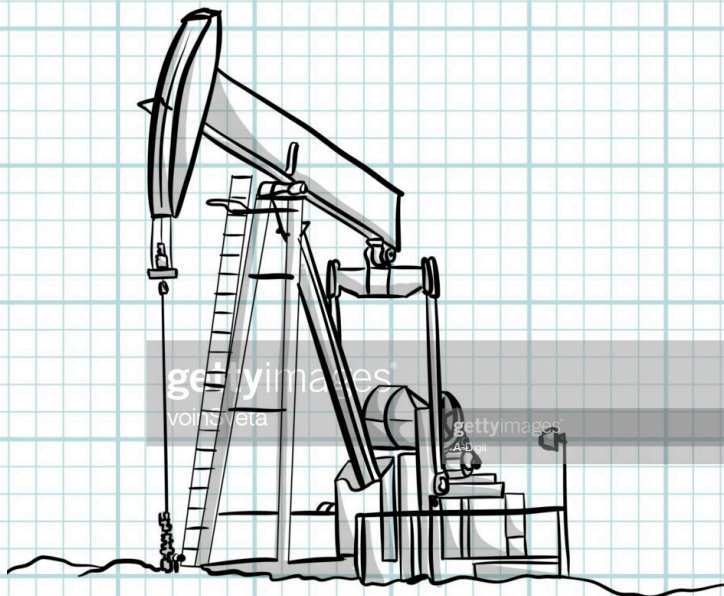


AAPL Expands Accredited University Programs



With the approval of an undergraduate program at UT Permian Basin and a graduate program at Texas Tech, AAPL-accredited land management programs now total 16

by/ **RACHEL STOWE MASTER**

Editor of NAPE — The Magazine for Dealmakers

AAPL recently approved accreditation applications for both the Energy Land Management Program at the University of Texas Permian Basin and Texas Tech University's Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Energy Program — increasing the number of accredited land management programs to 16 at 13 prestigious universities across the United States.

UT Permian Basin is the 11th AAPL-accredited undergraduate program, joining energy and land management programs at Colorado Mesa University, Marietta College, Texas Tech University, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Tulsa, the University of Wyoming, West Virginia University and Western Colorado University.

Texas Tech's Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Energy brings AAPL's accredited graduate program total to five, rounded out by a Master of Science in Energy Management at Oklahoma City University's Meinders School of Business; Energy MBA at TCU's Neeley School of Business; Master of Energy Business at the University of Tulsa's Collins College of Business; and Master of Legal Studies in Energy and Natural Resources Law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

OU, the University of Tulsa and now Texas Tech all have AAPL-accredited programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

"AAPL is passionate about powering the land profession forward and that includes equipping our next generation of land professionals with the knowledge, tools and opportunities for successful and fulfilling careers," said AAPL President Carl D. Campbell, CPL. "AAPL accreditation represents excellence in undergraduate and graduate energy and land management programs. We work with these top programs to ensure we continue to bring the best and the brightest young talent into the land profession."

AAPL's Accreditation Committee evaluates applications from existing undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Programs must include curriculum either associated with landwork or complementary to land professionals. After an evaluation, the Accreditation Committee votes and provides a recommendation to the Executive Committee for final determination.

AAPL offers free Student Memberships as well as scholarship opportunities to students enrolled in its accredited programs. Each year, AAPL's Landman Scholarship Trust awards over \$250,000 in student scholarships — for a total topping \$2 million since the LST's inception in 1959.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PERMIAN BASIN BBA IN ENERGY

UT Permian Basin launched its Bachelor of Business Administration degree in energy land management in 2020, enabling students to study business disciplines and the land profession simultaneously.

"As the business school is accredited by AACSB and the land program by AAPL, we thought that by offering the degree as a BBA, students might have more options in a downturn," said Stuart T. MacDonald, program director. "AAPL accreditation means that we are in contact with people in the industry who can help us keep the program relevant and make certain that we teach what the entry-level land professional needs to know."

The land management program prepares students for careers managing property, mineral and water rights in the petroleum, solar or wind energy industries as well as in real estate. Along with core business courses in economics, accounting, finance, marketing, management, statistics, law and operations management, students take Petroleum Fundamentals, Landman Principles, Energy Finance, Energy Law, Environmental Law, Real Property Law, Negotiations and



UTPB Energy Land Management Program alumni and students teamed up with faculty members at the PBLA Clay Shoot in fall 2021. From left: Roy Garcia (2021 graduate), Raul Mendoza (2022 graduate), Stuart MacDonald (UTPB program director), Katherine Harrell (senior lecturer law and land management), Jose Tarango (current student) and Justin Bone (2021 graduate).



Recent graduates Raoul Mendoza (2022) Laura Laren (2022) presented a poster on title issues surrounding beneficial uses of produced water at the Permian Basin Water and Energy Conference in spring 2022.

Geographic Information Systems. They are also required to complete an additional project or operations management course that equips them to work in the Permian Basin specifically.

