



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

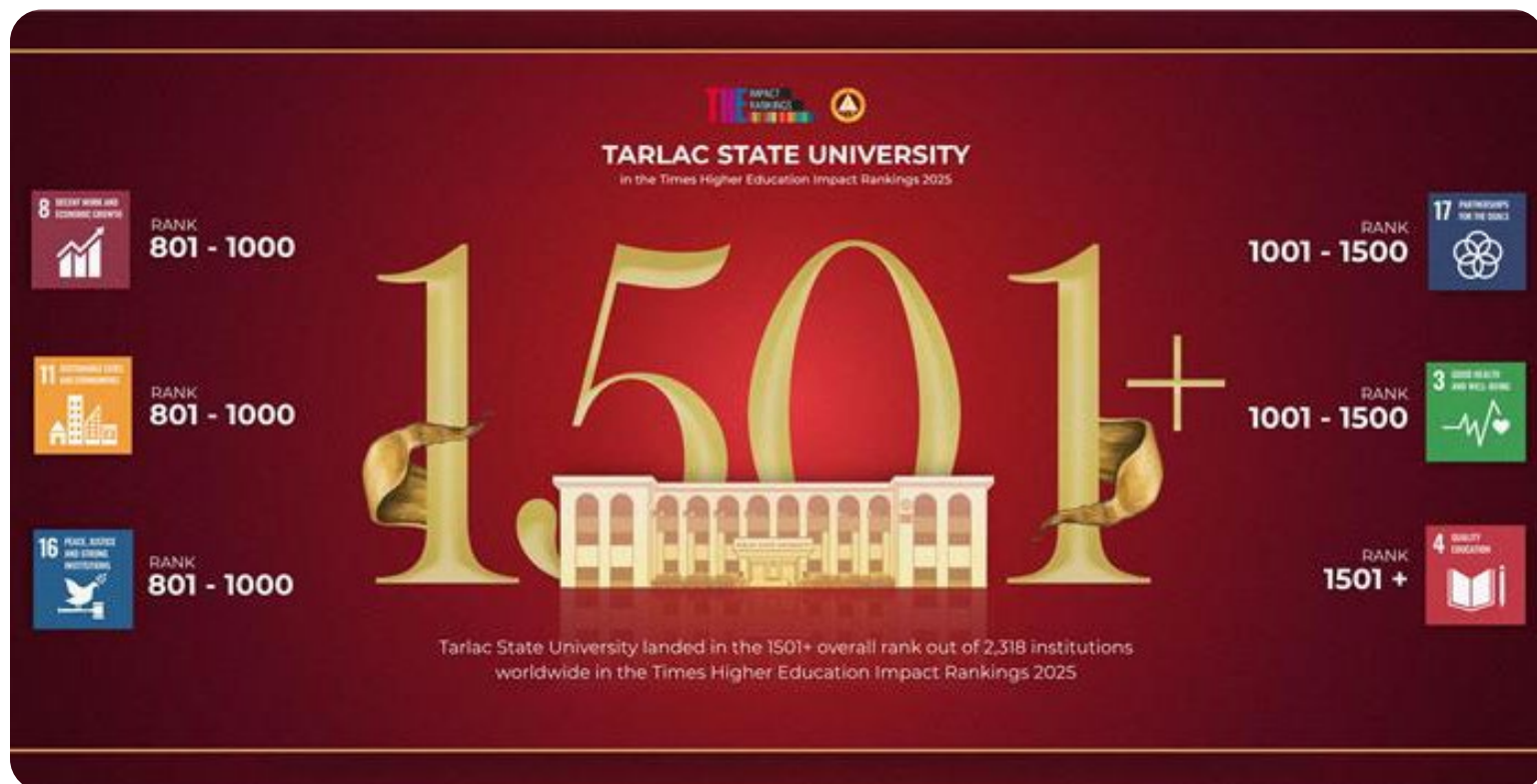
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ISSN 1908-7101

Issue No. 151

June 2025

opai@tsu.edu.ph f @ X TarlacStateU



TSU ranks on 6 SDGs in THE Impact Rankings 2025

Through the six submitted SDGs, Tarlac State University earned the 1501+ overall rank out of 2,318 participating universities worldwide in the 2025 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, per the results released on June 18, 2025.

