

The Department of Student Affairs
Stephen F. Austin State University

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Our Mission:

- The Department of Student Affairs strives to fulfill the university's mission through personal connections with students, creating engaging and dynamic learning opportunities and providing programs and services designed to help students meet their personal and academic goals.

Our Core Values:

- We strive to use our resources effectively to achieve the mission of Stephen F. Austin State University, the Division of University Affairs and the Department of Student Affairs.
- We put students first, considering what would be to their ultimate benefit in any decision we make, or any program or service we manage or create.
- We partner with other university departments to create win-win collaborations that benefit students and the university.
- We seek to proactively identify problems and create solutions to issues of concern.
- We do our jobs with positivity, enthusiasm and humility.
- We embrace the philosophy of student development, helping students to discover their passions and find their purpose.
- We maintain high expectations of our students, and actively encourage them to reach their full potential.
- We model life-long learning to students by seeking professional and personal development opportunities.
- We strive to model wellness by managing stress, seeking a healthy lifestyle and working to maintain a healthy balance between our work and our lives.
- We model cultural competence by practicing tolerance and acceptance of others.
- We seek to create cultural understanding and to ensure that our programs and services are available and effective for all students regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, ability or sexual orientation.
- We address disagreements and concerns with others in a proactive and professional way, and in such a way that relationships are strengthened.
- We treat everyone with the highest degree of courtesy and respect.

Our Learning Outcomes:

We believe that students will develop the following abilities and skills through participation in our programs and services.

Citizenship

- Through civic engagement, community service and classroom experiences, students acquire a contextually- rich understanding of complex issues and increased sense of social responsibility. Students are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of a democratic society, and to serve fully as citizens of the state, nation, and world.

Communication

- Students gain skills to help them to communicate effectively and professionally, using written, oral, and artistic means, as well as current technology. Students learn to listen actively and effectively, to read with comprehension, to evaluate ideas, and to form meaningful interpersonal relationships.

Cultural Competence

- By interacting with others who are different from themselves, students gain an increased appreciation for diversity and attain valuable skills for success in a pluralistic society. Beyond tolerance, students increase their understanding of the beliefs, values and worldviews of others.

Ethics and Values

- Students define, refine and clarify their values, learn to keep congruence between these beliefs and their actions – and to balance their personal interests with the interests of others and society as a whole.

Leadership

- Through a variety of experiences, students will learn to maximize their own individualized talents and skills to collaborate with others and to motivate them towards a common goal.

Life Skills

- From maintaining and balancing a budget to effectively managing one's time, students learn to build strategies for leading a productive life — in college, in graduate school, in their career and beyond.

Self-Knowledge

- Through experiences and reflection, students discover a sense of purpose, gain the ability to realistically appraise themselves, enhance self-esteem and become increasingly independence and interdependent. These skills are useful in picking a career and helping the student to set and meet both educational and personal goals.

Scholarship and Inquiry

- A broad-based educational foundation allows student to think critically, creatively and independently, and to experience intellectual growth. Students become committed to better understanding and advancing the knowledge of their chosen field, are prepared for the rigors of graduate study, for their careers, and for lifelong learning.

Wellness

- Students learn to practice healthy behavior to attain a satisfying and productive lifestyle, learning to balance their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being with the demands of their life as a student and beyond.