



**TABLE OF CONTENTS  
FOR  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Committee Meeting: 8/23/2017**

**Board Meeting: 8/24/2017**  
Austin, Texas

Sara Martinez Tucker, *Chairman*  
Ernest Aliseda  
Kevin P. Eltife  
R. Steven Hicks  
Janiece Longoria  
Rad Weaver

	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Convene</b>	9:30 a.m. <i>Chairman Tucker</i>		
1. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration</b>	9:30 a.m. <b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>188</b>
2. <b>U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding recommendations from the Academic Affairs Committee of guidelines for submission of tuition and fee proposals for the academic institutions for FY 2019 and FY 2020</b>	9:35 a.m. <b>Action</b> <i>Chairman Tucker</i> <i>Dr. Leslie</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>189</b>
3. <b>U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Philosophy in Cellular, Molecular, and Biomedical Sciences</b>	9:45 a.m. <b>Action</b> <i>President Bailey</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>190</b>
4. <b>U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Physical Therapy</b>	9:50 a.m. <b>Action</b> <i>President Bailey</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>191</b>
5. <b>U. T. Permian Basin: Approval to create the College of Engineering</b>	9:55 a.m. <b>Action</b> <i>President Woodley</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>192</b>
6. <b>U. T. Arlington: Discussion and appropriate action regarding approval of the Campus Master Plan Expansion</b>	10:00 a.m. <b>Action</b> <i>President Karbhari</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>194</b>
7. <b>U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Discussion and appropriate action regarding approval of the Campus Master Plan</b>	10:13 a.m. <b>Action</b> <i>President Bailey</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>205</b>

	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Page</b>
8. <b>U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed changes to admission criteria for nine graduate programs</b>	10:26 a.m. <b>Action</b> <i>President Bailey</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Adjourn</b>	10:30 a.m.		

1. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration**

RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Consent Agenda items assigned to this Committee are [Items 17 - 49](#).

2. **U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding recommendations from the Academic Affairs Committee of guidelines for submission of tuition and fee proposals for the academic institutions for FY 2019 and FY 2020**

RECOMMENDATION

The Academic Affairs Committee will make recommendations to the Board concerning the guidelines for the submission of tuition and fee proposals for the U. T. System academic institutions for FY 2019 and FY 2020.

3. **U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Philosophy in Cellular, Molecular, and Biomedical Sciences**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Deputy Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve

- a. preliminary authority for U. T. Rio Grande Valley to create a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Cellular, Molecular, and Biomedical Sciences; and
- b. notification of the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

U. T. Rio Grande Valley requests preliminary authority for a Doctor of Philosophy in Cellular, Molecular, and Biomedical Sciences. The proposed Ph.D. program would be a collaborative, educational, and research effort among highly productive faculty in the College of Sciences, College of Health Affairs, College of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Medicine, and the South Texas Diabetes and Obesity Institute. The proposed interdisciplinary doctoral program would prepare future educators and researchers in several related subdisciplines, including cellular and molecular biology, human genetics and genomics, computational biology and bioinformatics, and neurobiology. Students would study health issues among the predominantly Hispanic population in the region, which is at a high risk for numerous chronic diseases, including obesity and diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, behavioral health conditions, and certain cancers. The program will be designed to produce competitive graduates, particularly from minority and disadvantaged groups, with specialized expertise in an area of interest coupled with experience in team science and a strong interdisciplinary knowledge base.

While projected growth trends in health and biomedical science jobs continue to increase nationally, they are even higher in the State of Texas. From 2014-2024, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 7% increase in all life, physical, and social science jobs. In Texas for the same period, the number of jobs projected is expected to increase at much higher rates: 21% for medical scientists (except epidemiologists), 19% for epidemiologists, 17% for microbiologists, and 21% for biochemists and biophysicists.

The faculty involved in the creation of the program demonstrate a strong record of accomplishment in research activities, including securing research funding totaling more than \$240 million in the last five years.

Once preliminary authority has been approved, U. T. Rio Grande Valley will submit the full degree program for approval by the U. T. System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

4. **U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Physical Therapy**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Deputy Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve

- a. preliminary authority for U. T. Rio Grande Valley to create a Doctor of Physical Therapy program; and
- b. notification of the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

U. T. Rio Grande Valley requests preliminary authority to offer a Doctor of Physical Therapy. The proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program would prepare students for state licensure and entry into the profession as physical therapists. The program will collaborate with existing programs at U. T. Rio Grande Valley, including medicine, nursing, health and human performance, pharmacy, physician assistants, and social work. The program is anticipated to have a traditional full-time graduate pathway with the typical nine semesters, as well as an accelerated 3+3 pathway option. The program plans to have an enrollment of 40 students at full maturity. The program will seek accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Employment for physical therapists at the state and national levels is expected to increase by 35% within the State of Texas (2014-2024) and 34% nationally for the same time period.

