

**Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics  
Career and Technical Education**

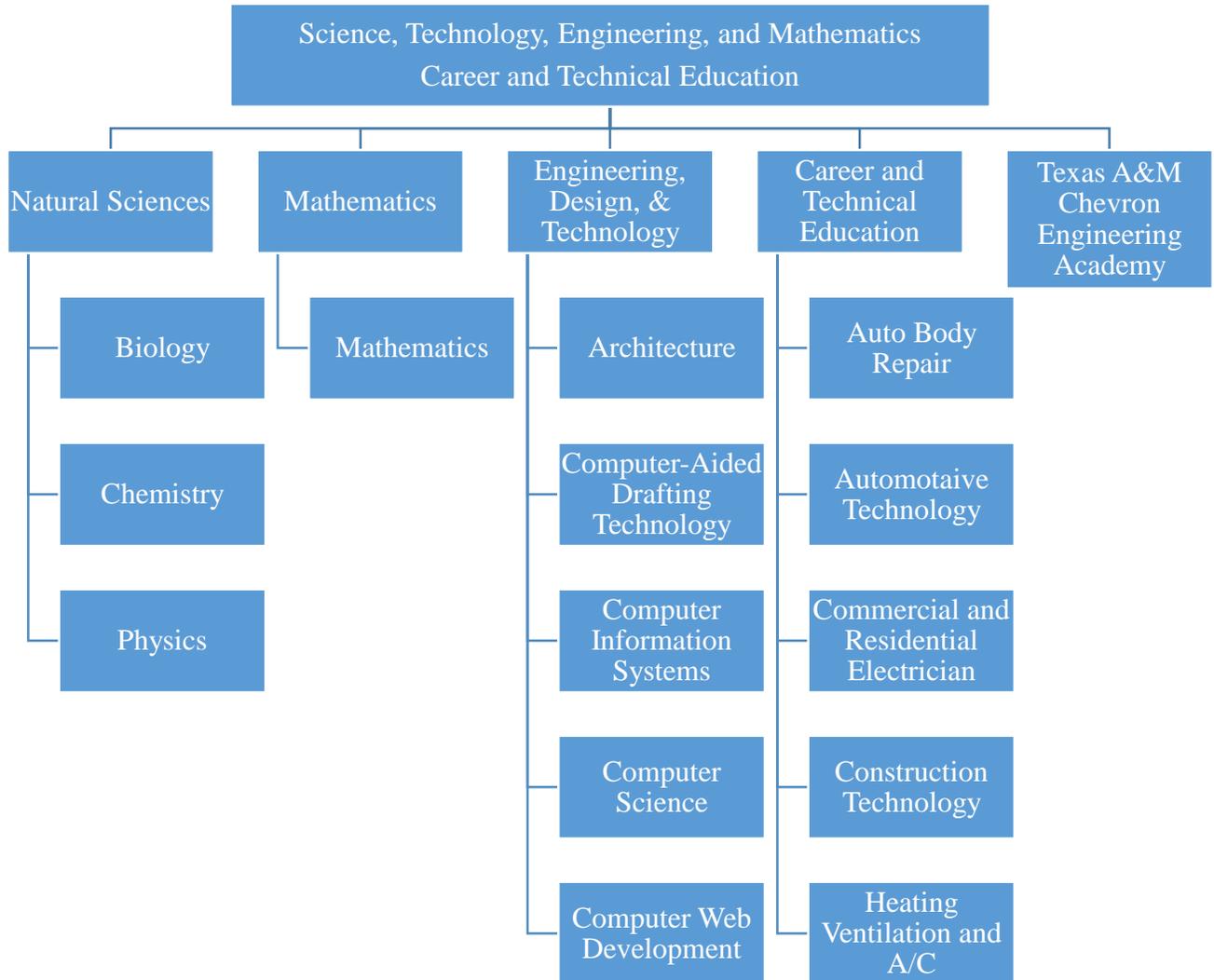
**Divisional and Departmental Procedures**

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## Academic Organization

The academic departments and disciplines under the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics-Career and Technical Education are divided as follows:



# Division of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics-Career and Technical Education

## Mission

Provide high-quality instruction and learning opportunities for all our students, whether they aim to transfer to a four-year university, enter or advance in the workforce, or simply enrich their lives.