Among the Sustainable

Development Goals evaluated, TSU ranked 801–1000 in three areas: SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

The university also

placed in the 1001–1500 bracket for SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which is mandatory for all institutions, as well as for SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 4 (Quality Education).

"Congratulations to us! We may have experienced difficulties when we were

preparing the reports and evidence for the rankings. However, we still managed to give the university the best possible results," Engr. Emir Lenard S.F. Sicangco, THE Impact Rankings Evaluation committee chair, said in a message to the committee.

Continue to page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NORSU learns about TSU's GAD best practices



BSCE program undergoes PRB-OCE virtual inspection



TSU Powerlifters win big at 2025 Asian Championships

NORSU learns about TSU's GAD best practices

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Delegates from Negros Oriental State University benchmarked the best practices of the Office of Gender and Development on June 4, 2025 at the Main AVR.

NORSU GAD officers asked about the university's GAD plan and budget framework, integration of activities across campuses, and mechanisms for embedding GAD into research, extension, and infrastructure development.

GAD Director Dr. Rita Pulmano said that the university caters to employees with children at the preschool level through its Child Care program.

She also

mentioned Project PADS (Providing Access to Dignity and Sanitation), a newly launched project of GAD that responds to emergency menstruation needs by installing sanitary napkin dispensers in female comfort rooms and medical clinics.

Dr. Pulmano also highlighted that newly hired employees must undergo a gender sensitivity orientation coursed through the Office of Human Resource Development and Management.

Moreover, the office also gives the "GAD-Timpala Awards" to deserving student organizations and

outstanding gender-sensitive research recognitions to students who join the Saliksiklaban, a university-wide undergraduate research competition.

Vice President for Administration Atty. Wilmark J. Ramos, through Ms. Lureza Pastor, OVPA technical staff, committed to continually fostering

an inclusive and equitable environment for the entire TSU community.

"Our GAD office has been a cornerstone in driving various programs, policies, and advocacies aimed at promoting gender equality and empowering individuals within our university and beyond," Ms. Pastor read.



BSCE program undergoes PRB-OCE virtual inspection

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

The Professional Regulatory Board of Civil Engineering virtually visited Tarlac State University's BS Civil Engineering program for an inspection and monitoring on June 2, 2025.

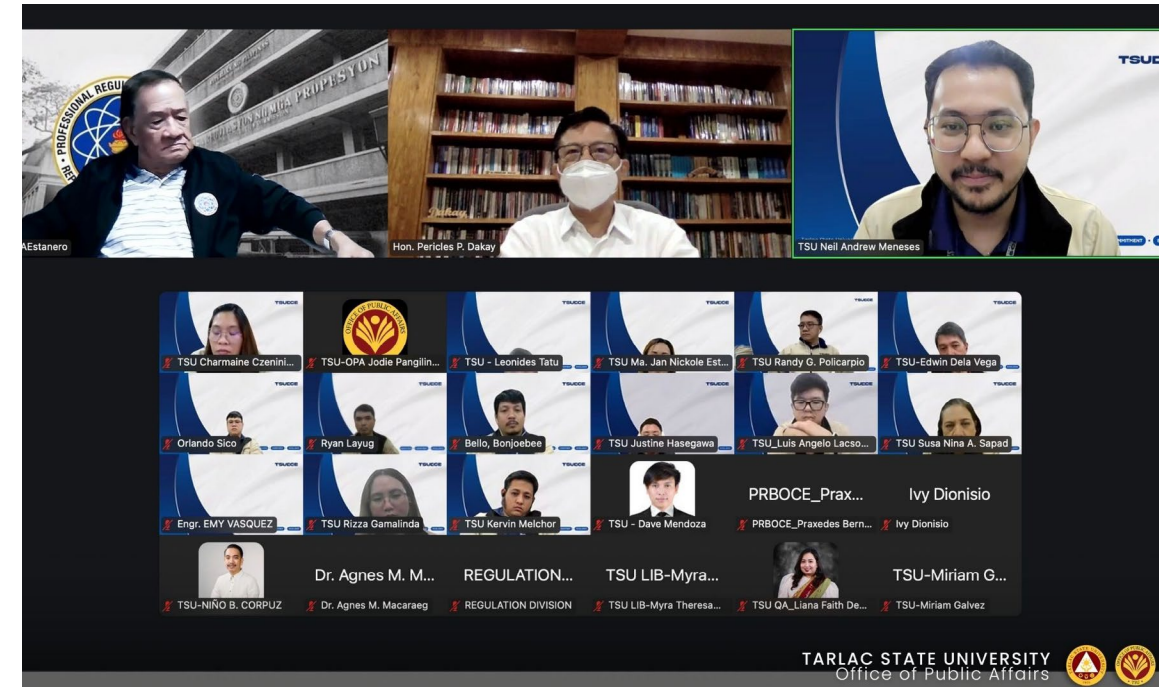
Led by PRB-OCE Chairperson Hon. Praxedes Bernardo, the inspection team focused their evaluation on reviewing the program's curriculum, faculty qualifications, licensure exam performance, and program administration.

