



ACADEMIC COORDINATORS AND COACHES UPDATE

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ACADEMIC COORDINATOR INFORMATION PACKET



UIL Home > Academics

Academics Home

- Meets +
- Conferences +
- Contests +
- STEM +
- Theatre +
- Journalism +
- Speech & Debate +
- A+ (Grades 2-8) +
- Resources -
 - General Academic Information
 - Handbooks & Manuals for Academic Contests
 - Study Materials
 - Academic Coordinator Resources
 - Forms
 - Alignments
 - Videos
- TILF
- Lone Star Cup

Academi

Acad. Coord Resources

The University Interscholastic League offers the most comprehensive program of academic competition in

RESOURCES & FORMS

Overview

General Academic Information

Handbooks & Manuals for Academic Contests

Study Materials

Academic Coordinator Resources

- Academic Coordinators Checklist
- Motivating Students for Academic Coordinators
- Preparing a Budget for

Academic Coordinator Resources

[Academic Coordinator Information Packet- August 23-24](#) 

Academic Coordinator's Manual

One of the most valuable resources is the Academic Coordinator's Manual, designed to expedite the coordination process by putting the most often-needed information, forms and materials at the coordinator's fingertips. One of the coordinator's biggest jobs is to act as a resource person for UIL materials, rules and procedures.

Coordinators can (and should) photocopy any of the materials in this manual and distribute them to anyone that might be interested.

▶ [Download the Academic Coordinator's Manual](#)

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 interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Calendar, Contact, Shop, and UIL Portal. Below this is the UIL logo and a search bar. A main navigation bar contains categories: ACADEMICS -, ATHLETICS +, MUSIC +, SPIRIT +, MEDIA +, and POLICY +. The Academics section is expanded, showing a list of activities: Academics Home, Meets, Conferences, Contests, Stem, Theatre, Journalism, Speech & Debate, A+ (Grades 2-8), Resources, TILF, and Lone Star Cup. A red arrow points from the text 'Link to Register' to the 'A+ (Grades 2-8)' link in the menu. On the right side, there is a 'Quick Links' section with several links: 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 right, there is a box titled 'REGISTER AS HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC COORDINATOR' with a sub-note '(Coordinators for elementary and middle schools register under A+ Academics.)' and a red button labeled 'HS REGISTER HERE'. Below this box is a link for 'UIL ESSAY COMPETITIONS'. At the bottom left, there is a paragraph of text about the UIL program and a list of links: 'Brief Overview of High School Contests' and 'Academic Contest Quick Reference Chart (updated Sept 2016)'. Below this list is another paragraph of text about the activities.

The University Interscholastic League offers the most comprehensive program of interscholastic competition in the nation. UIL Academics offers more activities than any other UIL division, with 29 contests at the 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.

- [Brief Overview of High School Contests](#)
- [Academic Contest Quick Reference Chart \(updated Sept 2016\)](#)

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 demonstrate mastery of specific skills, and to demonstrate much more than knowledge and comprehension.

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 2024-25

Free Study Materials

Computer Applications eliminated

REC Foundation Robotics sanctioned

Increase to five entries in Congress

Middle School Theatrical Design pilot

Continuing—

- **Scoring point change in Current Issues & Events**
- **Six Entries Update**

ITEMS CURRENTLY MONITORING



Developing a Drone competition

Allowing students to compete in both CX and LD Debate

Spelling and Vocabulary Computer Use

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

Allowing internet use in extemporaneous speaking

Expanding Divisions (Conferences) for Essay Contests, and Robotics

STUDY MATERIALS



Contest Study Packets

- 2023 and 2024 are now being provided at **NO COST**.
- They are available in digital, downloadable format from the website
- More contest materials will be added for previous years

The image shows a screenshot of the UIL website's navigation menu. The menu is a dark blue sidebar with white text. The 'Study Materials' option is highlighted in a lighter blue, and a large red arrow points to it from the right. Other menu items include 'Academics Home', 'Meets', 'Conferences', 'Contests', 'STEM', 'Theatre', 'Journalism', 'Speech & Debate', 'A+ (Grades 2-8)', 'Resources', 'TILF', and 'Lone Star Cup'. The background of the website is partially visible, showing various contest categories like 'High School Accounting' and 'Computer Applications'.