## Vision

The Division of STEM-CTE is committed to providing a learner-centered, service-oriented environment that celebrates diversity and inclusion, as well as facilitate growth and development. STEM-CTE Division is dedicated to foster social responsibility, critical thinking, communication, and innovation, as well as empower and engage students, faculty, and staff to achieve personal and professional goals.

## Goals/Objectives

1. Pathways: Create multiple paths for STEM-CTE students by providing high-quality instruction and dynamic curricula for the purpose of graduation, academic transfer, employment and other educational and career goals.
2. Success: Enrich student learning by continuously improving instruction in STEM-CTE programs to meet the needs of the community.
3. Community Engagement: Promote outreach efforts to enhance learning opportunities in the STEM areas.
4. Institutional Effectiveness: Enhance STEM-CTE programs by focusing on continuous improvement that is grounded in evidence-based assessment plans with an emphasis on teaching and program outcomes.

## Disciplines

- Architecture
- Auto body
- Computer-Aided Drafting Technology
- Automotive
- Computer Information Systems
- Construction Technology
- Computer Web Development
- Commercial and Residential Electrician
- Mathematics
- HVAC

## General Divisional Procedures

- Faculty should ask students to address you by your title and last name (Dr. Mr. Ms. - XXX). Professionalism is critical in our line of work.
- TSC leadership expects you to complete all position requirements. Recall your position description: attend the workplace regularly, report to work punctually and follow a work schedule to keep up with the demands of the worksite, which may be on campus or at an off-site location.
- Working hours may include evenings, holidays, or weekends depending on deadline requirements and special events.
- A positive attitude is expected while representing TSC on or off campus. It is imperative that you visit with the Department Chair if you have concerns. Communication within the division is not only expected but required. The Department Chair is available to support you and represent you. Once you have met with your Department Chair and you feel that your concern was not addressed, the Dean is available for support. Please work with the divisional AAs to set up an appointment with the Dean.
- TSC faculty and staff should have a unified front. We are a team.
- The Dean will conduct meetings with departmental chairs regularly during the academic year.
- Departmental Chairs will conduct meetings with department faculty regularly during the academic year.
- If faculty need additional meetings, please submit agenda items to the respective Department Chair for meeting consideration.
- Faculty should submit agenda items at least 48 hours in advance prior to departmental meetings.
- Follow your faculty duties specific to your program.
- Hold all classes according to your course syllabus and contact hours. A professor must be present in the classroom during the entire scheduled class time.
- Final exams must follow the institutional final exam schedule that is posted on the TSC website. You must obtain written Department Chair authorization if you need to deviate from the established schedule.
- Keep your office hours according to your course syllabus. Inform the divisional AA if you make a change in office hours. Full time faculty must hold five (5) office hours, which must be posted on the syllabus. Part time faculty must hold thirty (30) minutes of office time per section.
- Office hours and contact information should be posted on syllabus.
- STEM-CTE faculty must wear TSC ID cards while on campus.
- Faculty shall not use cell phones for personal use while class is in session.
- Faculty of Texas Southmost College are expected to conduct themselves professionally in all interactions with staff, students, colleagues, and the public. Professionalism includes both conduct and appearance. Clothing worn by faculty should be appropriately clean and in good repair and should be free of offensive slogans or images. This policy does not interfere with the need some faculty may have to wear specific uniforms or attire for their work conditions or setting. If you have a question about what is and is not appropriate to wear, please ask your Departmental Chair or Dean. If there is an issue regarding a faculty

member's clothing, the appropriate Dean or Departmental Chair may consult with that faculty member and decide which, if any, further steps will be taken.

