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Welcome from the Dean of Student Life

Dear Sul Ross Students:

On behalf of the Sul Ross State University community, welcome to the Lobo family. Here at Sul Ross we pride ourselves in providing “a heritage of service and a commitment to quality.”

At Sul Ross State University you will gain scholastic knowledge from some of the finest instructors in the nation. You will also learn from your fellow students and grow as an individual through your day to day experiences. SR students will leave this campus with a quality education, life-long friends, a place to call home and a sense of pride and tradition.

It is my hope that you will take advantage of all SR has to offer you. From classroom experiences and student service programs, to fine arts performances and athletic events, to Sully Productions activities and much more, there is always something to do at Sul Ross.

This Student Handbook will provide you with important information to help you be successful while at Sul Ross. You will find not only rules and regulations, but information about student organizations and campus activities. Contact information for offices on campus is available as is a list of frequently asked questions. It is my hope that this Student Handbook will be your guide to a successful year at Sul Ross State University.

Please know we are here to help you succeed while you call Sul Ross State University your home. I wish you the best of luck on your educational endeavors and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Leo Dominguez
Associate Vice-President for University Services and
Dean of Student Life
UNIVERSITY BASICS

Mascot: Lobo
Colors: Scarlet (Red) and Gray
Brand: Bar-SR-Bar

Alma Mater:

Where the rolling plains of Texas
End in mountains high,
There’s a land where glorious sunsets
Flame in peerless sky.

Refrain
Ring! Ye Alpine hills with music
Joyous songs we’ll raise.
Hail to Sul Ross University!
Thee we gladly praise!

‘Tis a land of pioneer spirit
Free as bracing air.
Where a handclasp means a welcome,
Friendship glad to share.

Refrain

There our Texas youths do gather
Heeding wisdom’s call;
Learn to love our Alma Mater.
Love thee best of all!

Refrain

Anti-Discrimination Statement

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored by Sul Ross State University on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including, but not limited to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
History of the University (APM 1.01)

Sul Ross State University, located in Alpine in Brewster County, was created by an act of the 35th Legislature in 1917 as a state normal college to train teachers. Named for Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Governor of Texas from 1887 to 1891 and President of Texas A&M College from 1891 to 1898, the institution was the successor to Alpine Summer Normal School. The bill creating the institution provided that the residents of the town would provide land, water, and utilities for the college and housing for the students. This condition was met, and following a delay occasioned by World War I, the Legislature in 1919 approved $200,000 for buildings and equipment. Construction proceeded, and under the presidency of Thomas J. Fletcher, Sul Ross State Normal College began operations in the present Dolph Briscoe, Jr., Administration Building on June 14, 1920.

Seventy-seven students enrolled in the summer of 1920. They studied education and liberal arts subjects leading to teaching certificates and junior college diplomas. In 1923, the Legislature changed the name of the institution to Sul Ross State Teachers College, and advanced courses leading to baccalaureate degree was awarded in the summer of 1925. In 1930, course work at the graduate level was initiated, and the first master’s degrees were awarded in 1933. By 1985, 10,925 bachelor’s degrees and 4,862 masters’ degrees had been conferred.

Under the leadership of President Horace W. Morelock from 1923 to 1945, the curriculum was expanded, additional academic buildings and dormitories were constructed, the college was admitted into membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and enrollment increased to approximately 500 students. A decline in enrollment during World War II threatened the continued operation of the college but was offset by the establishment of a successful U.S. Navy pilot training program and a Women’s Army Corps Training School on campus, bringing more than 1,500 military trainees and officers to Sul Ross.

Following the war, the return of veterans increased the annual enrollments and prompted the expansion of the curriculum. Richard M. Hawkins became president in 1945, and the college was reorganized into divisions of the Fine Arts, Language Arts, Science, Social Science, Teacher Education, and Vocations. Then in 1949, in recognition of the broadened mission of the institution to prepare students for a variety of careers and occupations, the name was changed to Sul Ross State College.

The enrollment grew to more than 1,000 in 1960 and to over 2,000 in 1970. During the presidencies of Bryan Wildenthal and Norman L. McNeil between 1952 and 1974, the academic programs continued to be strengthened; new fine arts, physical education, science and range animal science buildings and a new library were constructed; and several new degree programs were begun. In 1969, the Legislature again changed the name of the institution, this time signifying full state university status by the name – Sul Ross State University. The 1970s were years of stable or declining enrollments caused by the opening of several new colleges in West Texas. The general education requirements were revised; new degree programs were added in criminal justice, business administration, and geology; in 1973 an off-campus study center was established on the campus of Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde to provide opportunities for residents of the thirteen county Middle Rio Grande region. With campuses in Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass citizens of the area can pursue courses of study leading to one of eleven undergraduate or seven graduate degrees in education, liberal arts, or business administration. The Legislature appropriated more than $10,000,000 to renovate and modernize the academic buildings; and personnel changes brought to the University a new generation of faculty, consisting, in 1985, of approximately 100 persons of whom 74% held the doctorate.
Early in its history, Sul Ross became the cultural and educational center for the mountainous, remote Big Bend region. The state-supported Museum of the Big Bend was established in the 1930s as a depository for materials which depict the multi-cultural society and history of the Big Bend region, and in 1976, the Archives of the Big Bend in the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library was organized to provide a permanent depository and research facility for regional manuscript collections.

