



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE

MARTIN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

2025 SGA Election Rules Packet

Campus Centers

Please contact the Elections Commissioner with any questions.
Ethan Bell - Email: ebell27@ut.utm.edu

Important Dates and Deadlines for the 2025 SGA Elections

- **Monday, March 3rd, 2025** – Preliminary Party Information Due
 - Deadline for submitting preliminary party information (party name and chairperson). This information must be emailed to elections commissioner ebell27@ut.utm.edu.
- **Wednesday, March 5th, 2025** - Constitution Test Must Be Completed
 - By 5pm on this date, the SGA Constitution test must be completed.
 - **It can be accessed at**
 - **<https://runway.utm.edu/submitter/form/start/669877>**
- **Friday, March 7th, 2025, 5:00pm**
Application, Petition, and Party Information Due
 - Deadline for the completion of the online election application and petition (25 signatures for senator and 50 for Executive Council). The petition form must be printed, completed, and then uploaded as part of the online application process.
 - Each candidate must have successfully passed the constitution test.
 - Party lists, biographies, platforms, and photos for executive candidates are due to the elections commissioner by 5pm to the Elections Commissioner via email (ebell27@ut.utm.edu).
 - **The online application, constitution test, and petition form can be found at <https://liveutk.sharepoint.com/sites/UTMStudentGovernmentAssociation>.**
- **Tuesday, March 11th, 2025** - Campaign Period Opens
 - Candidates may begin distributing campaign materials, hanging posters and flyers, and using social media.
- **Monday, March 31st, 2025**
 - Candidate debate at 6:00pm - UC Room 111. (Zoom option will be available)
 - Must email the Elections Commissioner if you cannot attend.
- **Monday, April 7th, 2025**
 - Campaign finance forms due by 5:00pm to the Elections Commissioner. No money may be spent on the campaign after this date.
- **Tuesday, April 8th, 2025**
 - Election Day
 - Polls open 10:00am - 6:00pm (CST).
 - Elections will be conducted on Runway.
- **Thursday, April 10th, 2025**
 - Runoff elections (if necessary).
- **Friday, April 11th, 2025**
 - All campaign material must be properly disposed of by 5:00pm

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Section 1: Executive Council Election Qualifications

Article 1:

Executive Council officers shall be full-time students with a minimum of a 2.75 cumulative grade point average at the time of their nomination and shall maintain a 2.75 cumulative grade point average during their tenure of office. One must have completed 30 semester hours before taking office, be an undergraduate student and maintain undergraduate status throughout the duration of their tenure.

Article 2:

Elected Executive Council officers (President, Vice President, and Secretary General) must have served at least 2 full semesters by the time they assume an Executive Office in the Student Government Association in any of the following positions: Associate Justice, Chief Justice, Student Defender, Attorney General, Chief of Staff, Speaker of the Senate, Athletic Liaison, elected Senator, and any senator or justice who is appointed to a vacant position resulting from lack of candidacy or resignation within the elected senate. This provision excludes Freshmen Council and Executive Assistants.

A. The Elected Press Secretary must have served at least 2 full semesters by the time they assume office in the Student Government Association in any of the following positions: Associate Justice, Chief Justice, Student Defender, Attorney General, Chief of Staff, Speaker of the Senate, Athletic Liaison, Press Secretary, elected Senator, Freshman Council Representative or any senator or justice who is appointed to a vacant position resulting from lack of candidacy or resignation within the elected senate.

Article 3:

Senators-at-Large shall be eligible to run for an Executive Council office assuming they complete all of the following stipulations:

A. Senators-at-Large must meet all of the requirements necessary for a Senator in addition to getting an additional 25 signatures from full time UT Martin students on their petition to run.

B. They must have served the entire Fall semester as well as the Spring semester as a Senator-at-Large or higher position prior to taking office

Article 4:

To qualify for candidacy, nominees need 50 signatures on an Elections Petition Form. Once the deadline for petition forms has passed, the candidate may not change the position that they are running for and still qualify for candidacy; however, if an extenuating circumstance emerges, then a course of action is left to the discretion of the Election Commissioner.

Article 5:

Each executive council candidate must submit a written copy of his/her platform (or one party platform if running together). Please submit your platform by email saved as a Microsoft Word (.doc) file to ebell27@ut.utm.edu

NOTE: Please identify your emails with a subject, your name, party affiliation, and a label of what you are turning in.

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Section 2: Judicial Branch Elections Qualifications

Article 1:

All nominees for the Student Government Association Judicial Branch (5 Associate Justices, 1 Student Defender, 1 Attorney General) must be enrolled in the University of Tennessee at Martin and in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of election and appointment, and during the term of office. Per the SGA Constitution, a nominee must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher at the time of his or her nomination and shall not allow his or her cumulative grade point average to drop below 2.5 during the tenure of office. Judicial Branch members are disallowed from party affiliations.

