

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
A Member of the Texas State University System

SRSU Policy: Facilities

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The **campus of Sul Ross State University (SRSU)** consists of approximately 1,000 acres in Alpine, Texas and includes grazing areas off campus, a walking path, an orientation pavilion, and outdoor stage/performance area in front of Morelock Academic Building. There is also an outdoor amphitheater located mid-campus. SRSU has 500,000 gross square feet of building space as described herein. A recent project nearing completion due to the 85TH Legislature – Campus Access Phase II & III has added walking paths, redesigned the front of the campus, and included upgraded lighting and ADA accessibility as well as the addition of local plants and landscaping to conserve water, a precious resource in West Texas. As part of Campus Access 1, through the 85th Legislature, the Zuzu Verk Amphitheater and associated masonry walls were added along with upgraded lighting in the vicinity of student housing and outdoor seating for performances. In addition to the main campus, about 15,000 acres in Hudspeth County were donated to the university and is currently used for research and grazing near the town of Sierra Blanca. The following is a listing with a brief description of the on and off campus buildings comprising SRSU:

The **Barton H. Warnock Science Building** features labs, an observatory and other facilities for chemistry, physics, geology, and several branches of biology, including botany, zoology, microbiology and molecular biology. The science building houses the Biology Department and the Earth and Physical Sciences Department. A greenhouse and outdoor classroom space is present along the campus mall.

The **Turner Range Animal Science Center** houses the university's animal science and natural resource management departments. It includes an animal health clinic, an equine science center, swine production facilities, meat processing facilities, and modern, well-equipped laboratories and a horse-walker and five mare motels capable of housing 20 horses apiece for a total of 100 horses as well as a treadmill to monitor heart rate of large animals and as a means of indoor exercising of large animals. Also located nearby to this facility is the 44,744 square foot S.A.L.E rodeo arena.

The **Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library** is a vital nerve center of the university for leisure reading and research as well as offering meeting rooms for students who collaborate on projects in a modern setting with modern technology available. In 1997, the 75th Legislature provided resources for an expansion of the Wildenthal Library. Renovation and the addition of a third floor to the Wildenthal Library was completed in 2001. Books, meetings rooms and gathering spaces are available on site, and the community is welcome to use the library resources on campus.

The **Academic Computing Resource Center** is home to the Office of Information Technology and modern computer laboratories available for student, staff, or faculty use. In addition, the building contains the Computer Science and Mathematics departmental offices, tutorial areas and classrooms, the Title V Science Initiative and the Chihuahuan Desert Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

The **Morelock Academic Building** contains the Languages and Literature Department, the Education Department, the Business Administration Department, the Criminal Justice Department and Law Enforcement Academy, the Office of the Dean of Professional Studies, and the Mary Thomas Marshall Auditorium. The Auditorium has been used in the past as a notable venue for performances in music and theater as well as utilized for the Cowboy Poetry Gathering on campus. Its latest renovations were in 2011.

In 1997, the 75th Legislature provided resources for the conversion of **Ferguson Hall** from residential to academic use. Ferguson Hall now includes the Center for Big Bend Studies, the Academic Center for Excellence, Student Support Services, Counseling and Prevention Services, the Office for Community and Civic Engagement, the Dual Credit Program, Title V Program.

The **Francois Fine Arts Building** houses the university's Art Gallery, the Studio Theatre, the Fine Arts and Communication Department, classrooms, and studios. It also houses music instrument practice rooms and an auditorium for small audience productions/plays. In 2023, the 88th Legislature provided over \$25 million for a renovation and additions to the Fine Arts facilities on and off campus and improvements to the outdoor theater and addition of a black box theater located off campus. Included in these renovations are modernizations and upgrades to the Francois Fine Arts Building

The Briscoe Administration Building is home to most central administrative offices as well as Communications and Marketing, Controller's Office, Human Resources, the Registrar, Alumni Relations Office, and the Department of Public Safety, offices of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Finance and Operations and the President of the University. The structure is a campus focal point, and it is strategically placed at the circle drive off of entrance 3 on North Harrison St.

In 1993, the 73rd Legislature provided resources for the renovation and conversion of **Lawrence Hall**, a residence hall originally built in the late 1930s. Lawrence Hall currently offices the Center for Enrollment Services including, Admissions, Recruiting, Financial Aid, Scholarships, and the Vice President for Enrollment Management. It also houses the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department and features a Cactus Garden Laboratory in front of the building. Nearby is the iconic statue of Sul Ross and a commanding view of the campus can be observed from its ADA ramp or via a cutout located in the masonry wall. The newest addition to the outdoor area, is the orientation pavilion constructed in 2023.

In 1995 and 1997, the 74th and 75th Legislatures appropriated funds for the construction of the 51,719 square foot **Morgan University Center**. The Morgan University Center (UC), constructed in 1999, is the center of campus life and serves as the community center for members of the university family, including students, faculty, administrators, alumni, guests, and visitors. The UC includes conference facilities, meeting rooms, indoor and outdoor dining facilities, game room, campus bookstore, post office, office spaces for the Student Government Association, Campus Activities, Student Health Services, Student Life, the Career/Life Center, and the UC Coordinator.

In 1997, the 75th Legislature provided resources for the construction of the **Pete P. Gallego Center**, an 81,000 square foot multi-purpose special events center, home to sporting events and other major activities at the University. The center, which was completed in 2001, provides seating for 3,900 people when used for commencement and concerts, or 3,200 permanent armchair seats for basketball competitions and other sporting events. The center also houses offices for Athletics Programs.

