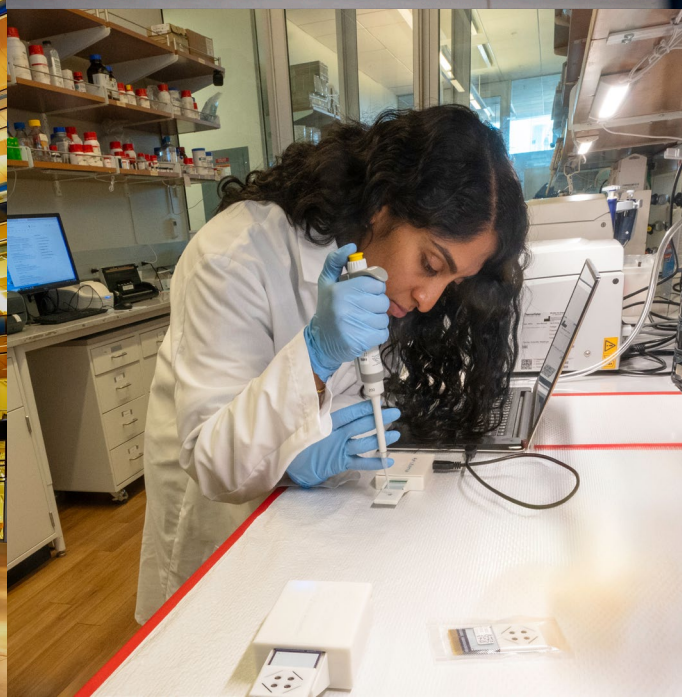
THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Strategic Plan for Research



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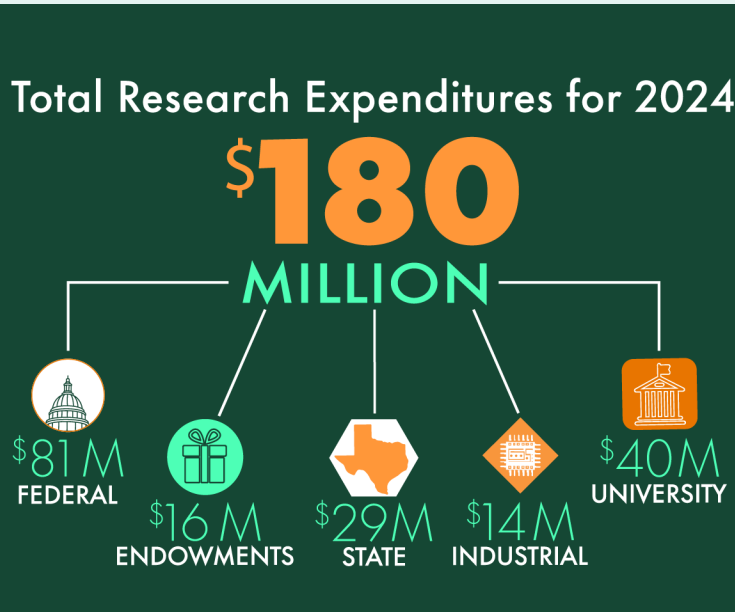
Plan to Elevate Research Enterprise

Goals and Priorities

The University of Texas at Dallas is a Tier One research institution dedicated to advancing scholarly inquiry and fostering innovation across diverse disciplines. Since its founding, UT Dallas has pioneered research and technological advancements for over five decades. During fiscal year 2024, the University reached $180 million in total research expenditures, more than doubling its research expenditures over the past 14 years. This remarkable growth underscores UT Dallas' unwavering leadership in advancing knowledge across a diverse research portfolio. By leveraging robust collaborations with industry partners, government agencies, and academic institutions, UT Dallas stands at the forefront of transformative discoveries shaping the future. A major strategic goal for UT Dallas is the continued annual growth of research expenditures to maximize its capacity to innovate and create new knowledge.



