



ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND COACHES UPDATE

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES
CONFERENCES 2023**

Dr. David Stevens, Director of Academics



OVERALL DUTIES OF A COORDINATOR

Primary Role

- Liaison

Get Organized

- Calendars, Group Emails, Folders

Be a Team Leader

- Motivator, Cheerleader, Role Model

Communicate

- Colleagues, Students, Community

REGISTER AS A COORDINATOR



While on the academic homepage, please register as an Academic Coordinator.

A+ Coordinators (elem/middle school) register using the link on the A+ page.

The screenshot shows the UIL website's Academic page. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, About, Calendar, Contact, Shop, and UIL Portal. The main header features the UIL logo and a search bar. A horizontal menu lists various categories: ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, MUSIC, SPIRIT, MEDIA, and POLICY. The ACADEMICS menu is expanded, showing a list of links: Academics Home, Meets, Conferences, Contests, Stem, Theatre, Journalism, Speech & Debate, A+ (Grades 2-8), Resources, TILF, and Lone Star Cup. The A+ (Grades 2-8) link is highlighted. Below the menu is a large image of students cheering. To the right of the image is a 'Quick Links' section with links to Capital Conference Registration, UIL Essay Competitions, Invitational Meet Listings, Academic Study Materials, and Academics Calendar. Below this is a 'Contact Academics' button. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled 'The University Interscholastic League offers the most comprehensive program of competition in the nation. UIL Academics offers more activities than any other UIL division, with 29 contests for high school level and 20 A+ Academic contests for grades 2-8. More than half a million students participate in UIL academic contests each year.' Below this text are two links: 'Brief Overview of High School Contests' and 'Academic Contest Quick Reference Chart (updated Sept 2016)'. Further down, a paragraph states: 'These activities, which exist to complement the academic curriculum, are designed to motivate students as they acquire higher levels of knowledge, to challenge students to confront issues of importance, and to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of specific skills. Students are challenged to think, to learn, to grow, and to achieve much more than knowledge and comprehension.' A large red arrow with the text 'Link to Register' points from the 'A+ (Grades 2-8)' link in the menu to a box on the right side of the page. This box contains the text 'REGISTER AS HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC COORDINATOR (Coordinators for elementary and middle schools register under A+ Academics.)' and a red button labeled 'HS REGISTER HERE'. Below this box is another box labeled 'UIL ESSAY COMPETITIONS'.

Link to Register

REGISTER AS HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC COORDINATOR
(Coordinators for elementary and middle schools register under A+ Academics.)
HS REGISTER HERE

UIL ESSAY COMPETITIONS

HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC COORDINATOR'S MANUAL



<http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/resources/coordinators>



High School Academic Coordinator's Manual

For campus-level academic
coordinators, coaches and contest directors



CHANGES FOR 2023-24

Computer Applications Phase Out

- Last year of competition is spring 2024.

REC Foundation Robotics Pilot continues

SpeechWire adds CX and OAP for entry

Six entries for team events

Scoring point change in Current Issues & Events

Expanding conferences in Theatrical Design (and Film)

3A (1A-3A), 4A, 5A, 6A



ENTERING SIX STUDENTS

Four or Six

- Each school may enter as many as **SIX** individuals in the district meet, or a maximum of **FOUR** individuals with District Executive Committee approval

Contests Impacted

- This change applies only to high school Accounting, Calculator Applications, Computer Science, Current Issues and Events, Literary Criticism, Mathematics, Number Sense, Social Studies, and Spelling and Vocabulary

Advancement Structure

- The sum of the top three overall scores from each school constitutes the team score for the school, with the fourth highest scoring member serving as the tiebreaker.
- All four members of first place or wild card teams advance to the next level of competition.
- All team members who qualify to regional or state will also compete for individual honors.



INTERNET IN DEBATE

Events

- Allows the use of the Internet during Cross-Examination Debate and Lincoln Douglas Debate competition rounds within the parameters set forth in the guidelines

Details

- For evidence retrieval and sharing with opponents and judges participating in the round
- Prohibits any communication outside the round or with audience members.
- Internet connectivity would be the responsibility of the competitor and not the host site.



TECHNOLOGY IN ACADEMIC EVENTS

Artificial Intelligence

- ChatGPT and other forms of AI are not allowed in UIL academic events

WiFi/Internet

Printers in contests

Digital versions of contest materials



ITEMS CURRENTLY MONITORING

Spelling and Vocabulary Computer Use

Requirement for students to print a paper from a personal computer in writing events

Allow internet use in extemporaneous speaking

Expand Divisions (Conferences) for Essay Contests, and Robotics

VITAL CONTEST RESOURCES

These are the “must-haves” for UIL competition:

- Website
- Contest Handbooks
- Study Materials





UIL WEBSITE AND ACADEMICS HOMEPAGE

<http://www.uil texas.org/academics>

The screenshot shows the UIL website's Academics homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, About, Calendar, Contact, Shop, and UIL Portal. Below this is a dark blue header with the UIL logo and the text "University Interscholastic League". To the right of the logo are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, RSS, and Email, along with a search bar.