Article 2:

To qualify for candidacy, nominees need 25 signatures on an Elections Petition Form. Once the deadline for petition forms has passed, the candidate may not change the position that they are running for and still qualify for candidacy; however, if an extenuating circumstance emerges, then a course of action is left to the discretion of the Election Commissioner.

Section 3: Senate Elections Qualifications

Article 1:

All nominees for the Student Government Association Senate must be enrolled in the University of Tennessee at Martin and in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of election and appointment, and during the term of office. Per the SGA Constitution Article VI, Section 1, a nominee must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher at the time of his or her nomination and shall not allow his or her cumulative grade point average to drop below 2.5 during the tenure of office.

Article 2:

To qualify for candidacy, nominees need 25 signatures on an Elections Petition Form. Once the deadline for petition forms has passed, the candidate may not change the position that they are running for and still qualify for candidacy; however, if an extenuating circumstance emerges, then a course of action is left to the discretion of the Election Commissioner.

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Section 4: UT Martin Advisory Board Student Member Qualifications

Article 1:

All nominees for The University of Tennessee Advisory Board Student Member position must be enrolled full time at the University of Tennessee at Martin and in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of the election, of appointment, and during the term of office.

Note: Good academic standing for Student Member position is classified as having a 2.75 cumulative grade point average at time of nomination and should maintain a 2.75 cumulative grade point average during the tenure of the position.

Article 2:

Nominees must be willing and able to serve as the University of Tennessee Advisory Board Student Representative for one full year. The Student Member shall attend all Advisory Board Meetings, SGA Senate meetings and SGA Legislative Council meetings.

Article 3:

Nominees must complete the pledge form stating that they have read The University of Tennessee Martin Advisory Board Bylaws in detail, and will pledge to fulfill all duties and requirements of the position if elected. A copy of the Bylaws will be made available in the SGA office and is available online at <http://www.utm.edu/advisoryboard/>

Article 4:

Nominees must complete the Elections Rules Compliance Form stating that they will comply with all rules and requirements set forth by the Elections Commissioner and the SGA Constitution.

Article 5:

To qualify for candidacy, nominees need 50 signatures on an Elections Petition Form.

Article 6:

Nominees must comply with rules of Campaign Finance and complete the proper Campaign Finance Forms. These forms must be turned in to the Elections Commissioner by the date election packets are due.

Article 7:

Nominees are allowed to run for any SGA position and the Student Representative position, excluding executive council positions.

Article 8:

The top three vote recipients for The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board Student Representative position in the general election will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office for final selection.

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Section 5: Representation and Voting

Article 1:

All students shall be eligible to vote for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Student Trustee, and Judicial Seats. To win one of the Executive Council offices, a candidate must receive over 50% of the vote. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, then a run-off election will be held between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes.

Article 2:

Student Senate seats will be elected by the students from each of the colleges, with undeclared students voting for candidates in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Candidates must be a student of the college they wish to represent. Elections will be decided by the highest percentage of the vote until all seats are filled. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, then a run-off election will be held between the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes. The available seats for 2022 are as follows:

- (5) Seats – College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- (4) Seats – College of Business and Global Affairs
- (9) Seats – College of Health, Education, and Behavioral Sciences
- (3) Seats – College of Engineering and Natural Sciences
- (10) Seats – College of Humanities and Fine Arts (undeclared/non-departmental majors will run in this college)
- (1) Seat – UTM Graduate Student
- (5) Seats-Campus Centers

Article 3:

Student polling may take place from any electronic device.

Article 4:

On election day(s) candidates, political parties, or anyone acting as an agent of a candidate or political party may not solicit votes by use of laptop or any other electronic device. Violation of this rule will result in the candidate's disqualification.

Section 6: Campaign Rules

Article 1:

Nominees must comply with the rules of campaign finance and complete the proper Campaign Finance Forms.

Article 2:

Nominees must complete Pledge Forms (stating that they have read the SGA Constitution and Article IV in detail), the Elections Rules Compliance Form (stating they will comply with all rules and requirements set forth by the 2025 Elections Commissioner and SGA Constitution) and agree to a grade check. **These are completed via the online application.**

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Article 3:

Each candidate for an executive office position (president, vice president, secretary general and press secretary) must submit a first-person, one-paragraph biography stating his/her history. Bios should be no longer than 250 words. A photograph of the candidate should be included with the bio. Please submit both by email ebell27@ut.utm.edu, with the bio saved as a Microsoft Word (.doc) file and the photograph saved as a JPEG (.jpg) file. The photograph included with the bio will be the candidate's official photo for the duration of the election process. It will be distributed to the Pacer and possibly with other election documents.

Note: Bios will not be edited after submission. It is your responsibility to have your bio suitable for publication.

Article 4:

Candidates/Parties may hang campaign flyers and posters in the Campus Centers. See your Center Director for the rules governing flyers and posters.

