



Science and Technology Acquisition and Retention (STARs) Program Administration Guidelines and FAQs

Allocations

UT System will announce annual STARs allocations to academic institutions each year coinciding the annual budget process. The factors used to distribute funding across UT academic institutions may be subject to change, if deemed necessary or appropriate by UT System Administration leaders.

Program Purpose

UT academic institutions shall use their annual STARs allocation for the purposes of recruiting and/or retaining research-active faculty. STARs funds are specifically for purchase of equipment and renovation of facilities required as part of the recruitment and/or retention of particularly outstanding faculty. These monies are meant to supplement institutional resources for the purpose of recruiting and/or retaining the very best research-active faculty.

STARs funds are limited to expenditures for equipment and laboratory renovations and each item must have a useful life of more than one year. STARs funds cannot be used toward operating expenses including salaries, travel, consumable supplies, or moving expenses.

STARs funds represent allocations of Permanent University Fund (PUF) bond proceeds and are therefore subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Texas and the UT System Board of Regents' Rules and Regulations for the governance of the University of Texas System. Consult *The University of Texas System LERR and STARs Budget Rules and Procedures* for detailed guidance.

Program Administration

UT academic institutions shall develop an internal process for awarding STARs funds to faculty in accordance with these guidelines, and the UT System STARs Budget Rules and Procedures.

STARs awards may be made for either retention of existing faculty who are deemed high risk for being recruited to another institution, or for new faculty recruits. STARs awards may be made in two categories:



Faculty STARS

Awards of up to \$500,000 may be made for recruitment and/or retention of individuals with national reputations and promise of election to national honorific societies, such as the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, among others, or those who have been already elected to these organizations.

Rising STARS

Awards of up to \$300,000 may be made for recruitment of promising faculty members who are recruited in a tenure-track position at any academic level, i.e. assistant, associate or full professor.

Factors which shall be considered for making awards include:

- The extent to which the recruitment and/or retention will provide outstanding scientific leadership in an area of significant strength to the individual institution, e.g., the addition of a high-quality research program in an underdeveloped area within the institution, or a substantial enhancement of an existing program.
- The extent to which recruitment and/or retention provides important research leadership in a priority area for The University of Texas System and/or the State of Texas, e.g. research in underdeveloped aspects of science, engineering, or technology or for moving to a higher level in an established program.
- The extent to which the recruitment and/or retention would introduce a researcher into high quality collaborative activities involving interactions between health science campuses and academic campuses, or among multiple campuses.
- The extent to which the recruitment and/or retention will contribute to scientific development in areas bridging multiple disciplines, enhancing translation of research from bench to bedside, or provide scientific or technological skills supportive of a number of other investigators and/or programs.

Individuals selected for awards should show evidence of accomplishment in research with demonstrated capacity for nationally competitive extramural research support and graduate student training.

Budget Administration and Management

Institutions have three years to make awards from annual STARS allocations. Unawarded funds at the end of the fiscal year will be automatically carried forward. However, if more than 25% of an institution's annual STARS allocation goes unawarded, the institution must submit a brief explanation to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs by August 31st, including the institution's plans for awarding and spending the funds moving forward.

Once an award is made, institutions must submit a notice to the UT System Office of Budget and Planning, including the faculty name and amount of award (notification form is forthcoming). The Office of Budget and Planning, in conjunction with the UT System Office of the Controller, will establish awards for successfully



recruited/retained faculty members. Consistent with other PUF bond proceeds-funded activities, institutions will be reimbursed as expenses are incurred. Institutions have 36 months from the date the award was made or the time a new faculty member arrives on campus in the case of new faculty, whichever is later, to expend funds.

Reporting

The UT System will establish reporting requirements for accountability and for demonstrating success. Institutions must track the following data elements for each award, at a minimum.

- Faculty Name
- Faculty Discipline/Expertise
- Faculty Department
- Amount of Award
- Type of Award (Recruitment or Retention)
- Category of Award (Faculty STARS or Rising STARS)
- Faculty Gender
- Faculty Race/Ethnicity
- If recruited from another university, indicate institution name
- Brief description of the purpose/goal of the award