Once preliminary authority has been approved, U. T. Rio Grande Valley will submit the full degree program proposal for approval by the U. T. System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**5. U. T. Permian Basin: Approval to create the College of Engineering**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Deputy Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the institutional president that the Board of Regents approve the creation of a College of Engineering at U. T. Permian Basin.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Pursuant to Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 40601, Institutions Comprising the University of Texas System, which requires Board of Regents' approval of a new college or school within an institution, U. T. Permian Basin proposes the establishment of a College of Engineering. Presently, the University's engineering and business programs are all housed in the single College of Business and Engineering. The new College of Engineering will provide the infrastructure needed to support the two petroleum and mechanical engineering programs currently offered by U. T. Permian Basin and the two new engineering programs recently approved by the Board of Regents and currently under review by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The new College will promote organizational efficiency and provide the infrastructure needed for future programmatic development and fundraising opportunities.

New costs include the hiring of a dean, the annual administrative stipends for the department chairs, and a dedicated administrative assistant. The total annual costs for this organizational change during the first two years would be \$178,600. Starting in Year 3, when the administrative assistant is expected to be hired, annual costs would be \$208,600. The total additional cost over the next five years would be \$983,000.

U. T. Permian Basin received additional state funding for new engineering programs during the 85th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. This special item funding provided \$800,000 for each year of the FY 2018 - 2019 biennium to support the creation of new programs in civil and electrical engineering. U. T. Permian Basin will utilize part of this funding to create the Dean of the College of Engineering position and the required support staff. The remainder will be used to begin hiring faculty for the new programs and to support current engineering faculty in ramping up these new programs. With the addition of the new Dean of the College of Engineering and with the assistance of President Woodley, U. T. Permian Basin is well positioned to seek philanthropic support for the new engineering programs and facilities to grow and enhance the engineering programs and provide operational funding over the next several years. During the start-up phase of these endeavors, the base funding received from the state will be a crucial foundation to support the creation of and funding for the operations of the new College of Engineering.

The creation of the new College has been approved by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs pending approval by the Board. Upon approval by the Board of Regents, the Office of Academic Affairs will notify the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of the change so that the U. T. Permian Basin administrative unit structure may be updated.

*Texas Education Code* Section 65.11 authorizes the Board of Regents to provide for the "administration, organization, and names of the institutions and entities in The University of Texas System in such a way as will achieve the maximum operating efficiency of such institutions and entities[.]”



6. **U. T. Arlington: Discussion and appropriate action regarding approval of the Campus Master Plan Expansion**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Deputy Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve the Campus Master Plan Expansion for U. T. Arlington, which includes authority to acquire property in five zones as parcels become available to provide sufficient land to support the continued growth of the University. A PowerPoint presentation is set forth on the following pages. The five acquisition zones are set out on Slide 10 on [Page 204](#).

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

U. T. Arlington requests approval to be granted authority, in accordance with U. T. System and the Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, to acquire property in five zones as parcels become available to provide sufficient land to support the continued growth of the University. In addition, the redevelopment of these zones will help U. T. Arlington enhance the characteristics of a modern institution that includes an increasing residential population and growing institutional activities while still enabling green spaces and integration with the community.

