

How Western Texas College Bolsters Enrollment Beyond Its Rural Location

Filling Empty Seats and Offering Dual Enrollment



COURSE SHARING CHAMPION

Alicia Anderson
Director of Dual Credit

Western Texas College (WTC) is committed to excellence and challenges students to reach their full potential. WTC understands the difficulties faced by rural areas, including local, state, and federal funding disparities, and attracting students. Western Texas College began offering online courses in the late 90s and started course sharing in January 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted enrollment numbers, especially for rural schools like WTC. With the existing course sharing arrangement through Acadeum, WTC saw an opportunity to increase its online enrollment to compensate for the losses from the pandemic. The positive experiences, convenience, and streamlined workload increased faculty buy-in.

WTC Fast Facts



- Snyder, Texas
- 10+ academic departments
- 2,000 + college students impacted since Jan 2020



Western Texas College has also successfully incorporated dual enrollment opportunities into its programs. The decision to work with high school students involved open-mindedness on the part of the college administration. They addressed specific barriers related to Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements and developed an innovative approach to handling the differences between regular dual credit and online high school students. By listing high school students as non-degree seeking, they provided more flexibility to students looking to take a course or two and explore their interests. Through course sharing and leveraging the Acadeum network, the college has expanded dual enrollment opportunities and provides quality online education to students in rural areas across the country.

“Part of helping students to succeed is getting faculty buy-in and being able to engage online with students.”

- Alicia Anderson

Expanding STEM Access

Through its partnership with DigiTex, Western Texas College has gained a reputation for providing quality STEM courses and online labs that are not readily available at many community colleges. DigiTex focuses on expanding access to Texas students. Through a Greater Texas Foundation grant project, WTC offers STEM courses to other rural institutions and ensures every learner in the state has access to in-demand courses, no matter where they live. The college has expanded its capabilities by offering a wide range of courses, including math with differential equations and linear algebra. Students and instructors have expressed satisfaction with the courses offered through Acadeum, further enhancing the college's reputation.

800+

high school
students impacted
in one year

“We are in a rural location, far from any four-year institution, and so we understand the challenges for rural education. We are also continuously working to grow our outreach, and Acadeum helps us do that.”

- Alicia Anderson

Western Texas College utilizes course sharing
to bolster enrollment beyond its rural location
by:

- + Increasing access to in-demand STEM courses and labs
- + Gaining faculty buy-in with convenience and streamlined workload
- + Incorporating dual enrollment opportunities
- + Attracting new populations of high school learners