Some of the recommendations noted by the board include enhancing the program's curriculum to better prepare students for professional practice, providing laboratories with a greater focus on structural engineering, and expanding the program's specialization.

The PRB-OCE also lauded the department for its efforts in the Civil Engineering Licensure Examinations (CELE), noting the passing rate for first-time takers.

Hon. Bernardo appreciated the BSCE department for attending the virtual inspection in full force.

"We really want to work in collaboration with you so that



we can give civil engineering students in your university [a] better curriculum and prepare them well for the practice of their profession," she said.

Hon. Bernardo is joined by fellow PRB-OCE members, Hon. Romeo Estaño and Hon. Pericles Dakay.

Meanwhile, the Department of Civil Engineering, led by chairperson Engr. Neil Andrew Meneses,

committed to complying with the board's feedback and recommendations for the improvement of their program.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg, College of Engineering Dean Dr. Miriam S. Galvez, Quality Assurance Director Dr. Niño B. Corpuz, Office of Curriculum and Instruction Director Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano,

and Office of Library and Management Services Director Ms. Cynthia M. Bognot also attended the virtual activity in support of the BSCE program.

The PRB-OCE inspection and monitoring is pursuant to Section 9 of RA 8981, the "PRC Modernization Act of 2000" on Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities of the Various Professional Regulatory Boards.



ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: BENCHMARKING OF NEGROS ORIENTAL STATE UNIVERSITY

TSU ranks on 6 SDGs in THE Impact Rankings 2025

Mary Joy B. Manalo




COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
ETHEL AGNES PASCUA-VALENZUELA

Congratulations!



**Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025**

RANK 1501+



**POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY OF THE
PHILIPPINES**



**TARLAC STATE
UNIVERSITY**
f CHEDCommEAPV



BICOL UNIVERSITY

From front page

Based on the THE Impact Ranking Methodology 2025, indicators for SDG 8 include adherence to good employment practices and the proportion of students engaged in work placements.

As of December 2023, TSU employed 1,470 teaching and non-teaching personnel, contributing significantly to the employment rate in Tarlac Province.

Furthermore, to ensure decent jobs and job security for students and alumni, the university also organizes annual

career fairs in partnership with government agencies and private companies.

For SDG 11, TSU showcased its ongoing arts, heritage, and environmental sustainability initiatives. The university operates the publicly accessible Museo-Archivo and library resources, promotes local culture through the TSU Performing Arts Chorale and Dance Troupe, and advances environmental responsibility through its Climate Change Resilient and Ecological System Conservation Park, known as the TSU Lagoon, located at the

Lucinda Campus.

TSU also submitted evidence under SDG 11 regarding its efforts to improve access to basic services, with the implementation of the extension project "Installation of Pedestal and Donation of Collapsible House" by the Department of Civil Engineering, which provided a temporary housing community to residents without access to decent shelter at Sitio Paoay, Brgy. Guiteb, Ramos Tarlac.