# U. T. ARLINGTON CAMPUS MASTER PLAN EXPANSION ZONES

U. T. System Board of Regents' Meeting  
Academic Affairs Committee  
August 2017

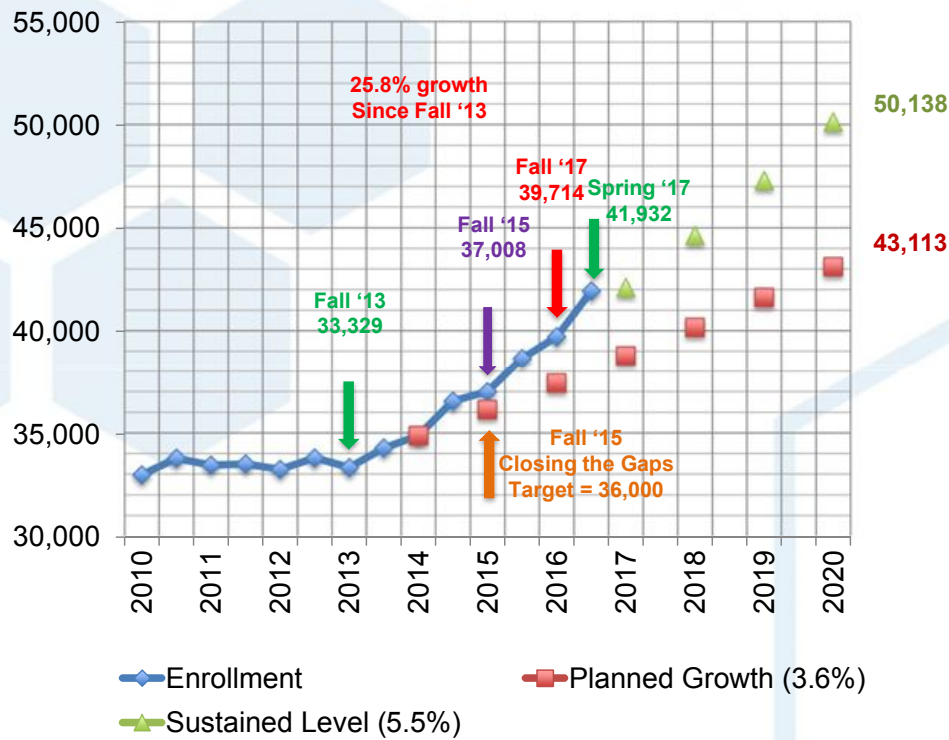
# Campus Growth

**U. T. Arlington's main campus comprises approximately 420 acres. 75 additional acres are included herein for future potential campus expansion.**

**Over the last 10 years, the campus physical plant has grown from 4.9 million square feet to over 6.4 million square feet, an increase of over 23%.**

**There is currently over 384,000 Gross Square Feet (GSF) under construction, plus a 1,500 car parking garage, with plans for an additional 270,000 GSF for future needs.**

# Enrollment Growth Trends (THECB)



Expected 2016-17  
Global Enrollment:  
**58,666**

- Focus:**  
**Excellence through:**
- Continuous assessment
  - Continuous improvement
  - Enhancement
  - Continuous updating
  - Data driven decisions

# Academic & Research Growth

**Enrollment** – U. T. Arlington expects continued growth in freshmen, transfers, and in graduate students. Growth is driven by a focus on areas of workforce needs and career opportunities.

**Growth: FY 2012 - 2016**

College of Engineering	70%
College of Nursing and Health Innovation	56%
School of Social Work	34%

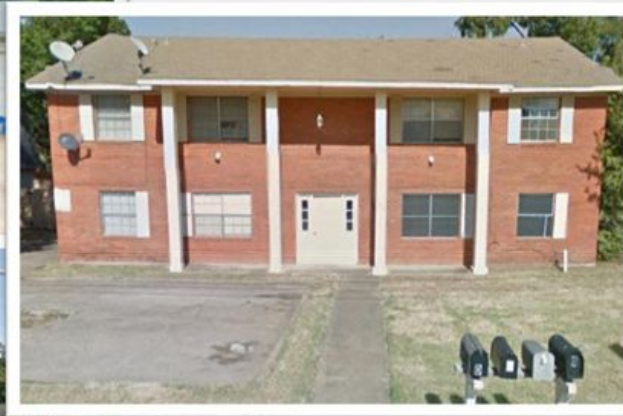
# Academic & Research Growth

**Faculty Hires** – 23% growth from 2013-2016 (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System), with further expected growth from 2017. Focus on growth areas per the Strategic Plan and the four theme areas.

**Research** – Based on the Carnegie R-1 classification and pursuit of Tier-One status, our research enterprise continues to grow at about 10% annually with new centers and research thrusts being added.

**Residential Population** – Demand for on-campus housing has increased. The new 534 bed residence hall will add capacity in Fall 2018, and further development is planned to meet continuing need.