The program's location in the

heart of the Permian Basin and its leaders' dedication to helping graduates find jobs make it unique, MacDonald said. The first five graduates all work in land-related jobs in the oil and gas industry.

"College is expensive and for the



TTU Graduate School Energy Program students participated in an oil and gas module in spring 2022. The program has two required on-campus weekends each semester — one at TTU's Oilfield Technology Center. Texas Tech is the only university in the nation to boast such a facility.



Program participants Thomas Sikes, Zachary Cude, Noel Reese, Jeremy Angenend and Ty Lyon about the OTC in Lubbock, Texas.

program to succeed we need to help students achieve outcomes that are commensurate with the time and money invested in the degree," he said. "We teach students what they need to know for alternative energy, but this is a hydrocarbon-based program where we believe oil and gas will be part of the energy mix far into the future."

The 16 students currently in the program are serious about a career in the oil and gas industry. "They are polite, intelligent, hardworking young people with very bright futures who realize they have a lot to learn and are looking forward to doing so," MacDonald said.

"The key to success in the energy industry is perseverance, adapting to adversity and hard work," he added. "We don't hide that from our students. We explain to them they are entering a high-risk, high-rewards industry that can be cyclical in nature. By introducing them to seasoned veterans of the industry, we also show them how rewards do flow to those who hang in through the hard times."

MacDonald advises students not to be afraid to jump into the energy industry.

"I tell them oil and gas is a very welcoming industry where no one really cares where you came from, and your future is based on your performance," he said. "So if you aren't afraid to work and want to be rewarded for that work, this is an industry you should consider."

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY INTERDISCIPLINARY MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENERGY

The Texas Tech Graduate School launched the Interdisciplinary Master of Science with a concentration in energy in fall 2020.

"The program is dedicated to creating and supporting expertise that will apply in multiple contexts within energy industries," said Kim Cappillino, program director. "Accreditation by AAPL both supports our mission and also provides validation of the work-

focused educational pathways that we have designed. We are proud and honored to be part of the distinguished AAPL community."

The 30-hour program stretches over three semesters. Based on their individual career goals, students select three academic areas to focus on from four options: renewables; energy law and policy; energy commerce; and oil and gas. They complete three courses in each area. During their final academic semester, students also complete a capstone course that ties together all elements of the three areas of study under their individual degree plan.

"Our focus is on synthesizing knowledge that can be applied across the energy sector," Cappillino said.

Courses are taught in a hybrid format combining online and face-to-face learning experiences, which enables students to predominantly work online and periodically meet with professors and fellow students. Two weekend face-to-face sessions are conducted each semester.

Nine students are currently in the program, and 10 have graduated. While the majority have a background in oil and gas, a few students are from the renewables sector and several are lawyers.

"With clean energy being such a key topic, it is important for the next generation of industry leaders to have an overarching knowledge of energy as a whole," Cappillino said. "Since this program is an interdisciplinary program, the curriculum is designed to provide students with the technical and practical education required of modern energy professionals. In addition to bringing together knowledge across the entirety of the energy sector, we focus on social, environmental and governmental issues that connect to the energy industry."

Looking to the future, Cappillino expects to see a lot of innovation in the energy sector.

"We are also going to, increasingly, need to grapple with the ways that governmental policy, social effects and environmental capacities are all connected to the energy industry. We need leaders who can work across regions and knowledge bases to support innovation in this sector, and we believe our program supports the development of such leaders," she said.

Read about recent LST scholarship recipients and learn more about AAPL's accredited programs at landman.org/resources/student-resources. ▲

AAPL BUSINESS

AWARDS PROGRAM

**You are invited to submit your entries for
AAPL's 2022-23 Awards Program
which recognizes our members and local
associations achieving the highest standards of
excellence in the industry.**

Categories include:

- ▲ Lifetime Achievement
- ▲ Pioneer
- ▲ Landman of the Year
- ▲ Face of the Industry
- ▲ Local Association of the Year
- ▲ Best Newsletter/Bulletin*
- ▲ Best Member Communication
- ▲ Best AAPL Director's Communication
- ▲ Largest Growth Percentage of AAPL Membership*
- ▲ Largest Percentage of AAPL Membership*
- ▲ Special Awards
 - Education
 - AAPL Committee Member
 - Community Service
 - Other

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JAN. 10.

Find award descriptions and submission process online at landman.org/get-involved/nominate/award-nominations.
Winners will be announced at AAPL's 69th Annual Meeting & Conference.

*Awarded in three categories: large, medium and small

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

**AAPL's Nominating Subcommittee Committee is
now seeking your nominations for the association's
2023-24 Executive Committee Slate of Officers.**

The current vice president will be nominated for president, therefore the committee requests nominations for the following positions:

- ▲ First Vice President
- ▲ Second Vice President
- ▲ Third Vice President
- ▲ Secretary
- ▲ Treasurer

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JAN. 10.

Find qualifications and submission process online at landman.org/get-involved/nominate