  |  |
| Department of Aerospace Studies |  | 1 |  | Department of Aerospace Studies |  |  |  |
| Department of Military Science |  | 1 |  | Department of Military Science |  |  |  |
| Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies | 2 |  |  | Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies | 3 |  |  |
| School of Social Work | 1 | 1 |  | School of Social Work | 4 |  |  |

<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/applied-arts/>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Academic Areas** | **Chair/Director** |
| Department of Aerospace Studies (AFROTC) | LTC Brenton J. Ekren |
| School of Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) | Dr. Jeff Bumgarner |
| School Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) | Dr. Amy Weimer |
| Department of Military Sciences (AROTC) | LTC Brice Roberts |
| Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies (OWLS) | Dr. Shetay Ashford-Hanserd |
| School of Social Work (SSW) | Dr. Raphael Travis |

<https://www.appliedarts.txst.edu/caa-organization/academic.html>

**Adolescent Research on Context Laboratory (ARC)**

The ARC: Adolescent Research on Context laboratory, led by Dr. Yishan Shen, focuses on the role of contexts in adolescents’ relational, emotional, behavioral, and academic development and well-being. In particular, the contexts that are being studied in the ARC lab include social class, race/ethnicity, culture, and immigration. More specifically, the ARC lab studies how culture-general factors (e.g., socioeconomic status) and group-specific factors (e.g., language brokering, acculturation, culturally relevant parenting, racial/ethnic socialization, discrimination) interact to influence adolescent development.

<https://arclab.wp.txstate.edu/>

**Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Program**

The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Program develops leadership potential and attitudes vital to preparing young minds for the professional United States Air Force and Space Force officer corps. The academics portion of Aerospace Studies teaches professional knowledge and skills unique to the Air Force and Space Force, communication skills, doctrine, air and space power history, leadership and management and the dynamics of national security policy. The Leadership Laboratory portion of the program allows cadets to practice fundamental management and leadership skills and prepares cadets for Field Training. The lab is organized and administered by AFROTC Professional Officer Course Cadets (Texas State University students who have selected the Air Force as their profession upon graduation from the University) and supervised by active-duty officers and enlisted personnel. Cadets who meet the mental, physical, and moral requirements of the Aerospace Studies program qualify for a military commission and will serve in the United States Air Force or Space Force as a commissioned officer for a minimum of four years. Texas State students may enter the AFROTC under a four-year program or apply for a two-year program under certain conditions. The Air Force offers AFROTC scholarships for qualifying four-year or two-year students.

<https://www.afrotc.com/>

**Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (AROTC)**

The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (AROTC) is a program of leadership development that prepares men and women for service as officers in the United States Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard. Students who complete their academic degree and ROTC programs are commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the United States Army. The Army ROTC experience contributes to a variety of job skills applicable to any profession, career, or job, while instilling in each cadet a sense of confidence, discipline, and personal responsibility. Moreover, each cadet gains the satisfaction of being part of a select group of great Americans dedicated to American values and service to the nation.

<https://www.txst.edu/armyrotc.html>

**Bobcat Bounty**

The Food Security Learning Community (FSLC) at Texas State identifies problems of global, national, state, local, and institutional food insecurity, and explores novel policy-, systems-, and environmental- solutions to those problems.   
FSLC was started by Co-Directors Hannah Thornton and Lesli Biediger-Friedman and engages dietetic interns and the Texas State student community in identifying the problem and designing an intervention. The FSLC has been absorbed by the Nutrition LEADers Community and is co-directed by Drs. Lesli Biediger-Friedman and Cassandra Johnson.

One solution to a growing local food insecurity issue is Bobcat Bounty, the first on-campus student-run food pantry. Bobcat Bounty has been operating since 2018. Today, under the direction of Dr. Lesli Biediger-Friedman, Bobcat Bounty is a student-led component of the Nutrition LEADers program housed within the school of Family & Consumer Sciences. Nutrition LEADers is funded in part by the USDA and aims to uplift underrepresented student populations in the field of nutrition. Students continue to follow the Nutrition Care Process for Community and Public Health Nutrition to assess need, identify problems, design interventions, implement models and evaluate. While implementing Bobcat Bounty, our student LEADers are gaining valuable professional experience and research opportunities. Our market-style pantry serves as a site of experiential learning while striving to address food insecurity in and around Texas State University. This is done in partnership with the Hays County Food Bank. Additionally, we have eleven Cupboard locations across campus to allow around the clock access to food.