# Buildings in Expansion Area



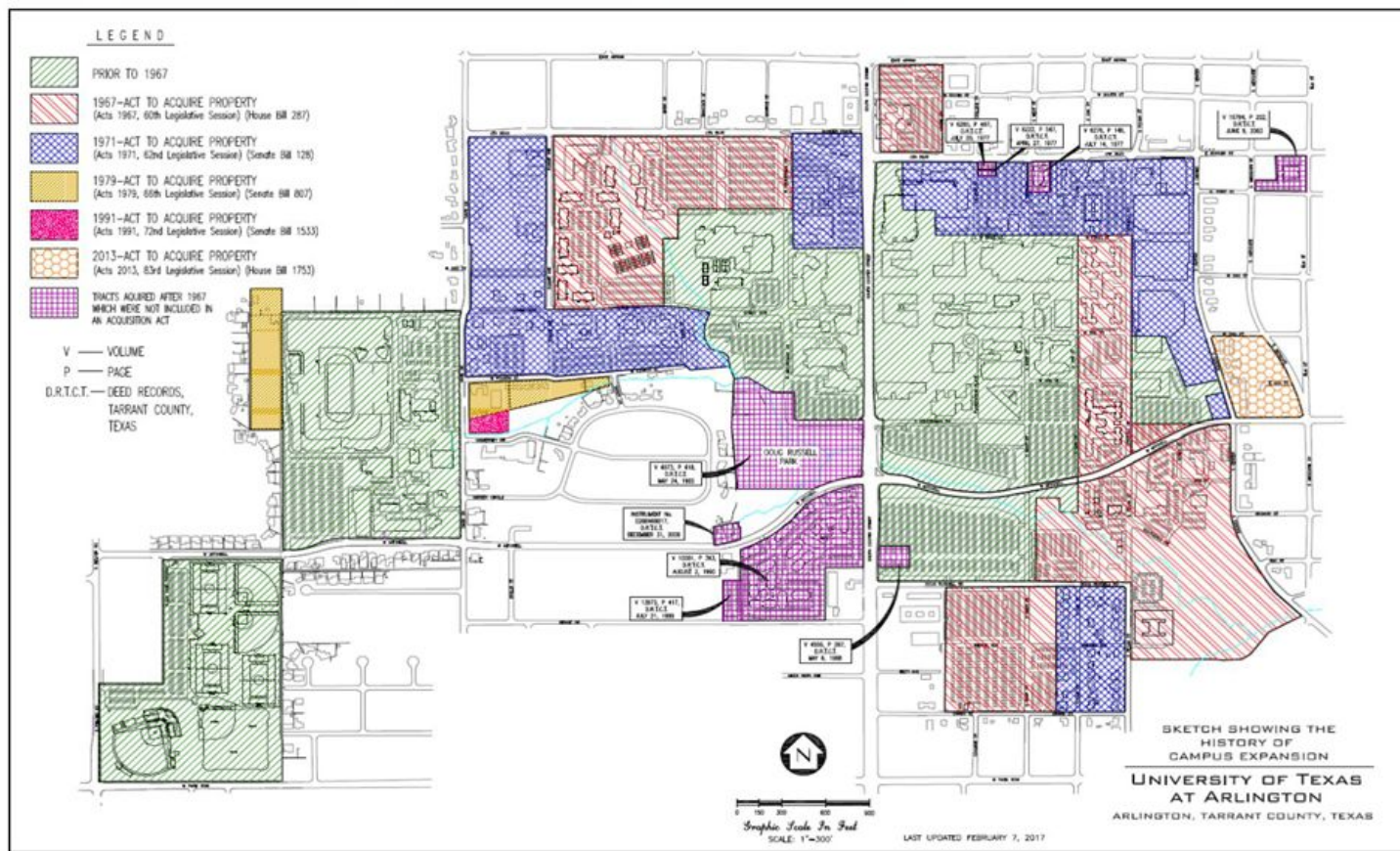
# Improving Campus Environment



**The proposed expansion zones will help U. T. Arlington enhance the characteristics of a modern institution that includes an increasing residential population and growing institutional activities while still enabling green spaces and integration with the neighboring community.**