$16.3M INTERNAL FUNDING and SEED GRANTS (Since 2019)

642 TENURED/TENURE TRACK FACULTY

37 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS (Since 2018)

54 NSF CAREER AWARDS (Since 2013)

38 COMPANIES IN THE VENTURE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

12 ACADEMY MEMBERS

373 CURRENTLY ACTIVE PATENTS


Graduate student research and education are central to the mission of UT Dallas. To enhance its reputation for research excellence, the University must prioritize attracting and retaining exceptional faculty while expanding the number and caliber of its graduate students. The relationship between excellent faculty and strong doctoral students is symbiotic. Outstanding faculty draw talented students, and well-supported, high-achieving doctoral students ensure the University can retain top-tier faculty. This dynamic is crucial for realizing the research vision for UT Dallas.

To build a culture of research productivity, UT Dallas commits to:

- Encouraging and supporting faculty who consistently pursue research funding opportunities, particularly highly competitive opportunities from federal agencies.
- Developing research centers in key, high-impact, interdisciplinary areas that attract top researchers, who in turn train graduate and postdoctoral students to tackle complex problems across multiple fields.
- Increasing the number of faculty engaged in moving their research from the bench to the marketplace through targeted programs.

UT Dallas is dedicated to addressing global challenges by forming strong partnerships with corporations and other universities, thereby contributing to advancements in knowledge and innovation.

Key Initiatives:

- Increase the number of research-active faculty.
- Expand the University's externally funded research portfolio, with an emphasis on federal grants and contracts.
- Strengthen partnerships with North Texas corporations to address applied research challenges of shared interest.
- Grow enrollment of high-caliber doctoral students.
- Improve doctoral student preparation, support, and graduation outcomes.
- Invest in advanced research facilities and services, including cyberinfrastructure, data management, and collaborative tools.
- Leverage recruitment and research opportunities through partnerships with peer universities.

Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaboration among faculty at UT Dallas is enhanced through innovative approaches, such as leveraging partnerships and offering seed grant opportunities. Efforts to foster collaboration are evident in initiatives such as the Seed Program for Interdisciplinary Research (SPIRe), the New Faculty Research Symposium Grant, the interdisciplinary centers within the Richardson Innovation Quarter (The IQ), and internal funding opportunities offered by the UT Dallas Office of Research and Innovation (ORI).

Internal Seed Funding Programs

The SPIRe program is an internal funding initiative designed to encourage cross-departmental STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) research collaborations and to lay the groundwork for future external funding opportunities. Awardees commit to pursue external funding within 18 months of receiving support. Similarly, the New Faculty Research Symposium Grant promotes interdisciplinary research by pairing newly hired faculty members with established colleagues from different departments, programs or schools. Awardees of this grant commit to pursue external funding collaboratively within 12 months. These programs and other internal funding opportunities are designed to encourage research innovation and strengthen faculty collaboration. ORI regularly reviews and refines these initiatives to ensure that they effectively support interdisciplinary work across the University.

Recognition for Securing Federal Funding

ORI acknowledges and celebrates significant research accomplishments through two flagship programs: the Recognition of Outstanding Achievements in Research (ROAR) and the Federal Research Innovation and ExpeNditures Dynamo (FRIENDs) program. The ROAR program honors researchers who secure cumulative federal research awards exceeding $1 million as principal or co-principal investigators within a fiscal year. Similarly, the FRIENDs program recognizes researchers whose annual federal research expenditures surpass $500,000 as principal or co-principal investigators. Recipients of ROAR and FRIENDs awards are acknowledged on the respective program webpages, highlighting their exemplary contributions to federal research initiatives.

Richardson Innovation Quarter (The IQ)

The City of Richardson and UT Dallas embarked on a dynamic economic development initiative, extending the University's influence from the campus into the community. In addition to providing further venture development space to university-based startups, multiple research centers from various disciplines and schools at UT Dallas are physically based in The IQ to leverage engagement with the city and local industry. These centers focus on cutting-edge research in artificial intelligence, machine learning, imaging and surgical innovation, drones, and 5G radio innovation. Researchers at these IQ centers are committed to developing innovative solutions and effectively communicating their work to the broader community. Leveraging The IQ space, UT Dallas launched its inaugural entrepreneurial Startup Crawl in fiscal year 2025. This event brought together startup companies to showcase their innovative ventures, providing businesses with opportunities to connect with investors and build valuable relationships. The Startup Crawl is set to become an annual event that fosters research and entrepreneurship, to create a lasting impact.