In its ninth decade, the University promotes scientific research in biology, geology and range animal science, with particular emphasis on Chihuahua Desert studies. The Rio Grande Research Center engages in research into water conservation in the Rio Grande basin. The Borderlands Research Institute focuses on Range and Wildlife Management improvements. Through the University’s Center for Big Bend Studies, research and educational activities are conducted in the historical, cultural, and economic development of the Trans-Pecos region and adjacent areas in Mexico and New Mexico. The Outdoor Summer Theatre of the Big Bend performs for hundreds of visitors each year, and musical productions and athletic events are popular attractions. The University was a founding member of the non-scholarship American Southwest Conference and was the birthplace of the National Intercolligate Rodeo Association.

The Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College, an upper-level component of the University, offers junior, senior, and graduate work in selected programs in Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde and is headquartered on the campus of Southwest Texas Junior College.

All of these activities complement the educational programs of the University, which in 2005, included 30 undergraduate major fields and 20 graduate fields, involving approximately 1,800 students on campus and 1,000 in the Rio Grande College. The governing body of the University is the Board of Regents, Texas State University System.


Mission Statement
The ultimate goal of higher education is to produce graduates who will be effective leaders in their chosen professions, valued members of their communities, and responsible citizens of the world.

As a coeducational, comprehensive, public institution of higher education offering certificate programs and associate, baccalaureate, and master’s degrees, the mission of Sul Ross State University is to include the following structure in all of its academic programs:

1. From the core curriculum, students will acquire a common set of intellectual, physical, and aesthetic experiences designed to foster a broad appreciation for the human experience. Graduates will be expected to demonstrate the critical thinking skills, oral and written communication skills, and quantitative literacy that will be required for them to become effective leaders. Moreover, graduates will possess the in-depth knowledge necessary to either enter professions that are related to their areas of specialization, to achieve advanced levels of professional development or to enter and successfully complete graduate programs of study.
2. As part of their education, students will develop qualities of good citizenship, including an appreciation for and commitment to performing their work conscientiously; learning to recognize, respect, and understand cultural diversity; and learning to recognize the implications of what they believe. Most importantly, they will acquire the skills and techniques which enable them to engage in self-learning, and a spirit of intellectual curiosity leading to independent and purposeful life-long learning.

In order to guarantee that this mission is carried out in the spirit of the goals of higher education, Sul Ross State University has three major functions:

1. **To enable optimal teaching and learning** through quality faculty and staff, exceptional facilities, technology, and instructional resources, and effective student support services;

2. **To support research** which advances knowledge, enriches teaching, encourages professional development, and utilizes the distinctive environment of the Big Bend and Middle Rio Grande areas of Texas;

3. **To serve as a resource for enrichment** of the cultural, intellectual, social, and economic life of citizens of the region.

**University Symbols**

The University has adopted several symbols, which are widely used in both official and unofficial capacities:

1. The University’s colors of scarlet and grey are worn by members of athletic teams, cheerleaders, and supporters. The University also uses these colors in brochures, décor, and other appropriate contexts.

2. The mascot of the University athletic teams is the Lobo, an animal native to the western United States. Graphics featuring the lobo are widely used for athletic events, items sold in the University Bookstore, etc.

3. The University’s cattle brand, the Bar SR Bar, a longtime symbol of the University, was registered in 1922. It is most visible in the white rock formation on the east side of the campus. It is used in any situation where a simple graphic image is needed to identify the University or its interests.

4. The official symbol of the University is the Sul Ross seal, a circular graphic containing the words “Sul Ross State University” and “Alpine, Texas” around the outer edges of the circle. In the center of the seal is the Bar-SR-Bar brand graphic overlaid in front of a torch. The symbol of the torch is typically used to signify the light of wisdom, awakening and enlightenment. At the base of the torch is a five-pointed star representing Texas. Branches to either side of the torch and Bar-SR-Bar brand are suggestive of those from the State Seal of Texas: which are a live oak branch (representing strength) and olive branch (representing peace).

5. The University seal, cattle brand, Lobo graphics and other symbols are protected as registered trademarks. Use by non-university groups, individuals, or an entity requires written permission of the University president.