The main navigation bar is dark blue and contains the following tabs: ACADEMICS (with a minus sign), ATHLETICS (with a plus sign), MUSIC (with a plus sign), SPIRIT (with a plus sign), MEDIA (with a plus sign), and POLICY (with a plus sign). A red arrow labeled "TABS" points to the ACADEMICS tab.

Below the navigation bar, the page content is divided into two columns. The left column has a breadcrumb trail "UIL Home > Academics" and a large heading "Academic". Below the heading is a list of links: Academics Home, Meets, Conferences, Contests, Stem, Theatre, Journalism, Speech & Debate, A+ (Grades 2-8), Resources, TILF, and Lone Star Cup. A red bracket groups the "Contests", "Stem", "Theatre", and "Journalism" links, with a red arrow labeled "Contests grouped by area" pointing to the bracket.

The right column features a "Quick Links" section with the following links: CAPITAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION, UIL ESSAY COMPETITIONS, INVITATIONAL MEET LISTINGS, ACADEMIC STUDY MATERIALS, and ACADEMICS CALENDAR (with a calendar icon). Below these links is a button labeled "Contact Academics".



IMPORTANT INFO ON EACH EVENT WEBPAGE

SOCIAL STUDIES, LITERARY CRITICISM

- Required reading lists

CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS

- Date ranges for tests

SPELLING

- Word Power

SCIENCE

- Physics Novel
- Memos from the Contest Directors



INVITATIONAL MEETS

Practice Meets for academic activities

Host schools charge entry fees

Invitational meets are posted a

<http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/invitational-meets>

The screenshot shows the UIL Academics website navigation menu. The menu is organized into three main categories: ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, and MUSIC. Under ACADEMICS, there is a sub-menu with links for Meets, Conferences, Contests, Stem, Theatre, Journalism, Speech & Debate, A+ (Grades 2-8), and Resources. Under ATHLETICS, there is a sub-menu with links for Meet Officials, Invitational Meets, District Meets, Regional Meets, State Meet, and Academic Meet Entry System. A red arrow points to the 'Invitational Meets' link in the ATHLETICS sub-menu.

ACADEMICS –	ATHLETICS +	MUSIC +
Academics Home	Meets and Tournaments	
Meets –	Meet Officials	
Conferences +	Invitational Meets	
Contests +	District Meets	
Stem +	Regional Meets	
Theatre +	State Meet	
Journalism +	Academic Meet Entry System	
Speech & Debate +		
A+ (Grades 2-8) +		
Resources +		



PLANNING MEETINGS

District Organizational Meeting

- Typically Aug or Sept
- Invite all schools and receive a response
- Include OAP directors and Debate coaches in planning meeting
- Consider OAP dates
 - Bi-district can take place until Thursday of district week
 - Area OAP meets are held the 2nd week of district speech
- Recommend dates and locations to the District Executive Committee



ACADEMIC MEET DETERMINATIONS

Gather contact information for each coordinator, debate, one-act play of the schools.

Sign up contest directors for each event, assistants, spelling monitors, etc.

Determine entry deadline

Vote on following the Conflict Pattern

Determine procedure/allowance for late entries

Substitutes deadline

Spelling pronouncer be live or audio file

Writing judge hiring criteria and who will do that



SPEECH DEBATE DETERMINATIONS

Hire a speech/debate director, CX director

Judge criteria and who will hire

Poetry and Prose documentation check

Will debate brackets be broken

Set CX entry deadline

Open or closed tab room

ONE-ACT PLAY DETERMINATIONS

Location/Date

Contest Manager/Site Crew

NO Earlier than Aug. 15:

- *Draw for performance order*
- *Contact Judges*

Bi-District Organization and Dates



DISTRICT DATES

- Events with confidential material must be held during the one week designated.
- Speech events MAY be held the 2nd week. Informative and Persuasive included.
- One-Act Play has a certification deadline and may be held anytime before that date.

2023-24

SPRING MEET DATES

April 1-6	Academic District Week and Speech Week 1
April 8-13	Speech Week 2 and Area OAP
April 24-27	OAP Regional
April 26-27	Academic/Speech Regional
May 13-15	Academic/Speech and OAP State
May 16-17	Theatrical Design State



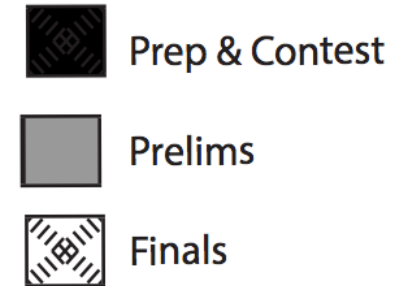
ACADEMIC CONFLICT PATTERN

Restricts the number of contests in the academic meet
Mandated at Region and State, even if the schedule allows
Highly encouraged at the District level



Academic Conflict Pattern

		Set 1 3 Hours					Set 2 2.5 Hours					Set 3 2 Hours					Set 4 2.5 Hours				
Academics	Accounting																				
	Computer App.																				
	Current I & E																				
	Literary Criticism																				
	Ready Writing																				
	Social Studies																				
STEM	Spelling																				
	Calculator App.																				
	Computer Sci.																				
	Mathematics																				
	Number Sense																				
	Science																				
Journalism	Copy Editing																				
	Editorial																				
	Feature																				
	Headline																				
	News																				
	Speech & Debate	Informative																			
Lincoln Douglas																					
Persuasive																					
Poetry																					
Prose																					



The conflict pattern is not mandated at district, but it will be honored at all regional and state meets.