Research Compliance

ORI is committed to strengthening the community of practice among Texas higher education institutions by hosting annual conferences for research compliance administrators. These conferences provide a platform for building connections and fostering relationships among compliance experts across Texas, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of statewide compliance officers and programs. These efforts further support UT Dallas in its mission to advance research while improving financial and administrative systems.

Community Collaborations

To strengthen its research network and expand its presence within the community, UT Dallas will continue nurturing existing partnerships while actively seeking new opportunities with K-12 schools, higher education institutions, government agencies, nonprofits, industry leaders, and startups. These relationships will help support federally funded researchers' broader impact plans and promote public understanding of the scientific contributions and endeavors pursued by the University.

Institutional Partnerships

UT Dallas maintains long-standing partnerships with various Texas institutions and other entities. A prime example is the University's relationship with UT Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW). With support from Texas Instruments and other donors, the Texas Instruments Biomedical Engineering and Sciences Building opened in 2023. Located on the East Campus of UTSW, the five-story, 150,000-square-foot building supports collaborative faculty from UTSW and UT Dallas. These efforts aim to improve health care and advance innovations in patient care through cutting-edge research, paving the way for the next generation of medical breakthroughs.

Economic Impact

Facilities and Economic Development

UT Dallas is committed to strengthening its ability to understand, explain, and enhance the economic impact of its research activities. Recognized as a key economic driver in the region, UT Dallas is expanding its facilities and economic development team to support these efforts. Recently, the University created two key roles: director of economic development and sustainability liaison, and economic development analyst. The director of economic development and sustainability liaison will lead UT Dallas' economic development initiatives, ensuring the University's growing influence as a regional economic hub while aligning sustainability efforts across campus. The economic development analyst will play a vital role by providing data-driven insights to guide strategic decision-making. In addition to these new roles, UT Dallas' facilities and economic development team is revising a previous economic impact study by incorporating updated data for 2025. This study will include comprehensive analysis of the University's economic contributions and will serve as a key resource for demonstrating the University's impact on the region and the state.

Key Metrics and Economic Impact Initiatives at UT Dallas

UT Dallas employs key metrics related to research commercialization to highlight the entrepreneurial activity and financial backing generated by university research. These metrics include spin-out companies formed and the investments they attract, both dilutive and nondilutive. UT Dallas also tracks the creation of new jobs, particularly in startups and small companies that benefit from university-driven technologies. The average salary of these positions is used to assess the economic value and quality of the job opportunities created. Additionally, the number of new products brought to market utilizing university intellectual property, and the revenue these products generate, demonstrate the tangible outcomes of research efforts. Additional metrics include the number of technology disclosures received, patent applications filed and granted, and license agreements executed. These indicators measure the University's success in protecting and commercializing its intellectual property. Moreover, the license revenue generated from the commercialization of these assets is a critical gauge of the financial impact of UT Dallas' research. By tracking these metrics, the University can assess and communicate the economic contributions of its research, and highlight its role in driving regional and state economic growth.



Batteries and Energy to Advance Commercialization and National Security (BEACONS) Center

In 2023, UT Dallas received a $30 million award from the U.S. Department of Defense to establish the BEACONS Center. This center, focused on advanced battery research, plays a vital role in the future supply of high energy density batteries necessary for drones and unmanned aerial vehicles for defense and national security applications. The center will engage with both large and small industry partners to advance battery technology.