Moreover, TSU is the first state university in the Philippines to join the

Complementary Pathways Program of the UNHCR and DOJ, supporting refugees by providing access to free housing, education, healthcare, and other essential services in an inclusive academic environment.

Under SDG 16, which promotes inclusive societies, access to justice, and strong institutions, TSU highlighted its TSU PATH (Promotion of Awareness, Teamwork, and Health) project funded by the Commission on Higher Education. The initiative promotes physical education and sports among students, the elderly, the differently abled, and other underrepresented sectors.

The university also helped establish the Tarlac Province Community Sports and Wellness Council to further this goal.

Additionally, TSU emphasized its contributions to legal access and justice through its School of Law, which offers free legal assistance to indigent residents of Tarlac City.

Working alongside Engr. Sicangco in preparing the university's THE Impact Rankings submissions were Assoc. Prof. Augusto N. Lulu Jr. for SDG 4, Assoc. Prof. Maria Tiara Fatima F. Galang for SDG 16, Assoc. Prof. Jazzel Llanelli E. Manalo-Manabat for SDG 17, Asst. Prof. Maricor Cheska B. Santos for SDG 11, Ms. Liana Faith Q. De Leon for SDG 3, Ms. Ma. Katrina M. Rivera for SDG 8, and Ms. Jay Ann L. Pablo as part of the secretariat.

The THE Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess how universities contribute to achieving the 17 United Nations SDGs, evaluating institutional performance across research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching.

FEATURE

TSU Powerlifters win big at 2025 Asian Championships

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Powerlifters from Tarlac State University powered their way through the podium of the Asian Sub-Junior and Junior Powerlifting Championships and the Asian University Powerlifting Cup (classic and equipped) held in Dehradun, India, from May 5 to 11, 2025.

The delegates from TSU contributed five medals to the Philippines, garnering 27 gold, 32 silver, and six bronze medals. In total, there are 15 participating countries in the Asian powerlifting competition.

In the 105-kilogram weight class, Ken Andrey Austria, a fourth-year college student from the College of Business and Accountancy, won

a gold medal in the bench press category, lifting 185kg, beating an Asian University Record. He received silver medals in squat (265kg) and deadlift (260kg) and another silver award for the overall weights he lifted (710kg).

He beat his personal record of 175kg in bench press during his first international competition in Hong Kong in 2024. Austria considers this as his graduation gift to himself.

The remaining gold medals of TSU came from Vince Gerald Gutierrez, an incoming second-year law student and the eldest of the Gutierrez powerlifter siblings.

Gutierrez, who competed under 83 kilograms, recorded a gold medal in bench

press (145 kg), gold in deadlift (270 kg), and silver in squat (227.5). He received a gold medal for his overall performance, lifting 642.5 kg.

The two international champions prepared for three months and sometimes met at midnight to train together.

Austria said he hopes the university can support their sport since they also give honor and bag awards from prestigious competitions even if it is not included among the events in the intramural and the State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA) Olympics.

"Sana mabigyan din kami ng tracksuit or jacket kung saan mare-recognize [kami na mga] estudyante ng TSU," Austria

told OPA.

He said they had to solicit funds to cover their expenses during the international competition.

"Sana ang mga schools at government mag-focus din sa sports na kahit hindi kilala pero may potential. Kasi parang ang focus ngayon ay mainstream – kunwari basketball, kasi paano lalaki 'yung mga small sports if in the first place hindi nila mabibigyan ito ng suporta," Austria further said.

Both senior members of the TSU Powerlifters continue leading their growing team of 30, some of whom will compete in the 2026 Powerlifting Nationals in February.

Former TSU president recalls 'Project FREE' during Amb. Danding's birth anniv tribute

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University joined the Provincial Government of Tarlac and the Cojuangco family in commemorating the 90th birth anniversary of Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. on June 10, 2025 at the Maria Cristina Park, Tarlac City.

The university was represented by Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg, College of Engineering Dean Dr. Miriam S. Galvez, College of Arts and Social Science Dean Dr. Aloysius T. Madriaga, and former TSU president Dr. Priscilla C. Viuya.