- Prepare for all classes prior to conducting class – **do not** leave classroom/lab or send students to make copies for you during class time. It is your responsibility to make copies.
- Faculty is expected to use technology including electronic documents rather than making hardcopies whenever possible.
- Faculty should refrain from forwarding Department Chair and Dean emails to third parties.
- All faculty must check their TSC email daily, since this will be the main form of communication.
- The Dean's reception area is a place of business where many off campus visitors are often present. Please refrain from congregating in the reception area.
- Your divisional AA is your first line of communication. The divisional staff is here to help you with all your needs. Please come to your AA or department chair first before contacting individuals outside our division.
- Use your outlook calendars for deadlines. Faculty, staff, and administration must submit work in a timely and professional manner. If you foresee that you will not meet a deadline, please contact the Department Chair and/or Dean ahead of time so they may have enough reaction time.
- Faculty should share their outlook work calendar with the STEM-CTE AAs.
- Please note that STEM-CTE Personnel Photographs may be displayed on the TSC and STEM-CTE webpage, divisional board or used in divisional presentations. Please notify the STEM-CTE Dean in writing if you wish to refrain from participation.

## Departmental Procedures

### Faculty/Instructor Appraisal

The method below is used by Texas Southmost College to measure an instructor's productivity and professionalism for faculty teaching academic or technical programs and for adjunct faculty during a contract period of nine (9) or twelve (12) months a year. Full time faculty will be appraised by department chairs. Part time faculty will be appraised by full time faculty mentors. The following table summarizes the appraisal process:

Process	Description	Date of Completion
Performance Conference	First meeting between departmental chair and faculty to determine faculty member's performance expectations.	Fall Convocation Week
Instructional Observation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least one instructional observation must be conducted per rating period. The evaluator may choose to conduct more than one instructional observation if additional observations are needed to provide a fair and objective appraisal of the instructor's performance.</li> <li>2. The observation can occur during any week of the course/semester prior to the Evaluator- Instructor Final Evaluation Conference.</li> <li>3. The evaluator will become aware of the course objectives through the instructor's syllabus document and/or in consultation with the instructor before the visit.</li> </ol>	Fall term
Faculty Responsibilities	The Faculty Responsibilities Evaluation will be completed before the Evaluator-Instructor Final Evaluation Conference. Instructors may submit supporting documentation for Section A. Instructional Responsibilities B. Administrative Responsibilities and Section C. Faculty Responsibilities.	Spring
Student Appraisal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students have the opportunity to assess the quality and effectiveness of faculty instruction through on-line surveys conducted each semester during the time frame designated by the College.</li> <li>2. The Student Evaluation will be administered electronically through the College's Learning Management System and will be accessible to all enrolled TSC students during a time frame that may include, but is not limited to, the following schedule:</li> </ol>	Fall/Spring/ Summer

- 16 week semester - administered during the 14th–15th weeks
  - 10 week semester - administered during the 8th–9th weeks
  - 8 week semester - administered during the 7th week
  - 5 week semester - administered during the 4th week
3. To maintain fairness in the evaluation process, instructors may remind students about the Student Evaluation, but should not discuss its contents with any class prior to administration.
  4. Information Technology Services is responsible for processing the Student Evaluation forms. The evaluation summary will be provided to the instructor.
  5. Student Evaluation data will be included in the Final Conference Evaluation.

Final Appraisal Conference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A copy of the completed appraisal instrument will be given to the instructor before the Evaluator-Instructor Conference is scheduled.</li> <li>2. The deadline for the completion of all appraisal instruments is at least one week prior to the end of the course/semester.</li> <li>3. The evaluator will initiate the conference.</li> <li>4. Following the Evaluator-Instructor Final Evaluation Conference, the evaluator will provide the instructor with a copy of the complete Evaluation package.</li> </ol>	End of Spring Term
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### **Faculty Absences**

In case of an unforeseeable absence, the procedure is to call/email the divisional administrative assistant (cc: Department Chair). It is the instructor’s responsibility to contact students and post a virtual announcement. If the instructor is unable to contact students and/or post a virtual announcement, he/she may ask the administrative assistant to post a note on the classroom door. For planned absences (ex. work approved meetings), it is the responsibility of the instructor to inform students and/or plan for coverage from a TSC employee. Upon your return, complete a typed absence report form within the week you return to work. The absence report can be found on the TSC website under the Human Resources department. Complete and return form to administrative assistant. **Absence reports must be typed and completed by the instructor.** Policies and procedures governing faculty absences can be found at the following in the TSC Board Policy [DEC \(LOCAL\)](#).