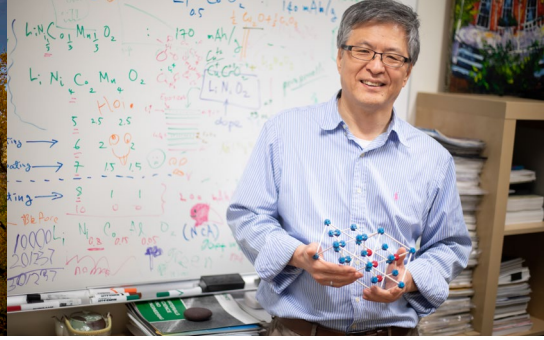
Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE)

The IIE is the leading program for student and faculty entrepreneurship in North Texas and among the best in the U.S. Since 2006, the IIE has provided venture support for students interested in entrepreneurship and training for students focused on pursuing careers at innovative corporations both big and small. IIE programs have won multiple awards, including Tech Titans' "University Titan of the Future" (2019) and "Investment Catalyst" (2018); the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship's university entrepreneurship model curriculum; and the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers' excellence in education development and mentoring distinction.

Workforce Development and Strategic Collaborations

UT Dallas has established workforce development programs to support the technology economy of North Texas. In 2023, the North Texas Semiconductor Institute was created with funding from a community project to support semiconductor workforce development. Additionally, the BEACONS Center, which focuses on advancing battery technologies, improving the manufacturing process, and training the battery-storage workforce, includes a workforce development program partnership with five local community colleges (Collin College, Dallas College, Grayson College, North Central Texas College, and Texas State Technical College) to offer certification in advanced manufacturing and related certificate and degree programs. Both the North Texas Semiconductor Institute and the BEACONS Center will continue to build on these successful partnerships with community colleges and industry while actively seeking new collaborations to strengthen workforce development initiatives.





Fostering Technology Commercialization

UT Dallas is dedicated to fostering the commercialization of novel technology and insights to ultimately transition work from the laboratory bench to the marketplace. The Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) plays a key role in identifying, protecting, and managing intellectual property (IP) generated from university research. By facilitating the commercialization of these technologies, particularly through licensing to startups, the OTC helps bring innovative products and services to market. This generates revenue for the University and stimulates economic activity in North Texas by creating new businesses and job opportunities.

Expanding Innovation and Economic Growth at UT Dallas

UT Dallas is dedicated to engaging faculty with the community and improving intellectual property training, which increases the number of technology disclosures and generates more inventions and innovations that can be commercialized. This effort supports a culture of innovation within UT Dallas that attracts talent and investment to the region. By forging and expanding partnerships with key players in the startup ecosystem, UT Dallas actively supports the success of local startups. Collaborations with startup accelerators, engagement with angel investor networks, and mentorship programs provide startups with critical resources and support to help them scale operations, create jobs, and contribute to the local economy. UT Dallas actively supports startups through workshops, pitch events, and networking sessions that help them refine their business strategies and connect with potential investors and partners. In collaboration with the regional National Science Foundation (NSF) I-Corps hub at UT Austin, UT Dallas offers entrepreneurial researchers — spanning faculty, staff, and students — comprehensive training, experienced mentors, and access to a vast network of industry experts, partners, and investors. These initiatives increase the commercialization potential of university research, leading to the development of new products and services that contribute to the Texas economy. Within the University research portfolio, many areas align with local and regional economic priorities, such as semiconductor innovation, telecommunications, and translational biomedical science. The University aims to expand its commercialization impact by implementing these strategies, generating more patents, licenses, startups, and successful technology commercialization outcomes. Through these efforts, UT Dallas will remain a vital economic engine for the region and the state, driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering long-term economic growth.

