

# FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF UNDOCUMENTED, MEXICAN-ORIGIN, AND FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS AT TEXAS STATE

Honors Student: Beatriz Gomez

Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Hawkins

This exploratory study will use a mixed methodology to examine the factors that influence academic success and the personal experience of undocumented, Mexican-origin, and first-generation university students attending Texas State. Descriptive quantitative data from the Texas State Fact Book will generate a profile of this student group. Qualitative data will be collected through semi-structured interviews involving undergraduate students (n=15) and selected faculty, administrators, and staff (n=10). Student participants will be recruited using a snowball sampling method. The purpose of this study is to determine what factors, or interaction of factors, contribute to a high quality experience while attend Texas State and to academic success. This study is important since it appears that this population has not been studied and is also facing significant challenges in the current social, political, and economic climate in the U.S., including immigration reform and failure to implement the Dream Act.

**UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM  
THESIS APPLICATION**

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Initial title of proposed Honors Thesis

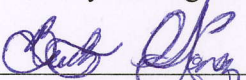
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Briefly describe your proposed thesis in 3-5 sentences

see attached

Semester & year of enrollment in Honors 4390B: Spring 2011

Semester & year of graduation: Spring 2011

  
Signature

Approved:

Heath P. Galloway C. Hawkins 1/20/11  
Director, University Honors Program Honors Thesis Supervisor/Date

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Date

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Second Reader/Date