Dr. Viuya recounted how the Eduardo Cojuangco Foundation served as a bridge in implementing Project FREE (Flagship to Reach Educational Excellence) by tapping the two Department of Education divisions in Tarlac, University of St. La Salle in Bacolod, and Tarlac State University to cater to around 2,000 public school teachers who are taking up their



master's and doctoral degrees as the foundation's scholars.

"When he chose Tarlac State University for Project FREE, as the name implies, it is a project [that] builds up on faith. It is developmental, to say the least. But with that developmental aspect comes the empowering aspect of that

program: It allowed teachers to complete their master's and [doctoral] degree programs, and because of that, they have felt the power to enrich themselves, and because of that, their influence grew. And as they touch lives, and those people who have touched their lives, their influence lives on and on

ad infinitum," Dr. Viuya said in a speech during the tribute program.

The teachers earned their graduate degree diplomas from the University of St. La Salle by attending face-to-face classes at TSU as the host institution of Project FREE.

"He has given us the chance for our souls to bloom because, as it is said, 'gratitude is the blossom of the soul.' Thank you, Sir Danding, and thank you [to] those who have been part of this program," the former TSU president added.

The tribute concert was graced by senator-elect Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, current NPC chairman, Cojuangco family supporters, and Tarlac politicians.

Apart from the concert, Sen. Sotto and Ambassador Danding's grandchildren led the "Danding Exhibit" ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Diwa ng Tarlac, which is dedicated to his legacy and contributions.

Ambassador Danding served as the governor of Tarlac Province from 1967-

1969 and as congressman from 1969 to 1972. He founded the Nationalist People's Coalition, the political party he ran under as a presidential candidate in 1992. He later became one of the advisers of President Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

The philanthropist also advocated Philippine sports in the 1980s through the San Miguel Corporation's sponsorship of three basketball teams, namely San Miguel Beermen, Barangay Ginebra San Miguel, and Star Hotshots. He

also established the Northern Cement Corporation basketball team and the Philippine Amateur Basketball League, honing the skills and talents of young Filipino athletes.

He married Soledad "Gretchen" Oppen, and they were blessed with four children: Margarita Cojuangco-Barrera, Lisa Cojuangco-Cruz, Carlos "Charlie" Cojuangco (former 1st district representative), and Marcos "Mark" Cojuangco (2nd district representative of Pangasinan).



TSU BULLETIN EDITORIAL BOARD

ASSOC. PROF. JAZZEL LLANELI E. MANALO-MANABAT
DIRECTOR, OPA | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MS. MARIA ADELAIDA D. CALAYAG

HEAD, PUBLICATION UNIT
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MS. MARY JOY B. MANALO

WRITER

MS. JODIE ANDREA G. PANGILINAN

MR. FRANC LEWIS JUANATAS

MR. EDUARDO F. LAXAMANA JR

PHOTOJOURNALISTS

MR. JOHN MICHAEL D. ESTEBAN

GRAPHICS ARTIST

MR. EDUARDO F. LAXAMANA JR.

LAYOUT ARTIST

CONTRIBUTORS

MR. JOHN VINCENT R. DAVID

MS. KATRINA MAE A. PATDU

MR. MC ALISTER M. SULAY

INTERNS

CONSULTANTS

DR. ARNOLD E. VELASCO

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

DR. AGNES M. MACARAEG

VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ATTY. WILMARK J. RAMOS

VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

DR. ERWIN P. LACANLALE

VP FOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND EXTENSION

CONTACT

+63 45 606-8123

EDITORIAL

Budget increase for SUCs — will it be effective for free higher ed?



The perennial problem of some state universities and colleges has landed again — how to deal with the approximately 70% of first-year college applicants who did not qualify for the admission test. Acceptance of aspiring tertiary students in public universities boils down to two reasons: (1) the absorptive capacity of SUCs, affecting (2) the budget allocation for implementing the Free Higher Education law. These reasons lead people to conclude that raising the budget is the ultimate panacea for the free higher education malady.

