

Enhancing Student Performance through Participation in UIL Academics

The University Interscholastic League offers the most comprehensive literary and academic competition in the nation. The program provides more than any other UIL division in terms of activities, with 23 high school and 19 elementary and junior high contests. More than a half million students participate in UIL academic events.

These activities, which exist to complement the academic curriculum, are designed to motivate students as they acquire higher levels of knowledge, to encourage students to confront issues of importance, and to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of specific skills. Students are challenged to think critically, exhibiting much more than comprehension. For instance, they must analyze - seeing patterns and recognizing hidden meanings, synthesize – generalizing from facts and drawing conclusions, and evaluate – assessing the value of evidence and discriminating between ideas.

Participation in UIL Academic Competition provides students –

With Enhanced Student Achievement:

- Integration of neurological functions which aid learning and performance in other subject areas
- Access to a variety of human insights which promote the use of higher order thinking skills
- Enrichment of the learning environment
- Development of a positive emotional response to learning
- Motivation for learning and improvement of overall academic performance

With Practical Training for the Future:

- Preparation for College – Competition develops higher-level thinking, organization of thoughts and information, and effective communication with others.
- Training for Careers – Numerous studies indicate that students who have been involved in extracurricular events have higher job success.
- Life Skills – Participation in extracurricular events builds a strong foundation for life-long learning and the development of social skills.
- Confidence – Involvement in academic contests builds poise and assurance, as well as the ability to handle stressful conditions.
- Fun – Competition allows students to interact with others, establish lasting friendships, and enjoy the thrill of learning.

With Scholarship Opportunities:

- The Texas Interscholastic League Foundation has given over \$21 million since 1954 to more than 15,000 students who have competed in the **UIL Academic State Meet**.
- The TILF has over \$7 million in endowed funds and receives direct scholarship grants each year of more than \$800,000 from foundations, individuals and corporate sponsors throughout the state.
- During a typical academic year, TILF will disburse more than \$1 million to more than 600 students attending colleges and universities throughout Texas. While not all applicants can be awarded a scholarship at this time, the TILF board continues to pursue additional funding.
- Participation in UIL Academic competition enhances both college entrance and scholarship applications by graduating high school seniors.

With Advanced Curriculum:

To demonstrate how directly UIL academic activities complement the Texas curriculum, the contests have been correlated to the Advanced Placement Program, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Both the AP Program and the IB Program are widely recognized by the world's leading universities. What many people do not realize is the respect that UIL Academics garners from the same institutions. UIL winners have received scholarships to such prestigious universities as MIT, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Columbia and other noteworthy colleges. In addition, UIL Academic competitors excel scholastically statewide because the events enhance academic learning in the classroom. In short, academic competition both matches and supplements the TEKS.

Texas University Interscholastic League

Program: Advanced Placement

The Advanced Placement Program and UIL Academic Competition share many of the same goals for preparing students for the future. UIL enriches Advanced Placement work and many AP students excel in the competitive events.

Advanced Placement Goals

Contest Goals

Gain the edge in college preparation:

- Get a head start on college-level work.
- Improve writing skills and sharpen problem-solving techniques.
- Develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work.

Gain the edge in college preparation:

- Compete in contests which require college-level work.
- Develop writing and communication skills in many of the contests.
- Use problem-solving techniques in the contests.
- Devote many hours of study outside the school curriculum, thus enhancing study capabilities.

Stand out in the college admissions process:

- Demonstrate maturity and readiness for college.
- Show willingness to push to the limit.
- Emphasize commitment to academic excellence.

Stand out in the college admissions process:

- Through dedication to academic contest participation, demonstrate commitment to excellence.
- Go above and beyond the regular school hours to work on academic success.
- Exemplify academic maturity and commitment to learning.

Broaden intellectual horizons:

- Explore the world from a variety of perspectives, most importantly a personal one.
- Study subjects in greater depth and detail.
- Assume the responsibility of personal reasoning, analyzing, and understanding.

Broaden intellectual horizons:

- Learn about local, state, national, and international issues in many of the contests.
- Communicate a variety of perspectives, including personal opinions and choices.
- Delve into subjects in much more depth and detail.
- Become a self-motivated learner.
- Use reasoning, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluation skills to promote understanding.

<p><u>Course Offerings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Science – Biology, Chemistry, Physics (B & C). -Mathematics – Calculus. -Computer Science (A &AB). -Language Arts – English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition. Social Studies – U.S. History, European History, World History, Human Geography, Government and Politics (Comparative & U.S.), Economics (Macro & Micro). 	<p><u>Contest Offerings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Science – Biology, Chemistry, Physics. -Mathematics – Number Sense, Math, Calculator. -Computer Science. -Language Arts – Ready Writing, Literary Criticism, Spelling & Vocabulary, Oral Interpretation of Prose & Poetry, One Act Play, Journalism. Social Studies – Social Studies, Current Issues & Events, Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Journalism, Accounting.
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Texas University Interscholastic League

Program: International Baccalaureate Diploma

Both the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and UIL Academic Competition challenge students with intense studies to prepare them for college and life. UIL enriches International Baccalaureate work and many IB students excel in the competitive events.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

Contest Knowledge and Skills

Prepare students for college:

- Ask challenging questions.
- Learn how to learn.
- Solve problems.
- Approach learning with an open mind but evaluative spirit.

Prepare students for college:

- Compete in contests which require college-level work.
- Investigate, research, ask questions and evaluate findings.
- Use problem-solving techniques in the contests.
- Devote many hours of study outside the school curriculum, thus enhancing study capabilities.

Develop the ability to communicate:

- Write an extended essay and use research, evaluation, and writing skills.
- Understand and communicate with people from other countries and cultures.
- Develop a strong sense of personal identity and culture.

Develop the ability to communicate:

- Develop writing and communication skills in many of the contests.
- Investigate and communicate information and ideas.
- Explore personal choices about issues and events.

Appreciate the theory of knowledge:

- Explore the nature of knowledge across disciplines.
- Encourage appreciation of other cultural perspectives.

Appreciate the theory of knowledge:

- Learn about other cultures, cities, states and countries.
- Take a holistic view of knowledge to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate ideas.

Explore artistic pursuits:

- Enroll in Art and Humanities courses.
- Participate in artistic endeavors and acquire an appreciation for the arts.

Explore artistic pursuits:

- Learn and appreciate the arts in many of the contests, including theatre, music, and art.
- Participate in theatrical productions, literary readings, music recitals, artistic creations and other opportunities.

<p><u>Foster student awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Learn about the community.-Serve the community.	<p><u>Foster student awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Learn about community issues, make personal decisions, and communicate the choices through speeches or essays.
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