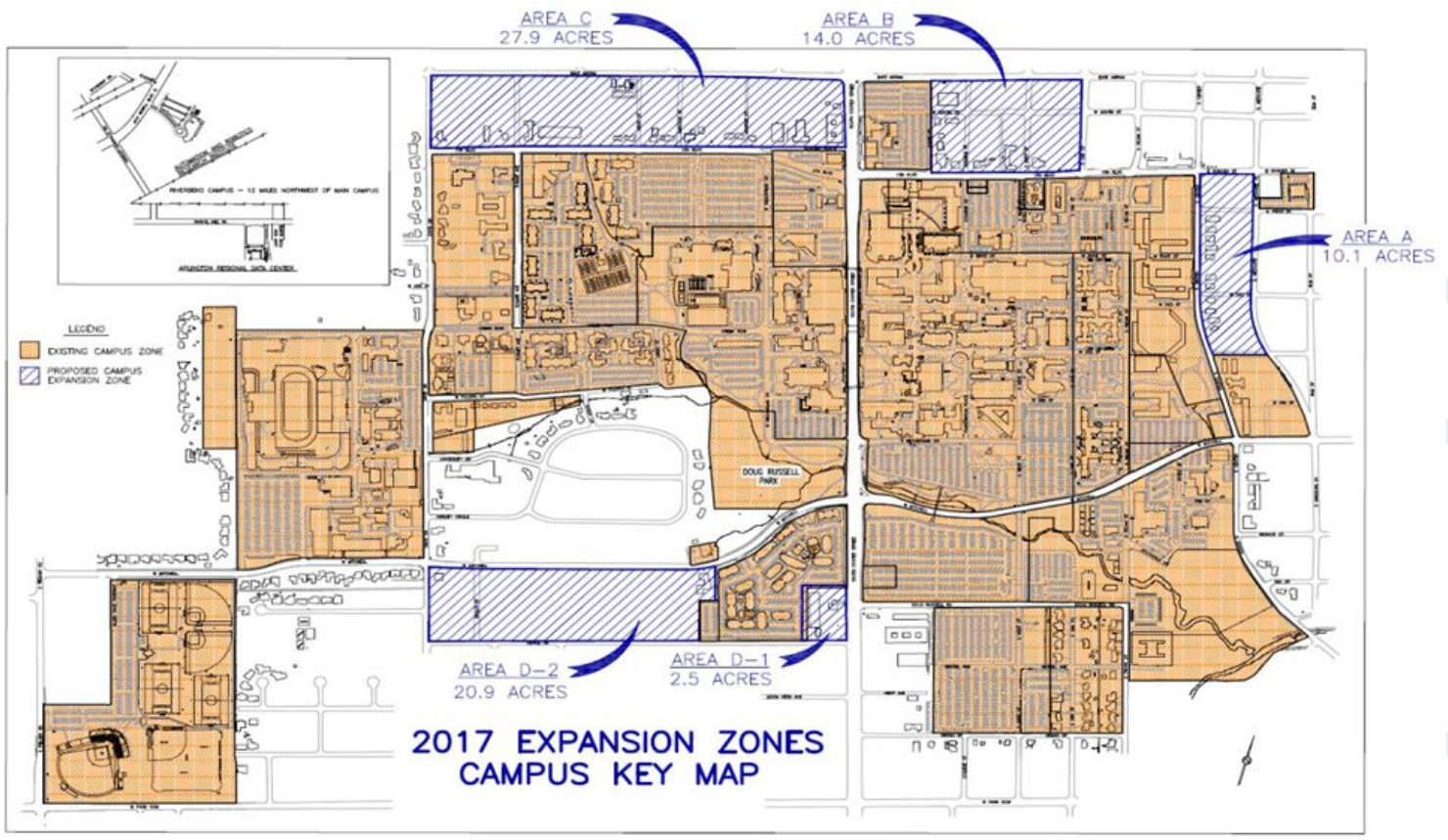
# Campus Expansion History



# Current University Ownership



# Proposed Expansion Zones



7. **U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Discussion and appropriate action regarding approval of the Campus Master Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Deputy Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve the Campus Master Plan for U. T. Rio Grande Valley. A PowerPoint presentation is set forth on the following pages.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Campus Master Plan mission, vision, and values will position U. T. Rio Grande Valley as a model of academic innovation for the distributed institution of the future. By leveraging existing locations, an enhanced bus rapid transit system, and digital connectivity, accessibility to regional, affordable, and high quality education will be maximized.

**Core Priorities**

The Master Plan uses the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board calculation methodology to identify real estate needs. Using enrollment, research expenditures, and benchmarked growth targets to forecast real estate needs over the next 5, 10, and 15 years, building projects have been prioritized at U. T. Rio Grande Valley locations across the Valley.

**Student Success**

The Master Plan envisions physical and digital upgrades to existing locations that enable highly accessible, networked experiential learning, and student services across the Valley. Much needed enhancements to student unions, library, and recreation services will enrich the student experience.

**Educational Opportunities**

Over the next five years, enrollment growth will be absorbed through improvements in utilization and increases in online and hybrid learning. Regional accessibility will be broadened by renovations to significantly increase the use of existing Academic Hubs in Rio Grande City, Weslaco, and McAllen.

**Research Impacting the Rio Grande Valley and Beyond**

Existing research facilities, together with the new Medical Research Building at the Doctors Hospital at Renaissance campus in McAllen, will accommodate five to seven years of growth, but planned increases in research expenditures over 10 to 15 years will require significant space. New space will be decentralized across the Valley at strategic locations defined by the aligning four research themes: Health + Wellness, Innovation, Education, and Environment. These research themes will focus on critical needs relative to the Rio Grande Valley.

### **Health and Medical Education**

The Master Plan envisions expansion of facilities at Harlingen as a major health sciences campus. Focusing growth in interprofessional learning and research, it will unite the Medical School with the College of Health Affairs. Expansion of the Ambulatory Interprofessional Medical Experience (AIME) sites will enable students to engage directly in community health and wellness programs region-wide.

### **Community Engagement**

The increased use of the Academic Hubs and AIME locations to include wider programmatic offerings, economic development, and research programs will provide a network of places to facilitate increased community outreach, service learning, and partnerships.

### **Digital Connectivity and Bus Rapid Transit**

Digital connectivity is considered a high priority for the Master Plan and future planning of the distributed campus model. The existing high-speed data/fiber network and planned substantial upgrades over the next five years at each of the campuses will meet current and future internet needs for teaching and research. It is intended that this will provide for remote teaching, video and streaming needs, and provide the level of connectivity required.

A bus rapid transit (BRT) network and supplementary shuttle system will provide interconnectivity to all three U. T. Rio Grande Valley campuses and Academic Hub locations throughout the Valley. The BRT service is scheduled to start in 2018.

# U. T. Rio Grande Valley Campus Master Plan

U. T. System Board of Regents' Meeting  
Academic Affairs Committee  
August 2017



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SYSTEM  
*Nine Universities. Six Health Institutions. Unlimited Possibilities.*

[WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU](http://WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU)

# Purpose

Create a singular University that successfully operates in a distributed model across the Rio Grande Valley supported by the appropriate digital and physical infrastructure.