Plan to Increase Research Funding and Productivity

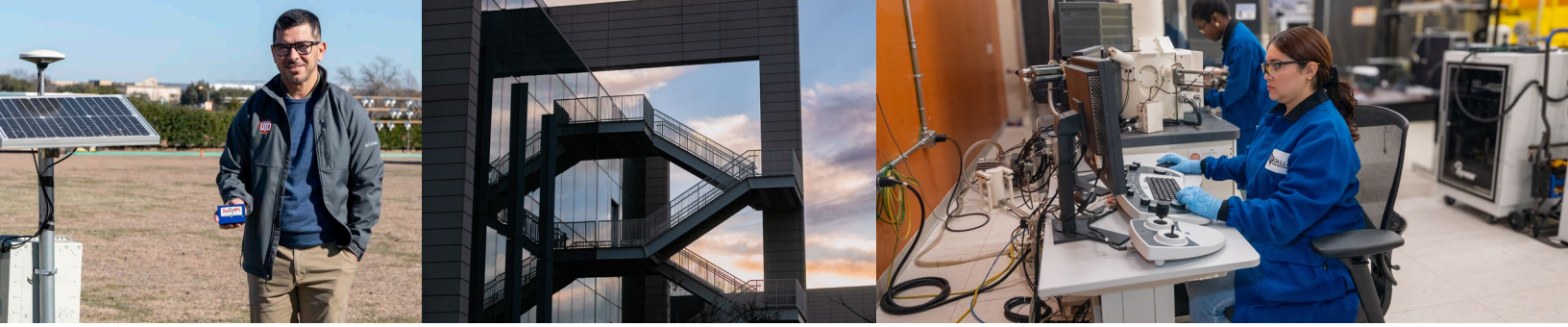
External Funding

Federal and Industry-Sponsored Research

UT Dallas is focused on increasing industry-sponsored research through a comprehensive approach that leverages its strengths among innovation, collaboration, and strategic partnerships. The University is committed to building and strengthening relationships with industry partners by identifying shared areas of interest and developing research capabilities that align with industry needs. This approach includes regular engagement with industry leaders, participation in relevant conferences, and hosting collaborative workshops that foster deeper connections and enhance research efforts.

To advance cutting-edge research, UT Dallas is investing significantly in state-of-the-art research facilities and infrastructure. An example is the BEACONS Center, which focuses on advancing battery technology and energy storage solutions. The center offers IP-secure facilities, prototyping capabilities, and workforce training programs to help emerging companies scale their innovations more efficiently.

Additionally, the Center for Harsh Environment Semiconductors and Systems (CHESS) at UT Dallas specializes in developing semiconductor technologies capable of operating in extreme environments. CHESS partners with industry leaders to create durable, reliable semiconductor solutions for aerospace, defense, and energy applications. With its cutting-edge facilities and expertise in harsh environment technologies, CHESS is a strong partner of industry-sponsored research.



In addition, UT Dallas actively encourages interdisciplinary research initiatives that bring together experts from diverse fields to tackle complex industry challenges. To support these efforts, the University offers several seed grant programs, such as the SPIRe program, that are designed to stimulate collaborations leading to external funding opportunities. The UT Dallas Seed Fund also provides gap funding to UT Dallas-affiliated companies, helping them scale and prepare for more significant investments. These programs foster a collaborative research environment and produce innovative solutions that attract industry partners.

The Office of Technology Commercialization is committed to simplifying and expediting industry contracts. The OTC reduces administrative burdens and accelerates project initiation by implementing efficient contract negotiation and management practices. The University also collaborates with other institutions within The University of Texas System to enhance and streamline contracting processes. The UT System hosts multiple special interest groups that meet quarterly to discuss the most pertinent issues facing its institutions. These collaborative efforts ensure the sharing of best practices, leading to more efficient and effective contracting with industry partners.

Encouraging Faculty Engagement in Industry-Sponsored Research

UT Dallas has a long history of engagement with industry partners in research and development. All incentives to pursue and conduct sponsored research are consistent, whether the source is the federal government or industry. Seed funding, as well as internal recognition awards, provide incentives to faculty to collaborate with industry partners and pursue impactful research projects. To further support industry collaboration, UT Dallas is enhancing its marketing strategies to highlight the University's research strengths and achievements. These efforts include developing industry partner-targeted marketing campaigns, maintaining an up-to-date online presence, and leveraging social media platforms to showcase research successes and opportunities for collaboration.

By actively promoting the University's intellectual property portfolio and engaging potential licensees, OTC aims to attract industry-sponsored research and commercialization opportunities. A key initiative in this effort is the Intellectual Property Assignment/Sponsored Research Agreement (IPA/SRA), which simplifies the process of establishing research collaborations with industry partners. The IPA/SRA allows industry sponsors to elect ownership of resulting intellectual property, offering a standardized framework for negotiating terms and conditions and reducing the time required to initiate projects. This initiative strengthens UT Dallas' ability to collaborate with industry, making it easier for companies to leverage the University's research expertise.