### **Faculty Travel Requests**

Faculty wishing to travel to conferences must make requests to the Department Chair at least a month in advance. Full-time faculty are allocated \$1500 for travel for the academic year. The

request must contain the following information: conference registration cost, hotel cost, transportation cost (flight or mileage), dates of the conference, and the benefits to the College. Once approved, arrangements must be made as soon as possible.

Also, it is important that the faculty member makes arrangements for their classes during their absence. They must continue to take attendance, make assignments available via the Canvas platform, and make arrangements for a colleague to guest lecture or proctor an exam. All arrangements must be made prior to the faculty member's departure.

Any guest lectures or proctoring arrangements should be shared with the Department Chair and copied to the Dean and administrative assistant to ensure its fulfillment.

### **Assessment Data Collection and Submission**

Assessment is a critical activity for students, staff, faculty, and the institution. Assessment helps the institution maintain its accreditation. Faculty from each department are responsible for the following assessment data collections and submissions:

#### **Institutional Effectiveness Plans (IEPs)**

IEPs are developed by each college planning unit to address the effectiveness of programs and services. The IEPs serve to guide all employees in the design, implementation and changes in procedures and services based on the previous year's evaluation and assessment results. Results are reported on a yearly basis, typically at the end of spring term.

#### **Educational Program Outcome Plans (EPOPs)**

EPOPs are developed by the faculty to focus on skills students should have developed after completing a program of study. Assessment results are used by faculty to improve student learning and skills development within a program of study. Results are reported on a yearly basis, typically at the end of spring term.

#### **Student Outcomes Assessment Plans (SOAPs)**

SOAPs are developed by the faculty to focus on improving the effectiveness of teaching and student learning. The results of assessment and student outcomes are used to review and revise their SOAPs, with the ultimate goal of improving student learning. Results are reported on a semester basis, typically at the end of each academic term, including summer sessions.

### **Syllabi Availability for Subsequent Semesters**

Faculty must make sure that certain divisional descriptions are included on their syllabi, which is why faculty are provided with templates that include all required information. During the academic year, the syllabi for subsequent semesters are due on the following dates:

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Due date</b>	
	<b>Departmental Level</b>	<b>Divisional Level</b>
<b>Spring</b>	First Week of October	First Week of November
<b>Fall &amp; Summer</b>	First week of March	First week of April

### **Fall/Spring/Summer Course Schedule**

During the academic year, course schedules for subsequent semesters are due on the following dates:

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Due date</b>	
	<b>Departmental Level</b>	<b>Divisional Level</b>
<b>Spring</b>	First Week of September	First Week of September
<b>Fall &amp; Summer</b>	Spring Convocation	First Week of Spring Semester

### **Course Rotation and Day/Evening Rotation**

All faculty will rotate courses taught on a semester-to-semester basis to ensure every faculty member has an opportunity to teach each type of class offered by the division, especially with respect to accelerated courses, online and hybrid courses, and weekend courses. For example, if an instructor teaches accelerated courses in the fall term, they may not teach accelerated courses in the spring term.

Additionally, every instructor may rotate morning and evening schedules. Faculty may also be required to teach at least one evening course on a semi-regular basis. All faculty agreed to be available to teach days, evenings, and weekends when first hired. For every course that has at least two sections being offered, one of the sections must be offered in the evening.

### **Committee Assignments**

Faculty are expected to serve on committees at departmental, divisional, and institutional levels. Faculty will receive committee assignments at the beginning of each academic year. The assignments for the various committees will be decided by the following administrators:

- Department Chair: Program and Departmental Committees
- Division Dean: Divisional Committees
- Division Dean: Institutional Committees

### **Workloads**

Full-time faculty members shall allocate a minimum of 40 hours per week for teaching, preparation, office hours, and additional time consulting with students, professional development, committee work, and other service to the College District. Hours spent teaching overload classes shall not be included in the 40-hour minimum.