# FOCUS: Maximum Success and Growth for the most Effective Investment

- Leveraging previous master plans
- Building upon the resources in existing locations
- Optimizing transportation & IT infrastructure



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SYSTEM  
*Nine Universities. Six Health Institutions. Unlimited Possibilities.*

WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU



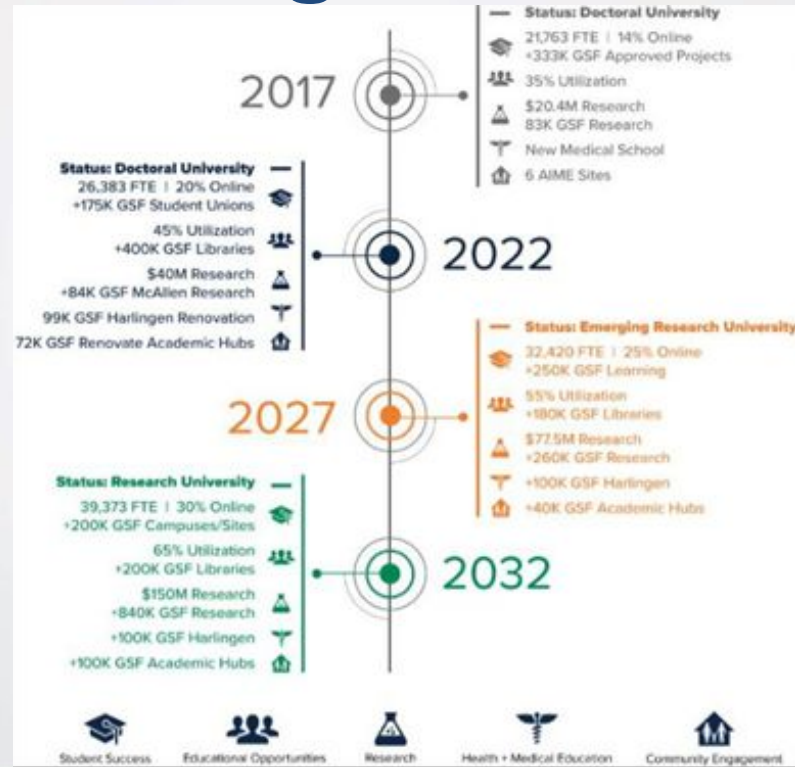
# 15-Year UTRGV Geography



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SYSTEM  
*Nine Universities. Six Health Institutions. Unlimited Possibilities.*

WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU

# Master/Strategic Plan Priorities



# Master Plan Priorities

- Learning
  - Campuses/Sites, Academic Hubs, Community Hubs
- Research
  - Health and Wellness, Innovation, Education, Environment
- Student Support
  - Library, Student Union, Recreation, Housing, Administration
- Connectivity
  - Data and Transit



# Learning

Year	Student Enrollment (FTSE)	% Online Learning
2017	21,700	14%
2022	26,400	20%
2027	32,400	25%
2032	39,400	30%



# Research Expenditures and Sites

2017	2022	2027	2032
\$29.1M (Projected)	\$40M	\$77.5M	\$150M

McAllen	Health Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing
Edinburg	Interdisciplinary Research
Weslaco	Earth/Environment, Business/Entrepreneurship
Harlingen	Health Sciences
Brownsville	Interdisciplinary Research
Port Isabel & South Padre Island	Space Innovation, Water, Coast, Oceans



# Support

2017	2022	2027	2032
1,459,000 GSF	+845,000 GSF	+355,000 GSF	+495,000 GSF

Library	Centralized Book repository to free campus space
Student Union	Renovate and expand existing facilities
Housing	Launch study to determine location, types, markets
Recreation	Upgrade fields and add new recreational facilities
Admin/Support	Consolidate administration, expand student support



# Connectivity – Data and Transit

- Achieved through data infrastructure and transportation systems
  - Explore Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
  - Increase Fiber Network
  - Develop Park + Ride Facilities
  - Increase Gigabits/second data rate



8. **U. T. Rio Grande Valley: Discussion and appropriate action regarding proposed changes to admission criteria for nine graduate programs**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Deputy Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve changes to the criteria for admission to nine graduate programs at U. T. Rio Grande Valley as described on the following pages.



## Summary of Changes to Admission Criteria

### 1. Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. Minimum of 15 U.S. Semester hours completed within the past 5 years (starting in the 2016 application cycle)	1. No change
2. Personal statement detailing professional goals and reasons for pursuing the graduate degree	2. No change
3. Three letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources	3. No change
4. Documentation of a minimum of 50 hours of shadowing	4. <del>Documentation of a minimum of 50 hours of shadowing.</del>
5. GRE General Test	5. No change

**Reason for Change:** Many potentially excellent candidates do not have sufficient shadowing hours since they would not have worked in the field prior to enrolling in the program. The students in the program will gain 40 total shadowing hours in the first semester and another approximately 40 shadowing hours in the second semester as part of the curriculum.