If the overall situation is studied carefully, increasing the budget allocation of SUCs as a lone measure is insufficient, primarily if the budget is intended for the tuition and other fees in free higher education alone. On the topic of budget, allocation is needed for facilities. Increasing the number of students to be admitted without

considering if they would fit in the available classrooms is futile. This is precisely what "absorptive capacity" is about. This is where local government units, congressional budget insertions, and philanthropists are crucial. More students can be accommodated if educational institutions are given the resources to expand and build more classrooms. Quality education cannot be sacrificed for quantity. There will always be a place for students, whether in a public or private school.

If the budget allocation for facilities and fees were increased, there would be an influx of students in SUCs. What will now happen to private schools? In a democratic market, fair competition among private businesses must be promoted. With the presence of SUCs and the implementation of free higher education, the government could be killing this fair competition. But is this a

problem that citizens must carry?

Ideally, Filipino students and families must exhibit prudence when deciding whether they should enroll in private or public schools. The free higher education law is clear: applicants who will pass the entrance examination and other admission and retention requirements are eligible to enjoy the law's benefits. Students and families capable of paying tuition or "rich" families who applied to SUCs and were qualified cannot be denied admission. SUCs cannot compel these students to enroll in private schools or pay tuition, especially if they could present a certificate of indigency. Administrators of these SUCs do not have the right to judge. Probably, like everyone else, these "privileged" students also want access to quality education from SUCs.

However, SUCs should be aware of the law's caveat: a mechanism can be created

to enable students with the financial capacity to pay for their education. The university could employ bracketing of socio-economic status with corresponding tuition amount. The process is taxing but necessary. Similarly, barangay officials should also exercise prudence when granting certificates of indigency to their constituents. Having this certificate grants the "privileged" an indigent status on paper. The barangay's proper verification of whether a student belongs to an indigent family can help SUCs appropriately evaluate admission credentials. Efficient implementation of the law and corresponding policies requires the cooperation of students and their families, the barangay, and the schools.

During the February 2025 consultative meeting with Senator-elect Bam Aquino, he urged "capable" families to give free tuition slots to underprivileged students. This is equivalent to applying the principle of equality versus equity. Equality means each qualified SUC applicant of SUCs, regardless of socio-economic status, is allowed to enroll and study. Equity, which is more apt in this scenario, gives indigents a better chance to enjoy free higher education benefits.

A point to ponder: numerous factors must be considered in gaining efficiency for free higher education implementation. SUCs, the legislative and executive branches of the national government, local government units, barangay officials, families, and students have their part to play. Now, as a citizen, what can we do? What should we do with this systemic issue?

CONGRATULATIONS!

JOHN MARK SUPAN CAPIAN

TOP 9 (83.4%)

June 2025 Philippine Nurses Special Professional Licensure Examination



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTANCY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN CPAS!

MAY 2025 LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

FIRST-TIME TAKERS

80%

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE

66.67%

NATIONAL PASSING RATE

33.11%

TarlacStateU tsu.edu.ph helpdesk@tsu.edu.ph

THE TSU COMMUNITY IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN ARCHITECTS!

JUNE 2025 LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR ARCHITECTS

FIRST-TIME TAKERS

52.63%

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE

44.90%

NATIONAL PASSING RATE

65.16%

TarlacStateU tsu.edu.ph helpdesk@tsu.edu.ph

THE TSU COMMUNITY IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

A globally competitive university recognized for excellence in sciences and emerging technologies.

Mission

TSU shall develop highly competitive and empowered human resources fostering responsive global education, future-proof research culture, inclusive and relevant extension programs, and sustainable production projects.

Core Values

T-ruth in words, action and character
S-ervice with excellence and compassion
U-nity in diversity

Quality Policy

Tarlac State University is committed to continuously strive for global competitiveness and excellence in the delivery of instruction, research, extension (training and consultancy), and administrative support services, compliant to regulatory and statutory requirements for the utmost satisfaction of its valued customers while ensuring safe and healthy working conditions for its students, employees, clientele and reducing environmental impact of its operations.