



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

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 Jacks PASS (Pathway to Accelerated Student Success) 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. The final review deadline for a completed appeal packet is 5 business days prior to the first day of classes. 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 cautioned not to consider the Academic Opportunity Program as an alternative to the Jacks PASS Program to become eligible for fall admission. Additionally, students participating in the Jacks PASS Program who are unsuccessful 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



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

Academic Opportunity Program Application

Date: _____

Major is Undecided Liberal Arts - Student Success Center

Applicant's Name: _____
Last, First, Middle

Permanent Address: _____
Street Address or Box No.

City, State and Zip Code

Campus ID: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____

To The Applicant:

In the space provided, please answer the following questions. If additional space is needed, please attach a separate sheet to this application.

- I. Explain briefly, but clearly, for the selection committee the particular extenuating circumstances that have made it impossible for you to meet ACT/SAT scores or class rank required for clear admission.

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 Jacks PASS Program during the summer II semester.

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 GPA of 2.0 on 15 or more semester hours of college credit.

Students with failed areas on the Texas Success Initiative test (TSI Assessment) 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 fall or spring semester must contact the student success center.

Students are admitted generally for fall and spring semesters consecutively.

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-Student Success Center major and will be advised in the Student Success 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.



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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 Program does not replace the Jacks PASS (Pathway to Accelerated Student Success) 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. The final review deadline for a completed appeal packet is 5 business days prior to the first day of classes. 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.

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

Return materials to:

Academic Opportunity Program

Office of Admissions

P.O. Box 13051

Nacogdoches, Texas 75962-3051

Fax: 936-468-3849



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

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:

By Mail:

Office of Admissions
P.O. Box 13051
SFA Station
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962

Or By Fax:

936-468-3149

Full legal name of applicant: _____

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity? _____

What, in your opinion, were the extenuating circumstances leading to the applicant's poor academic and/or testing performance?

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: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____
Street Address or Box No. City, State and ZIP code

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____



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Full legal name of applicant: _____

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity? _____

What, in your opinion, were the extenuating circumstances leading to the applicant's poor academic and/or testing performance?

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: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____
Street Address or Box No. City, State and ZIP code

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____