**2. Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies – Anthropology**

Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. GRE general test	1. <u>If applicant does not meet the minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, a GRE general test is required</u>
2. Submission of a statement of purpose and goals for pursuing the degree	2. No change
3. Submission of a resume	3. No change
4.	4. <u>Two letters of recommendation, at least one of them from an academic source</u>

**Reason for Changes:** The GRE was added as a requirement for all applicants when degree programs were proposed for UTRGV and was not a requirement previously at the legacy institution. The program believes that applicants that meet the GPA requirement for clear admission (3.0), have a strong resume (resume submission required), and submit a well-articulated statement of purpose and goals would not accrue additional advantage from taking the GRE test. In order to facilitate a holistic assessment of applicants with GPAs below 3.0, the GRE test would be required. In addition, the program is also now requesting two letters of recommendation from all applicants.

**3. Master of Science in Criminal Justice**

<b>Current Unconditional Admission Criteria</b>	<b>Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria</b>
1. If applicant does not meet the minimum undergraduate GPA criterion of 3.0, but has a GPA of 2.80 -2.99, GRE general test with minimum scores of 146 Verbal, 150 Quantitative, and 3.5 Analytical are required for conditional admission	1. If applicant does not meet the minimum undergraduate GPA criterion of 3.0, but has a GPA of <u>2.75</u> -2.99, GRE general test with minimum scores of 146 Verbal, 150 Quantitative, and 3.5 Analytical are required for conditional admission
2. Submission of three letters of recommendation from university/college professors who can assess the applicants' abilities to pursue graduate study. In exceptional cases (where an applicant has not attended school for a long period of time, say five years), a non-academic referee, such as a captain and above in the US Armed Forces or law enforcement; a federal or state judge; a senior barrister/attorney-at-law; or a Senior Federal, State/County/Local Public Service Officer above the rank of a supervisor; or other similar position may be considered	2. No change
3. Submission of a 250-500 letter of intent detailing why the student is interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Criminal Justice	3. No change

**Reason for Change:** This requested change is to bring the program in line with the university general requirement of 2.75 – 2.99 used for conditional admission for all other graduate programs.

**4. Master of Science in Kinesiology**

<b>Current Unconditional Admission Criteria</b>	<b>Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria</b>
1. Submission of two letters of recommendation or reference checklists	1. No change
2. Submission of a statement of purpose in pursuing degree	2. No change
3. Submission of a resume	3. No change
4.	4. <u>Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology or related field from a regionally accredited institution in the United States or a recognized international equivalent in a similar or related field</u>
5.	5. <u>Applicants who do not have their undergraduate training in Kinesiology or related areas, will be required to complete 9-12 hours of undergraduate leveling work. Leveling work must be completed with a "B" (GPA of 3.0 or higher based upon a 4.0 system) before acceptance into the program</u>

**Reason for Changes:** Previously, applicants could enter the program from a wide cross-section of undergraduate background. It had become apparent that students without a Kinesiology background either performed poorly in their courses or were required to take several foundation courses which unexpectedly increased their time to degree and unplanned tuition costs. This revision will result in greater transparency and ensure that students accepted into the program have the required background to be successful and/or are well aware of foundation requirements.

**5. Master of Education in Bilingual Education**

<b>Current Unconditional Admission Criteria</b>	<b>Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria</b>
1. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.25 overall	1. Minimum undergraduate GPA of <u>3.0</u>
2. If applicant does not meet the minimum undergraduate GPA criterion, GRE general test with minimum scores of 150 Verbal, 141 Quantitative, and 4.0 Analytical are required for conditional admission	2. No change
3. Submission of two letters of recommendation	3. Submission of two letters of recommendation <u>from professional or academic sources</u>
4. Submission of a personal statement essay a. Write 250 words in English explaining your interest in graduate studies b. Write 250 words for your chosen specialization: i. Dual Language Specialization: In Spanish, explain your interest in dual language environments ii. ESL Specialization: In English, explain your interest in students who speak languages other than English iii. Educational Leadership Specialization: In English, explain your interest in leadership for bilingual environments	4. Submission of a personal statement essays ( <u>complete both a and b</u> ) a. Write 250 words in English explaining your interest in graduate studies b. Write 250 words for your chosen specialization: i. Dual Language Specialization: <u>En español, explique su interés en ambientes y aulas bilingües</u> ii. ESL Specialization: In English, explain your interest in students who speak languages other than English iii. Educational Leadership Specialization: In English, explain your interest in leadership for bilingual environments
5. Submission of a resume	5. Submission of a resume <u>which includes educational and background and work experience</u>