<https://bobcatbounty.txst.edu/>

**Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation (GII)**

The Texas State University Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation (GII) studies how to improve our response to crime problems and homeland security threats, both foreign and domestic. GII's research uses geospatial and other forms of tactical information to develop information management models. GII provides specialized training for law enforcement, intelligence, and military agencies. Operational assistance for government agencies is also available in certain situations.

Employing a cross-disciplinary and multiagency approach, GII seeks to help law enforcement and intelligence agencies build more powerful investigative and analytic tools. Computer modeling based on human behavioral theories helps extract knowledge from information and data, assisting police and intelligence agencies in connecting the dots in environments of information overload and uncertain threat.

<https://www.txst.edu/gii.html>

**Child-Adult Relationships across Environments (CARE) Lab**

The Child-Adult Relationships across Environments (CARE) Lab, directed by Dr. Priscilla Goble, is a team dedicated to studying and supporting child-adult relationships across environments to promote child and adult well-being. The lab collaborates with University Health Child Life Program, Start Smart Hays & Caldwell, Texas State University Child Development Center, and San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District.

<https://carelab.wp.txstate.edu/>

**Child Development Center**

The mission of the Texas State University Child Development Center (CDC) is to provide a model for early education and childcare programs for university students, staff, faculty, and the community. The primary purpose is to provide an environment in which children can develop intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally within a play-based developmentally appropriate curriculum under the guidance of qualified teachers and staff. Furthermore, we are here to support the University's mission of research, teaching, and community service by promoting access to higher education to a diverse population.

Faculty and students from Texas State can conduct research studies about children’s learning and development, about teacher education practices, and about early childhood program policies and practices at the CDC. All research studies proposed at the center are evaluated by the Texas State faculty and CDC administration to ensure that the studies employ appropriate methods, and that the CDC program is not overly disrupted by the implementation of the research. Once a proposed study is evaluated to be appropriate for the CDC, researchers must complete an application to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) to further ensure the procedures protect the rights of Human subjects in research. These visits are screened, monitored, and supervised to ensure that they in no way interfere with classroom activities or offer uncomfortable or unsafe situations for the children. No child will be involved in a research project without parental consent.

<https://www.fcs.txst.edu/cdc.html>

**Comparative Research Facility**

Open to all TXST faculty, the Comparative Research Facility (CRF) is a 1700 ft2 facility that currently houses rodents for biomedical research. Currently, the facility can house 250 rats, 2,000 mice, and 400 immune-deficient mice. In addition to animal housing rooms, the facility also contains a procedure room equipped with a vaporizer and downdraft table and a behavioral room equipped to measure behaviors associated with mood and cognitive function.

<https://www.research.txst.edu/orc/comparative-research-facility.html>

**The CREATE Lab**

The CREATE Research Lab, led by Dr. Raphael Travis, explores research and practice how engaging with arts, especially Hip-Hop culture, can facilitate healthy development, reduce depression and anxiety, and increase academic development. On the research side, collaborations exist between social work and partners in education, criminal justice, counseling, music therapy, and psychology to help better understand the relationships between creative art engagement and well-being. On the practice side, collaborations exist with a variety of teaching-artists including emcees, singers, producers, beat-makers, and deejays. Five distinct but overlapping dimensions of empowerment anchor practice strategies to improve well-being: esteem, resilience, growth, community, and change.

<https://create.wp.txstate.edu/about/>

<https://www.education.txst.edu/trio/sound-lab.html>

<https://news.txst.edu/featured-faculty/2024/create-research-lab-reducing-stres-aiding-positive-development.html>

**Creating Opportunities for Undergraduates To Understand REsearch (COUTURE)**

*COUTURE program aims to improve academic performance and broaden education horizons among Fashion Merchandising undergraduate students by involving them in fashion research projects. Selected fellows conduct research projects, including both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, and publicly disseminate their findings at professional conferences.*

*These projects include:*

* *Data Scraping Social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube for research and analysis using Python.*
* *Creating VR reality stores and designing and uploading clothes on Roblox.*
* *Using an eye-tracking device to analyze consumers’ attention to marketing information.*
* *Conducting a mixed-methods case study about fashion circularity.*

<https://www.fcs.txst.edu/fashionmerch/research/students/couture.html>

**The Dating and Couple Relationships Lab**

Dr. Andrew Behnke’s lab will be researching teen and emerging-adult dating and couple relationships. Lab students will assist evaluation of the Strengthening Relationships/Strengthening Families program, which has supported teen parents for over 20 years. We will also be studying factors that improve dating and long-term relationship success.