Communication Strategies at UT Dallas

UT Dallas employs several strategies and platforms to communicate effectively with the campus community. A dedicated listserv email is distributed each morning, with one day per week focusing exclusively on new funding opportunities and the remaining days covering sponsor updates, webinars, and events. Additionally, a Microsoft Teams channel shares timely updates without the constraint of a daily post. The University's campus newsletter also promotes event information, including both internally and externally sponsored events.

Research Development Consulting

UT Dallas has an active agreement with Hanover Research, a research development consulting firm that provides editing support, identifies funding opportunities, delivers webinars, and conducts targeted workshops. The University continually adapts its use of Hanover's services to align with the needs of new faculty and emerging initiatives. Furthermore, UT Dallas contracts with Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC, to provide hands-on research development assistance tailored both broadly and to specific groups or individuals.

Community Collaboration

Over the past few years, UT Dallas has significantly expanded its workforce development efforts. Situated in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, UT Dallas benefits from numerous opportunities to build partnerships. Existing connections with local independent school districts provide a foundation for expanding into other thematic areas, enabling faster implementation. These established relationships also strengthen proposal submissions by demonstrating a proven track record of success.

Streamlining Sponsored Project Spending and Enhancing Research Efficiency

ORI actively collaborates with campus departments to streamline sponsored project ORI actively collaborates with campus departments to streamline sponsored project spending processes. Regular meetings are held to identify and address areas for improvement, particularly in procurement and accounts payable. To enhance expenditure efficiency, ORI works closely with faculty and departmental staff to ensure that all available funding is utilized within the award's time frame, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. ORI offers a comprehensive 12-month training program for departmental staff, focused on research administration. This program covers critical topics, including the distinction between operating and sponsored projects, budgeting best practices, effective utilization of funding, strategies for identifying funding opportunities, ways to better support faculty, and best practices for spending and resource management.

Office of Post Award Management (OPM)

OPM provides timely and targeted training to UT Dallas departments, ensuring clear communication of business processes and compliance with University policies and federal regulations regarding sponsored project expenditures. OPM regularly collaborates with key departments such as travel, accounts payable, and purchasing to identify challenges and streamline the expenditure approval process. As research expenditures increase, OPM remains diligent in reviewing and verifying that all expenditure requests for sponsored projects are allowable, allocable, and reasonable. This rigorous review process has proved effective in minimizing audit findings and mitigating potential risks of future federal funding losses. These proactive measures continue to strengthen the University's research administration framework and reputation for responsible financial management.

Research Financial Reporting (RFR)

RFR is dedicated to automating manual processes and optimizing the use of PeopleSoft tools to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. These improvements allow for more timely and frequent notifications to faculty and departments regarding project burn rates and spending. Additionally, RFR provides faculty with detailed expenditure tracking reports to ensure that spending aligns with project budgets and that cost-share commitments are fulfilled.

Through these initiatives, UT Dallas seeks to substantially enhance private and federal research expenditures, expand the number of industry contracts, and increase the level of industry-sponsored research funding. These efforts aim to cultivate a dynamic research ecosystem that benefits both the University and its industry partners.

Research Facilities

Plans for Research Facility Expansion at UT Dallas

UT Dallas has multifaceted and ambitious plans for institutional research facility expansion. The University is completing the purchase of a building adjacent to the main campus that will support various functions, including space for clinical research primarily conducted by the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. In addition, it will host a clinical trials research center that will provide critical services to expand the University's portfolio in translational biomedical science. The University has long-term plans to construct a multidisciplinary science and technology building near the Bioengineering and Sciences Building (BSB) on the main campus. This proposed building, with substantial wet-lab capabilities, would leverage nearby access to the University's core facilities, which include, but are not limited to, the Laboratory Animal Research Center, Cleanroom Research Laboratory, and Bioscience Cores. The proposed building would support the expansion of research-active faculty across multiple disciplines.