The **Graves-Pierce Recreational Sports Complex** contains an indoor pool, gymnasium, classrooms, weight rooms, racquetball courts and an exercise track. It also houses the offices for the Kinesiology and Health and Human Performance Department and the office for the Recreational Sports Programs and is adjacent to seven tennis courts constructed in 1996.

The building off campus that had previously been used as the day care center and was built in 2007 has been converted in 2022 into the **Nursing Center** and classes are offered there along with laboratory work in an advanced setting featuring life-like mannequins whereby students can put into practice what they are learning. The building and its 4,004 gross square feet include classrooms and offices as well as an observation area for hands on experience and monitoring by qualified instructors as the students hone their talents in real world situations.

Major facility expansion programs have been initiated at the Campuses located in Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde . In 2001 over 13,000 square feet of classroom, computer lab, and office space was dedicated in Eagle Pass. In 2003 over 33,000 square feet of classroom, computer lab, science/nursing lab, faculty and general office space was added to the facility in Del Rio. In Uvalde similar expansion has also taken place. The Uvalde expansion has included classroom, computer lab, faculty and office space and was completed in 2007. Additionally, the 88th Legislature approved over \$30M for an Academic Building to be built in Eagle Pass and will allow for future development with the eventual goal of creating a unified campus in the coming years with multiple buildings, structures, and athletic fields.

The **Physical Plant Complex** is the center of many of the university's operations. The Print Shop and Central Receiving Department are located here, along with many of the Sul Ross Maintenance Departments and associated vehicles and equipment. Many trades including carpentry, painting, HVAC and plumbing as well as auto repair and custodial and groundskeeping work out of these spaces maintaining facilities and grounds on campus.

The **Industrial Technology Building** is home to the university's Industrial Technology Department and numerous programs including fine arts, construction management and leatherwork, welding, and machine shop. It contains several labs and tech-classrooms.

Student housing residence halls consist of **Lobo Village** 1 through 7 as well as **Fletcher Hall**. Residential Living staff are in the main building, which also includes the community center and C-store. All the facilities were constructed in 2007 (apart from Fletcher Hall) and recent updates were made in some areas such as lighting and doorways as well as replacing HVAC units as recently as 2023. Fletcher Hall was constructed in 1963 and is a solid structure that houses 54 additional students. Altogether, resident units are capable of housing up to 694 students featuring shared apartments, family units and efficiency apartments.

University dramatic and musical events are staged at the Studio Theatre (Francois Fine Arts Building), the Mary Thomas Marshall Auditorium (Morelock Administrative Building), and the Outdoor Theatre of the Big Bend, an open-air theatre used in the summer and located off campus near Kokernot Lodge. Through the 88th Legislature an initiative is underway to renovate the open-air theater and make substantial improvements to Francois Fine Arts Building including improvements to the pottery area and an off-campus black box theater. The funding provided to entail such projects is greater than \$25M for the improvements throughout campus. Also available for outdoor performances are the Centennial Plaza recently completed in 2023 and located in front of the Morelock Academic Building as well as the completed Zuzu Verk Amphitheater located mid-campus and featuring open-air seating and scenic views of the surrounding area.

Football events are held at **Jackson Field**, baseball games are played at Kokernot Field, and activities of various types are held in the historic Kokernot Lodge which is targeted for upcoming renovation. The birthplace of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, the University hosts an annual National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) rodeo on campus in the covered San Antonio Livestock Exposition Arena. Lighting was recently upgraded to LED lights at the arena in 2022 and many rodeo and ranch rodeo events are held at this venue. The University is currently a member of the American Southwest Conference, participating in non-scholarship competitive sports events for both men and women under the auspices of the NCAA Division III. Sponsored sports include basketball, volleyball, football, baseball, softball, soccer and tennis. Also, artificial turf and a new home locker room were added to the Jackson Field facility and adjoining intramural fields were converted from grass using state-of-the-art artificial turf. These improvements took place from 2015-2016 and substantially decrease the maintenance needed at these fields and are more aesthetically pleasing. Upgrades have also been made at the Women's Softball field including upgraded restrooms and bleachers plus a press box.

In 2001, Sul Ross State University acquired the old **Centennial School** property in Alpine. Centennial School now houses the Sul Ross State University Small Business Development Center, costume storage for the SRSU Fine Arts Theatre Department, grant-based programs, and research projects of the Center for Big Bend Studies along with other state and local government agencies.

In 2002, SRSU received a private contribution commitment which launched a major fundraising campaign to renovate and restore a native rock building that would once again serve as the home of the **Museum of the Big Bend**. Originally constructed in the late 1930s as part of the Works Progress Administration program, the rock building housed the Big Bend Memorial Museum and later served as the Student Union Building. When the new University Center was dedicated in 2000, the native rock building was thereafter targeted for renovations. In honor of the major benefactors whose private contribution made the fundraising campaign successful, the renovated facility was named the Miriam and Emmett McCoy Building. Beginning in 2021, through public and private funding, an annex of approximately 11,000 square feet was added to the existing rock structure. The substantial donation from the McCoy family allowed for distinctive architecture and features designed to highlight the arts and artistic works to be housed in the museum. The renovated facility includes an observation deck and both temporary and permanent galleries that showcase artwork in various styles. There is also a space for conferences and event rental that showcases the natural beauty of the regional mountains and provides a space to engage and enjoy a gathering whether formal or casual. The new addition to the Museum was completed in June 2023.