<p>6. Submission of Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) or Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET) Certificate. If an applicant lacks Texas certification but has taught in another state, another country, a charter school, a private school, or a community college, conditional admission may be considered.</p>	<p>6. <u>Documentation of one of the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Teacher certification in the U.S., or</u></li> <li>• <u>licenciatura or equivalent from another country, in a field related to education or language, or</u></li> <li>• <u>employment in a charter school, private school, or a community college.</u></li> <li>• <u>For applicants without teaching certification or experience, conditional admission may be considered.</u></li> </ul>
<p>7. Documentation of one year of teaching experience</p>	<p>7. <del>Documentation of one year of teaching experience</del></p>

**Reason for Changes:**

Change: Lower undergraduate GPA requirement for clear admission from 3.25 to 3.0. This change will better align the program with the overall university requirement of 3.0 for clear admission to graduate programs.

Change: Submission of letters of recommendation to be completed specifically by professional or academic sources. This change was deemed necessary to ensure that the letters of recommendations addressed the candidate’s academic abilities. Many letters received were very general and did not address the candidate’s academic abilities.

Change: Personal statement essays now have more specific criteria. This change is intended to ensure that candidates provide better-quality essays that would facilitate the review process.

Change: Resume must now include educational background and work experience. This change is to ensure that applicants create better and more relevant resumes to facilitate the review process.

Change: Teacher Certification now includes entities other than Texas. An increasing number of applications are coming from states other than Texas. This opens applications to these applicants.

Delete: Documentation of one year of teaching experience. Students are required to have documentation of at least one-year of teaching experience to sit for the Texas teaching certification. Students can achieve this while working through the program so it isn’t necessary to have this prior to program entry.

**6. Teacher Certification – Principal Credential (M.Ed. Educational Leadership)**

Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
1. Master's degree in Educational Leadership	1. No change
2. 3.0 GPA	2. No change
3. Three (3) years teaching experience	3. <u>Two (2) years</u> teaching experience
4. Presentation of the following to the Faculty Admissions Committee. (1 hour) A. Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness 1. Presentation of how you use student performance data to improve instruction B. Evidence of Leadership Activities 1. Presentation of End-product from M.Ed. program 2. Presentation of school site leadership roles/responsibilities	4. No change
5. Evidence of Teaching certificate (Updated)	5. No change
6. Evidence of Teacher Service Record	6. No change
7. Criminal Background Check	7. No change

**Reason for Change:** The program is aligning with TEA requirement of two years teaching experience.

**7. Teacher Certification – Principal Credential (M.Ed. in another field)**

<b>Current Unconditional Admission Criteria</b>	<b>Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria</b>
1. Master's degree in Educational Leadership	1. No change
2. 3.0 GPA	2. No change
3. Three (3) years teaching experience	3. <u>Two (2) years</u> teaching experience
4. Presentation of the following to the Faculty Admissions Committee. (1 hour) A. Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness 1. Presentation of how you use student performance data to improve instruction B. Evidence of Leadership Activities 1. Presentation of End-product from M.Ed. program 2. Presentation of school site leadership roles/responsibilities	4. No change
5. Evidence of Teaching certificate (Updated)	5. No change
6. Evidence of Teacher Service Record	6. No change
7. Criminal Background Check	7. No change

**Reason for Change:** The program is aligning with TEA requirement of two years teaching experience.



**8. Teacher Certification – Assessment of Exceptional Learners Credential (formerly Educational Diagnostician Credential) (Certification in the state of Texas only)**

Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
	1. <u>Hold a graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in education or related field</u>
1. Three letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources	2. No change
2. Personal statement detailing professional goals and reasons for pursuing this degree	3. No change
3. Criminal background check	4. No change
4. Proof of Professional Liability Insurance	5. No change
	6. <u>Hold a valid teaching certification</u>

**Reason for Changes:**

Change: Requirement of a graduate degree from an accredited institution recognized by THECB. This specifies that the undergraduate degree must be recognized by the THECB for Texas certification and is primarily a clarification.

Change: Hold a valid teaching certification. A valid teaching certificate is required in Texas to be certified and to teach in the area. This is to ensure that applicants are prepared for certification when they complete their coursework.

**9. Teacher Certification – Assessment of Exceptional Learners Credential (formerly Educational Diagnostician Credential)**

Current Unconditional Admission Criteria	Proposed Unconditional Admission Criteria
	1. <u>Hold a graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education in education or related field</u>
1. Three letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources	2. No change
2. Personal statement detailing professional goals and reasons for pursuing this degree	3. No change
3. Criminal background check	4. No change
4. Proof of Professional Liability Insurance	5. No change

**Reason for Change:** This specifies that the undergraduate degree does not have to be recognized by the THECB since certification will be conferred by a governing board outside Texas.