Research Facility Enhancements and Economic Development Initiatives at UT Dallas

Over the past five years, the Cleanroom Research Laboratory, located in the Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory (NSERL), has undergone significant enhancements through multimillion-dollar investments to expand its capabilities and support of advanced research in electronic, photonic, and microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) device fabrication. These investments include procuring cutting-edge equipment, such as new e-beam evaporators and atomic-layer deposition tools critical for advanced materials deposition processes. To accommodate a growing user base and meet evolving research demands, a new contact printer has been added to enhance photolithography capabilities — an essential step in device fabrication. Additionally, a new plasma etch tool has been installed, enabling research across various applications that require precise material etching. Several metrology tools have been upgraded to support the high-precision characterization of thin films and devices. These include advanced high-resolution electron and atomic force microscopes, wafer stress measurement tools, and optical characterization instruments. These tools are essential for ensuring the quality and performance of fabricated devices. Many of these state-of-the-art tools have been installed only recently, and the laboratory will continue to prioritize equipment upgrades and expansions through 2025 and beyond. These efforts are expected to further enhance research capacity and drive economic growth in the greater North Texas region.

The Bioscience Cores at UT Dallas

The Bioscience Cores at UT Dallas are organized into five distinct facilities: the Genome Center, Small Animal Imaging Facility, Flow Cytometry Core, Mass Spectrometry Core, and Imaging and Histology Core, all housed within NSERL and the Bioengineering and Sciences Building.

During the past five years, these cores have undergone substantial advancements, with more than $2 million invested in instrument upgrades and the addition of new technologies. Notable acquisitions include optical imaging systems, a spatial transcriptomics analysis platform, and mass spectrometry imaging equipment. The Bioscience Cores support biomedical research, contributing to more than 50 published manuscripts and numerous research funding proposals. As demand for these facilities grows, efforts to enhance their capabilities and expand research support across all cores will accelerate in the coming years. Plans are underway to incorporate state-of-the-art digitally ventilated vertebrate housing systems within the Vivarium facilities in NSERL in 2025. These upgrades will enhance capabilities, improve efficiency, and increase effectiveness in daily health monitoring and husbandry practices. Additionally, UT Dallas is collaborating with the Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Simulation Technology Lab, a leader in virtual technology in North Texas, to develop a digital twin of the Vivarium facility. This initiative aims to significantly advance training and education efforts, equipping new generations with cutting-edge tools to familiarize themselves with lab animal sciences.

The Venture Development Center (VDC)

VDC is a startup business incubator housed in the Research and Operations Center and the Research Operations Center West buildings. It provides targeted, one-on-one support to help UT Dallas-affiliated startups and entrepreneurs — students, faculty, and alumni — commercialize their ideas and inventions. The VDC facilitates connections with key industry partners, investors, mentors, and entrepreneurs to support venture success. The VDC also offers state-of-the-art office space, wet labs, dry labs, meeting spaces, and shared business services and equipment. Due to high demand, the VDC's wet and dry lab facilities have operated at full capacity for several years, with a waiting list for space. Potential expansion opportunities are regularly evaluated to address this growing demand.

5G Testing and Evaluation Facility

UT Dallas is establishing a state-of-the-art 5G Testing and Evaluation Facility at the Richardson Innovation Quarter as part of a nationwide initiative to advance the development and deployment of next generation 5G Radio Access Network (RAN) products and services. Known as the OpenLab, this facility is affiliated with the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science and is supported by prominent industry leaders such as AT&T and Verizon. The OpenLab tests 5G network performance, interoperability, and security while developing new methodologies to promote an open, interoperable, multivendor wireless network infrastructure. This facility is a key component of the Acceleration of Compatibility and Commercialization for Open RAN Deployments (ACCoRD) consortium, which has secured more than $42 million in federal funding from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, under the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. This initiative underscores the power of collaboration between the city of Richardson, UT Dallas, and private industry to drive innovation, advance technological research, and support commercial applications.

Commercialization

Innovation and Commercialization at UT Dallas

The Office of Technology and Commercialization at UT Dallas plays a pivotal role in translating academic research into commercial applications. It is responsible for identifying, protecting, and managing intellectual property (IP) generated through University research, facilitating commercialization by licensing technologies — particularly to startups — and fostering collaborations between the University and its industry partners. In addition to supporting researchers, OTC contributes to economic development and conducts educational programs and activities to increase awareness of IP and commercialization processes.

