

Life Academy:

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Civics & Citizenship
- High School Equivalency (HSE)

High School Equivalency (HSE):

The HSE classes focus on the skills needed to pass the GED® and HiSET® exams, both of which are offered at the Howard College San Angelo Testing Center. The GED® exam is only offered as an online test and is made up of four tests: Math, Reading, Language and Writing, Social Studies, and Science. The HiSET exam is offered as an online or paper-based test and is made up of five tests: Math, Reading & Language, Writing, Social Studies, and Science. The classes are divided in a way to allow students to focus on the subjects they need to complete the GED® and HiSET® tests, and they are studying alongside their peers who are working at the same skill level. Instructors are highly qualified and trained in the subject area they teach. Each HSE class uses Plato, a personalized online learning system, to enhance classroom studies that are unique to each student. Morning and afternoon HSE courses are 8 weeks long. The night HSE courses are 16 weeks long.

English as a Second Language (ESL):

ESL classes provide students the opportunity to listen to the English language and to improve their speaking, listening, reading & writing skills, with a component of basic math and financial literacy. Classes are instructor-led with supplemental online curriculum through Burlington English, which is uniquely designed for each student based on skill levels in the five core components. These skills are taught in conjunction with life skills and civic information to help the student fully function in the community. All ESL courses contain a component of American Basic math and financial skills is a new component added to the ESL course to help students understand monetary valuation and transaction. This course will help students who are seeking to improve employment opportunities, enter training programs or higher education or simply want to interact within their community and families.

Civics & Citizenship:

Becoming a citizen in your new country is a great step. As a citizen, you can vote in national elections and contribute to your community. Research also shows individuals who naturalize, or become citizens, often make more money and have better job and educational opportunities. Civics relates to civic knowledge and Citizenship is dispositional (attitudes, values, dispositions and skills). This Civics & Citizenship class is a specialized course that typically runs once a year and when there is a need for it. This class will help prepare you for the US citizenship test by focusing on US History and Government as well as Integrated Civics. Components of the Citizenship test, such as the 100 questions, will be studied and practiced. A focus on American culture and values will be studied as well. You will also receive explanations on filling out the citizenship paperwork and resources for any translation services needed.