Full-time instructional faculty must teach 30 work units (WUs) if they have a nine-month contract during an academic year. Summer assignments do not count toward the 30 WUs requirement for faculty on nine-month contracts. Typically, faculty will teach 15 WUs in the fall and 15 WUs in the spring. Faculty teaching less than 15 WUs in a fall semester will be expected to make-up the workload deficiency in the spring semester within the academic year or with duties as appropriate. Faculty teaching more than 30 WUs per year will be paid for the appropriate overload assignment. For additional information, please refer to the TSC Board Policy [DJ \(LOCAL\)](#).

During the fall and spring semesters, all full-time faculty members shall be required to maintain at least five (5) scheduled office hours per week to be available to students for individual conferences. These office hours shall be posted for student access. The five (5) hours per week is in addition to the 30 work units for the nine-month academic year.

### **Departmental Meetings and Major Events Calendar**

At the beginning of every semester, meeting dates will be shared with faculty. Attendance to meetings is mandatory. Meetings will also be scheduled as needed.

Agenda items must be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled departmental meeting to the respective divisional administrative assistant. Meeting minutes will be taken by the respective divisional administrative assistant or designee.

### **Roster Verification**

All STEM-CTE faculty are required to verify the placement of their students in their classes. There are two measures used in placement, TSI scores and previous course history, as well as other cognitive and non-cognitive measures. Verification must take place during convocation week before the first day of class.

### **End of the Semester Reports**

Semester reports are due by the last week of the semester. Nevertheless, faculty are encouraged to submit their reports online through the faculty resources links available at:

<http://www.tsc.edu/index.php/faculty-and-staff/faculty-resources.html>

The report includes three categories:

1. College Service Activities: services include, but are not limited to, committee work, grants, curriculum redesign, development of new courses/programs, and sponsorship of student organizations.
2. Community Service Activities: services volunteered by individuals or an organization to benefit the community.
3. Professional Development: activities include, but are not limited to, maintaining membership/participates in professional organizations; earning course credit/pursuing advanced degree; and participating in workshops, seminars, institutes; etc.

### **Faculty Contracts**

Faculty contracts are signed when employment is accepted. Contracts are also signed when titles are changed. Contract renewals are usually available at the end of spring term, but administration has until the beginning of class to make contracts available. If a raise is approved by the Board of Trustees, a new contract is made available for faculty prior to the first day of the new fiscal year.

### **Budget Forecasts**

Departmental Budget Forecasts are due to Department Chairs by the last week of April of each academic year or when requested by the President. Budget forecasts will include requests for durable office equipment, instructional supplies, and travel to conferences.

### **Grades**

Timely grading and posting of grades is critical for students to know how they are faring in the course at any given moment. Timely and accurate grades will help students decide whether they need to work harder to earn a satisfactory grade, whether the student's performance will not be satisfactory so they must withdraw from the course, or whether they are performing as expected and will earn the final grade they expect to earn. Faculty must post grades on the Learning Management System in a timely manner. In addition, faculty must post final letter grades no later than 24 hours after the scheduled final exam. If a faculty member accidentally submits a wrong final course grade, a faculty member will complete and submit a Grade Change Form no later than thirty (30) days after the last class day, which is available in the TSC website under the Admissions department. Procedures regarding Grade Changes and Grade Grievances may also be found in the current [TSC Student Handbook](#).

### **Student Complaints**

Departmental chairs are expected to be the first contact for student complaints after the student meets with the faculty member in question. The chair can guide the student to the appropriate personnel based on the nature of the student complaint. Students are expected to complete a TSC Student Request for Conference with Department Chairs and submit to the divisional administrative assistant. All formal complaints must follow the steps outlined in the current [TSC Student Handbook](#).

### **Outside Employment**

Faculty will submit a written request to work outside of campus. The request must clearly state that the new employment does not interfere with your TSC duties and that there is no conflict of interest. The request will be forwarded to the Dean and President of TSC for review. Employment should not begin until approval is received. Please allow adequate time for review of request.

### **Departmental Chair Hours of Availability**

Departmental Chairs are available to meet with faculty and students during their office hours. Chairs are also available by appointment.