

The University of Texas at San Antonio

UTSA Rowdy Corps

Center for Civic Engagement

Frequently Asked Questions for Community Partners

What is Rowdy Corps?

Rowdy Corps is a Community-Based College Work-Study Program that aims to unite the University of Texas at San Antonio with the surrounding nonprofit community. Developed in 2015, the program provides the opportunity for work-study eligible UTSA students interested in furthering civic engagement to commit their time and federally designated funds towards positions at select agencies outside of the university.

How do I become a Rowdy Corps partner?

Your acceptance as a Rowdy Corps partner is based on the needs, mission statement, and goals expressed by your agency via the community partner application provided by the UTSA Center for Civic Engagement.

Who supervises Rowdy Corps?

The UTSA Center for Civic Engagement supervises Rowdy Corps members and facilitates open communication between the university and community partners.

What sort of time commitment is required from a Rowdy Corps member?

As long as the student maintains all requirements necessary for federal work-study eligibility, they should be expected to remain in the program for an entire academic school year.

However, a member who successfully completes the fall semester may decide not to return for the spring semester for whatever reason. Please note that at any time during a member's tenure in the program, the UTSA Center for Civic Engagement may dismiss them due to failure to comply with the requirements for federal work-study funds or due to complaints from the host agency.

How many hours is a Rowdy Corps member allowed to work?

Per federal college work-study guidelines, a work-study funded position cannot work more than 40 hours per week, eight hours a day. Rowdy Corps members will be awarded about 225 hours of work-study per semester, which is approximately 15 hours a week. In order to partner with the Rowdy Corps program, we ask that your agency provide an adequate amount of hours per week so that our students may be able to successfully complete their total work-study hours before the end of the semester.

Is there a GPA requirement to join Rowdy Corps?

Yes, there is a GPA requirement for Rowdy Corps members to acquire and maintain membership within the program. Because Rowdy Corps is funded through the federal college work-study program, the GPA requirement is set according to federal guidelines. Currently, a student must have a minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.

Who signs the student worker's timesheets?

The Center for Civic Engagement Program Director will "sign" student timesheets via the UTSA online system, however agency site supervisors will be responsible for verifying weekly hour logs submitted by Rowdy Corps members.

Who decides the work schedule of the Rowdy Corps member?

The schedule of the Rowdy Corps member will be negotiated between the site supervisor of his or her partner agency and the student. We ask that community partners be mindful of Rowdy Corps member's academic commitments and be open to a flexible work schedule.

Will the Rowdy Corps member be required to participate in other activities?

Yes, he or she will be required to attend mandatory Rowdy Corps meetings and reflection sessions throughout the academic school year. All community partners will receive a schedule of these events prior to receiving a work-study placement, so that they may ensure that the member's work schedule allows for meeting attendance.

How are organization/agency placements determined?

Once student applications to participate in Rowdy Corps have been reviewed and accepted, we allow the student to review a list of participating community partners and select the agencies

they are most interested in. After student selections are made, interviews are scheduled with agency site supervisors to determine the quality of fit.

What will the Rowdy Corps member be doing at my organization/agency?

The UTSA Center for Civic Engagement requires that all potential community partners provide a defined job description when applying to participate with the Rowdy Corps program. The program is intended to expand student's civic knowledge and directly engage them with the San Antonio community, so we ask that you assign duties that allow for hands on experience with your organization's mission and goals.

What is the role of the site supervisor?

The site supervisor will receive training at the beginning of the academic year to provide oversight of Rowdy Corps members at their respective agencies. Site supervisors will be responsible for insuring that members fulfill their agency/organization designated responsibilities and time commitment to the program. Supervisors will also be responsible for verifying Rowdy Corps time logs via signature.

What if a Rowdy Corps member has an emergency situation that will take time away from their commitment to the program?

Emergencies can and do come up. In the event that a Rowdy Corps member finds themselves unable to fulfill the components of their contract with the Center for Civic Engagement, they must discuss with their host sites ways in which to remedy time that will be lost.

Who do I contact for more information?

For more information you may contact the Center for Civic Engagement Program Director, Maria Alejandro at maria.alejandro@utsa.edu and (210) 458-2658. You may also contact the Center for Civic Engagement Program Coordinator, Steven Maldonado at steven.maldonado@utsa.edu and (210) 458-2660.



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