Regional and state schedules will not be modified to allow participation in conflicting events.

ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM

SpeechWire Update

Adding OAP and CX Debate



ENTRIES FOR REGION AND STATE

- Students are advanced through the Online Entry System
- District results constitutes the region entry
- Region results constitutes the state entry
- After the District Meet, individual school entry is unnecessary



SUBSTITUTIONS

At District:

- **Substitutes are allowed to replace a no-show student already listed on the entry**
- **Sub can be another certified eligible student listed on the academic or one-act play eligibility**
- **Any eligible student can sub by submitting the substitution form found on the UIL website certifying student's eligibility**

New Form, located on page 44 of the Academic Coordinator's Handbook.



UIL ACADEMIC/OAP CONTEST SUBSTITUTE ELIGIBILITY FORM

SEND A COPY TO EACH AFFECTED CONTEST DIRECTOR.

SUBSTITUTIONS AND LATE ENTRIES

See Section 903 in the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*. This form must be presented to the contest director before the contest begins. At the conclusion of the meet, the contest director must submit the substitution form or letters to the meet director to be filed with the school's original online entry information. Late entries will only be made if approved according to Section 903 for district competition or Section 904 for regional competition.

School _____
School District _____ UIL Conference _____ A UIL District # _____
Level for Substitution: _____ Zone _____ District _____ Bi-District _____ Area _____ Region _____ State _____

FOR ACADEMICS

In the designated contest an ORIGINAL entry will be replaced by the following SUBSTITUTE:

CONTEST	ORIGINAL STUDENT	SUBSTITUTE STUDENT
_____	_____	_____

FOR OAP

Area Number _____ Region Number _____	
ORIGINAL STUDENT	ROLE PLAYED OR CREW OR ALTERNATE
_____	_____
SUBSTITUTE STUDENT	ROLE PLAYED OR CREW OR ALTERNATE
_____	_____

AUTHORIZATION

As the principal or designated administrator, I certify that the student above is eligible to compete in the contest named in accordance with Subchapter M of the *Constitution and Contest Rules*.

Designated Administrator Signature

Date



SUBSTITUTIONS

At Region and State

- **Can be any eligible student from the school – no requirement they participated or been listed on the district entry**
- **Substitutions are only allowed only in team events, and only if an original qualifying contestant cannot compete.**
- **Must have sub form**
- **Only one substitute allowed per team**



VERIFICATION AND RESULTS

All academic events shall have a verification period conducted according to the contest handbook.

CRITICAL for catching any errors prior to announcing official results

Results are tentative until following verification.

After results are declared official, awards may be distributed



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Student Activities Conferences

- September 9: UT Permian Basin, Odessa
- September 23: UT Austin
- October 21: Walnut Grove HS, Prosper ISD
- November 4: TAMU-Corpus Christi

Capital Conference

- Need feedback for 2024. Survey online.



STAYING SUCCESSFUL

Keep recruiting and talking up the good stuff

As interest grows, fill every slot on the entry form

Set goals

Communicate, cheer, advocate

Continually promote and sell the program



TILF SCHOLARSHIPS

Who can apply?

- Must have competed at the UIL Academic State Meet **any year of their high school career** (CX debaters must have advanced to the second day of competition)
- OR must be a state finalist in the Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition, the Latino History Essay Competition, Film or the Theatrical Design Contest
- OR must be a team member of Robotics team placing in the top ten at the state contest

Contact: Trudy Richards, Executive Director
trichards@tilfoundation.org or www.tilfoundation.org



THE ESSENTIALS

Recruit coaches and students

Order study materials

Integrate contests into curriculum

Attend training opportunities

- SACs, Invitational Meets, Capital Conference

Work with athletic coaches, music directors and prom organizers to avoid conflicts.

Celebrate successes



KNOW THE RULES

Review UIL Website and check it regularly

www.uiltexas.org/academics

Review the *Academic Coordinator's Manual*

Become familiar with the *UIL Constitution & Contest Rules*

Get a copy of each of the event handbooks

Network locally and statewide

Ask the UIL staff



CONTACT UIL STAFF

UIL Phone Number: 512-471-5883

David Stevens (All Events)
dstevens@uiltexas.org

Jana Riggins (Speech, Debate, Congress)
jriggins@uiltexas.org

David Trussell (Computer Science, Math, Science, Calculator,
Number Sense, Robotics)
dtrussell@uiltexas.org

Lisa Parker (Essay Contests, A+ Academics)
lparker@uiltexas.org

Alyssa Boehringer (Journalism-Copy Editing, Headline, Feature,
News, Editorial, ILPC)
aboehringer@uiltexas.org

Paula Rodriguez (One-Act Play, Theatrical Design, Film)
prodriguez@uiltexas.org