ENTERING SIX STUDENTS

1/3



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.

ENTERING SIX STUDENTS

2/3



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.
 - For Current Issues & Events and Social Studies, the objective scores (not including the essay scores) will be used to determine the four advancing team members.
 - For Computer Science, written exam scores will be used to determine the four advancing team members. Regardless of the number of entries, exactly three team members participate in the hands-on programming session. The coach determines which three contestants from among the qualifying team members participate in programming.

ENTERING SIX STUDENTS

3/3



Tiebreaking Procedures for Determining Team Members

- In districts using the six-entry option, ties shall be broken in contests with existing tiebreaker procedures to determine the four team members for first- and second-place teams.
- If a tie still exists after all tiebreaking procedures have been followed, then the tie cannot be broken and those involved in the tie advance. Tiebreaking procedures are included in the handbook for each contest.
- If tiebreaking procedures were not followed, the coach will be contacted to break the tie before the next competition.



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.

VITAL CONTEST RESOURCES

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

- Website
- Contest Handbooks
- Study Materials



UIL WEBSITE AND ACADEMICS HOMEPAGE



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

The screenshot shows the UIL website's Academics homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Calendar, Contact, Shop, and UIL Portal. Below this is the UIL logo and the text 'University Interscholastic League'. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main navigation menu includes links for ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, MUSIC, SPIRIT, MEDIA, and POLICY. The ACADEMICS link is expanded, showing a dropdown menu with the following items: Academics Home, Meets, Conferences, Contests, Stem, Theatre, Journalism, Speech & Debate, A+ (Grades 2-8), Resources, TILF, and Lone Star Cup. A red arrow labeled 'TABS' points to the ACADEMICS link in the main navigation. Another red arrow labeled 'Contests grouped by area' points to the 'Contests' item in the dropdown menu. A red bracket is drawn around the 'Contests' item. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Quick Links' section with the following links: CAPITAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION, UIL ESSAY COMPETITIONS, INVITATIONAL MEET LISTINGS, ACADEMIC STUDY MATERIALS, and ACADEMICS CALENDAR. A 'Contact Academics' button is located at the bottom of the Quick Links section. The background of the page features a photograph of students in a huddle.



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 navigation menu for the UIL Academics website. The menu is organized into three main categories: ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, and MUSIC. Under the ACADEMICS category, the following items are listed: Academics Home, Meets, Conferences, Contests, Stem, Theatre, Journalism, Speech & Debate, A+ (Grades 2-8), and Resources. Under the ATHLETICS category, the following items are listed: Meets and Tournaments, Meet Officials, Invitational Meets, District Meets, Regional Meets, and State Meet. Under the MUSIC category, the following item is listed: Academic Meet Entry System. A red arrow points from the top right towards the 'Invitational Meets' link in the ATHLETICS section.

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		



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.

2024-25

SPRING MEET DATES

March 24-29	Academic District Week and Speech Week 1
Mar 31-April 5	Speech Week 2 and Area OAP
April 3	Bi-District OAP Certification
April 23-26	OAP Regional
April 25-26	Academic/Speech Regional
May 12-14	1A-3A* OAP State
May 15-16	Theatrical Design State
May 19-21	Academic/Speech and 4A-6A* OAP State

* Tentative



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Student Activities Conferences

Capital Conference 2025

- Sept 7 Tyler Junior College, Tyler
- Sept 14 Lone Star College-North Harris, Houston
- Oct 5 Texas Tech University, Lubbock
- Nov 2 University of Texas at Austin

Capital Conference 2025

- Need feedback for 2025. Survey online.

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



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



CONTACT UIL STAFF

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Jana Riggins (Speech, Debate, Congress)

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Lisa Parker (Essay Contests, A+ Academics)

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Alyssa Boehringer (Journalism-Copy Editing, Headline, Feature, News, Editorial, ILPC)

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Paula Rodriguez (One-Act Play, Theatrical Design, Film)

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