



Stephen F. Austin State University

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

The *Academic Opportunity Program (AOP)* is designed to identify first-semester freshman students who did not meet the admission requirements as a result of significant extenuating circumstance(s). The program is limited to a small number of students who provide adequate documentation with regard to their extenuating circumstance. Applications are available through the Office of Admissions.

The *AOP Program* does not replace the *Pathways to Discovery Program*, by which attendance during the summer II semester and the passing of 7 semester hours with an overall 2.0 grade point average will qualify a student for admission. Rather, AOP is an adjunct for a very limited number of students who can *clearly demonstrate extenuating circumstances*.

The AOP committee will review completed files on a continuing basis for fall semester starting in February. To be considered for the last review period, completed AOP files must be received by July 1. Students who wish to be considered for spring semester must submit a completed AOP application by November 1. The applicant packet also includes two Recommendation Forms. One is to be completed by the high school principal or counselor and one by a member of the community who can testify to the applicant's eligibility. **It is imperative that the answers to the questions on the AOP Application fully explain the extenuating circumstances that should be considered in determining the applicant's eligibility.** The selection committee will review all applications and recommend a limited number of applicants to be accepted.

Students are admonished not to consider the *Academic Opportunity Program* as an alternative to the *Pathways to Discovery Program* to become eligible for fall admission. Additionally, students participating in the *Pathways to Discovery Program* may not seek admission through the Academic Opportunity Program.

Return materials to:

**Academic Opportunity Program
Office of Admissions
P.O. Box 13051
Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962-3051**

II. In a short paragraph, honestly express why you feel that you have the background that qualifies you for admission to SFA under the *Academic Opportunity Program*.

III. Please explain why you are unable to attend SFA under the *Pathways to Discovery Program* during summer semesters.

I have read the regulations for the *Academic Opportunity Program* on the back of this form and, if accepted, agree to follow them.

Student's Signature

Date

NOTE: Student's signature on this application and contract does not guarantee acceptance into the Academic Opportunity Program

Students admitted to Stephen F. Austin State University through the *Academic Opportunity Program* (AOP) are given an opportunity to demonstrate they can perform college-level work. AOP students are admitted conditionally and will have two semesters (fall and spring) to attain an overall grade point average (gpa) of 2.0 on 15 or more semester hours of college credit.

Students with failed areas on the *Texas Success Initiative* test (THEA) must enroll in the developmental courses required for their failed areas. These courses are non-credit courses and will not count toward the 15 semester hours. They will, however, count toward course load when calculating full time status for housing, financial aid, and scholarships. Including both TSI developmental courses and college credit courses, students must enroll for at least 12 semester hours during each AOP semester.

STUDENTS OFFERED AOP ADMISSION FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING A SPRING SEMESTER MUST CONTACT THE ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER.

Students are admitted generally for spring and fall semesters consecutively.

For students who choose to attend summer semesters, the following rules apply:

1. If you choose to attend both summer sessions, your status will change to *Pathways to Discovery Program* (13 hours required – 7 hours in Summer I and 6 hours in Summer II, with a cumulative 2.0 grade point average to return fall; the AOP contract is voided).
2. If you choose to attend summer and take fewer than 13 hours, those hours taken during the summer WILL NOT count toward the AOP Program.

Students who do not satisfactorily complete the AOP contract will be placed on academic suspension at the end of the second semester. Upon successfully completing **15 NEW semester hours of transferable college work at another institution**, students may reapply to Stephen F. Austin State University.

AOP students must register as Undecided Liberal Arts majors and will be advised in the Academic Advising Center for the two-semester period. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be allowed to declare a major.

Students participating in the AOP Program are expected to make frequent use of laboratory resources in the *Academic Assistance Resource Center* (AARC).

AOP students must demonstrate a serious commitment to their studies, including regular class attendance, conferences with their instructor and meeting the requisite schedule at the AARC. It is strongly recommended that students participating in the AOP Program attend an orientation session prior to the first semester of attendance.

Stephen F. Austin State University

Academic Opportunity Program Recommendation Form

The *Academic Opportunity Program* is designed to identify a small group of potential students who appear to have the intellectual and personal characteristics to do successful college work but who have experienced significant extenuating circumstances resulting in the loss of ability to meet rank in class, ACT, or SAT standards for regular admission to Stephen F. Austin State University.

The AOP does not replace the *Pathways to Discovery Program*, by which attendance during the summer semester and the passing of 13 semester hours with an overall 2.0 grade point average will qualify a student for admission. Rather, the AOP is an adjunct for a very limited number of students who can *clearly demonstrate extenuating circumstances*.

The AOP committee will review completed files on a continuing basis for fall semester starting in February. To be considered for the last review period, completed AOP files must be received by July 1. Students who wish to be considered for spring semester must submit a completed AOP application by November 1. The application packet also includes two Recommendation Forms. One is to be completed by the high school principal or counselor and one by a member of the community who can testify to the applicant's eligibility. **Answers on the Recommendation Form should discuss the extenuating circumstances affecting the student's admission. Also, please discuss the personal and intellectual characteristics that indicate the willingness and ability to successfully do college work.** The selection committee will review all applications and recommend a limited number of applicants to be accepted.

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Return materials to:

**Academic Opportunity Program
Office of Admissions
P.O. Box 13051
Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962-3051**

**Academic Opportunity Program
Recommendation Form**

To The Recommender: To enable the selection committee to assess the qualifications of the applicant you have named below, please complete this form, and in the interest of the applicant, promptly return to:

Academic Opportunity Program
Office of Admissions
P.O. Box 13051, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962-3051

- I. Name of the applicant: _____
II. Length of time you have known the applicant and in what capacity? _____
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I. What, in your opinion, were the extenuating circumstances which explain the applicant's poor academic and/or testing performance?

II. Please comment as precisely as possible on the applicant's activities or circumstances you have observed which you feel qualify him/her for potential success in doing college level work.

Recommender's Name: _____ (Please Print or type) Recommender's Signature: _____ (as you normally sign your name)
Date: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
Position or Title: _____ Organization: _____