Article 5:

No campaign material is to be placed on the exterior of buildings, trees, light poles, garbage cans, glass marble, or any painted surfaces except for painted concrete blocks. **Material can only be placed on bulletin boards inside buildings at the discretion of the Center Director.**

Article 6: Each candidate is responsible for any material that contains their name or image, or their political party's name or logo. Posters and flyers placed by parties other than the individual (i.e. fraternities, sororities, campus organizations, etc.) with a candidate's name, image, etc. are subject to the limitations and restrictions previously stated in this packet.

Article 7:

With regard to spending, Candidates and Political Parties may use personal funds or solicit donations in accordance with the following:

- A Political Party is limited to a maximum budget of \$2500.
- An individual candidate (running with no party affiliation) is allowed a maximum budget of \$300.

Note: Donors must be disclosed on the campaign finance report. No anonymous donations are permitted.

Article 8:

The use of social media is allowed for campaigning, but slanderous attacks will be investigated and may result in punishment for the candidate. **No electronic campaigning shall begin prior to the formal campaigning period.**

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Article 9:

Speaking engagements and verbal campaigning are allowed until 10:00pm on evening prior to election day.

Article 10:

No election or campaign rule shall supersede any existing university rule, policy, or regulation which places restrictions on general student practice or behavior. Should election and university guidelines conflict, the more restrictive rule shall take precedence.

Article 11:

After filing a declaration of intent, a candidate or a political party shall be responsible for obtaining thorough knowledge of all election regulations. Ignorance of such regulations shall be no excuse for any violation thereof. Consequences of violations, which may include the disqualification of a candidate, shall be left up to the discretion of the Elections Commissioner. If a candidate who is running on a political party is found to be in violation of the SGA Constitution or this packet and is disqualified, resigns, or leaves for any reason after the deadline in which petitions are due, the party will not be able to replace the candidate.

Article 12:

It is the responsibility of each candidate to know and abide by the campaign rules. Candidates will be held accountable for actions disobeying the rules and regulations herewith set forth, whether the violation of rules was done knowingly or unknowingly. The Elections Commissioner reserves the right to administer punishment. Any complaint about the election process shall be submitted to the SGA Elections Commissioner. Note: Please identify yourself, your party affiliation, and your complaint. Any persons who feel they have been unreasonably, inordinately, or disproportionately punished by the Election Commission may appeal to the Student Court.

Article 13:

No material shall be distributed of a negative nature. Name-calling, slander, or similar offensive activities are prohibited. Any campaigning deemed unethical or negative by the Elections Commissioner will be addressed seriously and could result in candidate disqualification.

Section 7: Political Parties

Article 1:

A political party must name a party chairperson and declare this party chairperson to the Elections Commissioner in written documentation by the deadline.

Article 2:

The party chair must furnish a list of candidates and the offices for which they are running the deadline. This list shall be alphabetized and shall include the name and phone number of each candidate.

Article 3:

The Elections Commissioner must approve names used by all political parties. Party names should not be of a negative nature and should reflect well on the university. Party names shall be placed upon the party's written documents.

Please contact the Elections Commissioner with any questions.

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Section 8: Campus Debate

Debates will be held at the Campus Centers at the discretion of the Center Directors.

Section 9: Referendums

Article 1:

Any student or recognized university organization may petition any item to be placed on the official ballot during the Student Government Association elections.

Article 2:

In order for an item to be placed on the ballot, 250 students must sign a petition that will be turned in to the Elections Commissioner candidate filing deadline. Each petition must clearly state the referendum and its sponsor and have numbered lines upon which students write their names and student ID numbers.

Article 3:

Referendums will be reviewed by the Elections Commissioner. Upon approval, the referendums will be placed on the ballot.

Article 4:

A referendum must be approved by a majority of the students voting in the election for it to pass. Any referendum that passes will be implemented in consultation with and subject to final actions and decisions by the University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor, University of Tennessee President, and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Disclaimer: The SGA Elections Commissioner has the right to meet and discuss any potential violation of election or campaign rules, and to declare new rules upon the commission of questionable election practices.

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2025 Campaign Finance Report

Please circle or highlight the type of report being submitted:

Party Finance Report

Individual Finance Report

Party Name or Individual Name: _____

Campaign Finance Resources

Date	Source/Donor	Amount

Total Campaign Budget: _____

Campaign Expenses

Date	Item Purchased	Amount	Purpose

Total Amount Spent on Campaign: _____

Please hold all receipts and documentation. These must be provided to the Elections Commissioner upon request.

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Printed Name _____ Signature _____

2025 Candidate Petition Form

I, _____ hereby nominate _____
Person making the nomination Nominee

for the office of _____. To the best of my knowledge, the person named above fulfills all requirements for this office. Below are the signatures of twenty-five students who agree to second this nomination.

Printed Name

Signature

1.	
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