<https://www.fcs.txst.edu/undergraduate-programs/hdfs/experiential-learning/research-opportunities/dcr.html>

**Healthcare Empowerment, Adaptation, and Resilience Team (HEART)**

The HEART lab, coordinated by Dr. Shannon Dier, engages in research to understand the behaviors and processes that support coping, resilience, and healthy development for children, youth, and families facing healthcare challenges. This includes exploring play as a mechanism to support children’s understanding of and ability to cope during healthcare encounters and examining how youth and families make sense of medical experiences. As a Certified Child Life Specialist, Dr. Dier is especially interested in understanding the implications of research for child life practice and professional development. Dr. Dier utilizes both quantitative and qualitative research methods, striving to center the lived experiences of participants and maintain a strengths-based, family-centered perspective.

<https://drdiertxstate.wordpress.com/>

**The Jones Research Lab**

Associate Professor Dr. Angela Jones manages a research laboratory that explores public perceptions of procedural justice concerning police and courts, as well as evaluations of unreliable evidence that could lead to wrongful convictions. The lab conducts a variety of studies testing the antecedents of justice perceptions, from multiple perspectives, and in different types of interactions with police (e.g., traffic stops, interactions with persons in behavioral crisis). With funding from the National Institute of Justice, her research lab also examines how changes in interviewing skills among front-line officers may improve public perceptions of police.

The Jones Research Lab is currently evaluating the use of technology to improve the ecological validity of eyewitness stimuli. They are testing how immersive environments affect the stress and memories of eyewitnesses and patrol officers. In addition, they are examining the best methods to accurately retrieve memories encoded under stress by testing different interviewing strategies. Such assessments will illuminate the best practices for first responders to stressful events.

<https://www.cj.txst.edu/research/centers-labs/jones-lab.html>

**Opportunities for Undergraduate Research in Human Development & Family Sciences (OUR HDFS) Fellowship Program**

OUR HDFS Fellowship program identifies and hosts talented undergraduate students interested in Human Development and Family Sciences from STEM-limited institutions in Central Texas and provides support, guidance, and financial resources necessary for engaging in research and learning about graduate school. Fellows are paired with both a faculty and graduate student mentor to guide their research experience and career goals. The program fosters connections between undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty and celebrates fellows' achievements within a community of learning.

<https://www.fcs.txst.edu/undergraduate-programs/hdfs/reu-fellowship.html>

**Research in Social Cognitive Development**

Dr. Amy Weimer specializes in investigating social, family, and cultural factors that affect and promote the socioemotional, cognitive, and academic development of diverse learners (e.g., bilingual, underrepresented populations). She especially enjoys facilitating students’ development of research ideas to explore how children come to understand the mental world, the inner world inhabited by emotions, thoughts, perceptions, intentions, and other mental states.

<https://www.fcs.txst.edu/undergraduate-programs/hdfs/experiential-learning/research-opportunities/research-in-social-cognitive-development.html>

**Restricted Data Lab**

The restricted data lab, located in Pedernales 108A within the O.W.L.S. facilities, supports Dr. Shetay Ashford-Hanserd's NSF-funded research. This secure space includes a workstation configured with Department of Education (DOE) data, specifically the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) dataset, the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSLS:09), and essential software. IT support ensures restricted access for the PI and postdoctoral scholars, all of whom have completed the NCES-required restricted data use training to maintain data security and compliance.

**Social Equity Research and Policy Lab**

The core mission of The Social Equity Research and Policy Lab (SERP) is to inform policymakers and stakeholders with empirical evidence as well as to advance innovative research methodology to ensure that communities that have been long ignored are given the fair treatment that they deserve as contributing members of U.S. society. SERP is an interdisciplinary research lab led by Director Dr. Lidia Nuño and Co-Director Dr. Veronica Herrera.

<https://www.serplab.org/>

**Strengthening Relationships/Strengthening Families**

The Strengthening Relationships/Strengthening Families (SR/SF) program assists adolescent parents in building and maintaining healthy relationships by helping them develop their personal and relationship skills and connecting them to necessary resources. Annually, we serve 120-160 adolescent mothers, fathers, and members of their support network (ex. friends, family), in Central Texas. Sessions are facilitated in English and Español. SR/SF aims to support pregnant and parenting adolescents in developing skills that will help them achieve their personal, relationship, and parenting goals. Program facilitators provide weekly group sessions focused on parenting etc. within students’ schools. In addition to the services provided, another important component of the SR/SF project is research. The SR/SF Research & Evaluation Team is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and faculty who collaborate to collect and analyze data from students involved in our programs and their coparents. The surveys and focus groups conducted with our students help us to better understand the experience of being an adolescent parent and develop or improve programming. The SR/SF team has a portfolio of numerous publications and a history of presentations within the last five years.

<https://www.fcs.txst.edu/srsf.html>

**Student Equity and Opportunity (SEO) Lab**

We are a research team led by Dr. Eunjin Seo at Texas State University, focused on studying the development of diverse adolescents and emerging adults in school environments. At the SEO Lab, we celebrate diversity and its contribution to excellence. Our doors are open to students, postdocs, and visiting scholars from all walks of life.

<https://eunjinseo.wordpress.com/>

**Texas Crime and Justice Center**

The Texas Crime and Justice Center (TCJC) was established in September 2024 within the School of Criminal Justice and Criminology in collaboration with the Austin Area Research Organization (AARO), with the mission to facilitate applied research and the expansion of evidence-based knowledge regarding crime and best practices in response to crime in Central Texas, throughout the state, the Southwest, and the nation.

The TCJC's goals include:

1. Collaborating with public agencies, NGOs, the legislature, other institutions of higher education, and the private sector to identify criminal justice policy and practice issues of broad interest or concern and to inform those issues with the infusion of existing and new knowledge;
2. Partnering with criminal justice agencies to help them identify and implement evidence-based practices for improving their outcomes;
3. Partnering with criminal justice agencies to help them identify and implement evidence-based practices for improving their outcomes;
4. Increasing the visibility and renown of the criminal justice research enterprise at Texas State University’s School of Criminal Justice and Criminology.

Aiding the center's efforts will be an advisory board made up of criminal justice and public policy leaders and practitioners from the region.

**Texas Justice Court Training Center**

The mission of the Texas Justice Court Training Center (TJCTC) is to provide quality education opportunities for justices of the peace, constables, and court personnel, ensuring the credibility of, and confidence in, the justice courts enabling them to better serve the people of the State of Texas.

Every year, TJCTC provides over 500 hours of live education reaching 2,200 judges, constables, and court personnel. The Training Center offers additional supplemental education through 20 webinars and another 120 hours of training through workshops. During legislative years, TJCTC provides a comprehensive overview of the legislation affecting justice courts, including a legislative resource book and eight additional training events. TJCTC provides 80 hours of required new judge training annually.

<https://www.tjctc.org/>

**Texas State XReality Lab**

Dr. Scott Smith founded the XReality Lab in 2012. As Director, Dr. Smith has developed the mission of the lab to be an interdisciplinary space where faculty from all disciplines can develop, design, and evaluate innovative technologies to enhance human performance. To date, the lab has successfully completed 5 projects and obtained more than 1.9 million dollars in grants producing over 30 publications and conference presentations. The lab has developed and tested products like virtual reality, augmented reality, mixed-reality, smartphone applications, biosensors and bio/neuro feedback, IOT applications, artificial intelligence, and eye tracking and human metrics.

**The Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership (CWP)**

The Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership (CWP) program is a collaboration between the School of Social Work at Texas State University and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The CWP program aims to increase the qualifications and numbers of BSW/MSW graduates who enter the field of child welfare, and to enhance the knowledge and skills of selected DFPS employees through graduate social work education. Students in the program receive financial assistance and ongoing training while completing their social work degree, in exchange for working for DFPS for a period of time after graduation.

<https://www.socialwork.txst.edu/title-iv-e-child-welfare-partnership.html>