To increase the number of annual technology disclosures, UT Dallas is expanding faculty IP training initiatives. These programs aim to raise awareness about the importance of invention disclosures and to educate faculty on the processes and benefits of protecting intellectual property. This training provides faculty with the tools to identify and document potential inventions, understand the patenting process, and recognize patentable ideas while navigating the commercialization landscape. Complementary initiatives highlight the resources and support available through OTC. These efforts foster a culture of innovation and collaboration, reinforcing UT Dallas' commitment to advancing research and its societal impact.

UT Dallas continues to actively establish new partnerships and expand existing collaborations with key startup ecosystem players to enhance the growth and success of its entrepreneurial ventures. These efforts include working closely with startup accelerators to offer comprehensive support, mentorship, access to coworking spaces, and connections to a robust network of investors and industry experts. The University also engages with angel investor networks to facilitate early-stage funding opportunities, enabling startups to scale operations and bring innovative solutions to the market.

UT Dallas is developing robust mentorship programs to connect startups with seasoned entrepreneurs and business leaders who provide strategic advice, industry insights, and valuable professional connections. The University organizes workshops, pitch events, business idea competitions, and networking sessions to help startups refine their business strategies, enhance their pitch presentations, and establish relationships with potential investors and collaborators.

Collaborating with the regional NSF I-Corps hub based at UT Austin, UT Dallas provides unparalleled resources and support for entrepreneurial researchers. This partnership includes delivering comprehensive training programs to equip teams with essential skills for navigating the commercialization process, including customer discovery and business model development. Through this collaboration, the University connects innovators with experienced mentors who share guidance and insights from their entrepreneurial experiences.

Additionally, UT Dallas facilitates access to an extensive network of industry experts, potential partners, and investors, opening avenues for new opportunities and partnerships. These engagements provide pathways for securing funding through NSF I-Corps grants and related opportunities, bridging the gap between research and developing market-ready products.

UT Dallas aims to strategically leverage external expertise and advanced technologies to enhance operational efficiency and increase the commercialization impact of University-developed innovations. The University plans to collaborate with third-party service providers and consultants, including those under UT System-wide contracts, to access specialized services such as technology and market assessments. These services are essential for evaluating the commercial potential of University-developed innovations and guiding their transition to market.

UT Dallas will engage marketing professionals to develop non-confidential marketing materials that effectively promote technologies to potential licensees, industry partners, and investors. Updating website content and training curricula is another central element of this strategy. UT Dallas aims to provide stakeholders with valuable information while supporting broader commercialization efforts by ensuring that the online presence and educational resources are up-to-date and impactful.

At the same time, UT Dallas is committed to adopting advanced software systems to improve operational efficiency. This includes implementing AI-enabled tools to accelerate the assessment of commercial viability and automate the creation of non-confidential marketing materials.

By integrating external expertise, advanced technologies, and efficient operational practices, UT Dallas seeks to amplify its commercialization outcomes. The University's objectives include increasing its patents, licenses, startups, and successful technology commercialization ventures. These efforts will further the University's mission to advance innovations that benefit the region, the State of Texas, and society.

Doctoral Programs

Doctorate Awards

During the academic years (AY) 2020-2024, UT Dallas awarded 1,276 doctoral degrees across six schools (Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, Naveen Jindal School of Management, and School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics), with a projected 270 doctoral degrees to be awarded in AY2025.



To increase the number of research doctorates awarded by UT Dallas, the University will:

Expand doctoral offerings

For example, the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is actively expanding doctoral offerings by pursuing accreditation for a new clinical psychological sciences concentration that will provide the next generation of clinical psychologists with strong research training.

Continue to recruit exceptional faculty

Exceptional faculty with significant funding will support the success of doctoral students by training, mentoring, and preparing them for careers with high current or projected workforce demand. As such, UT Dallas will continue to recruit exceptional faculty in research areas with significant funding potential, such as pain, aging, biomedicine, and artificial intelligence/data science, continue to implement workload plans that incentivize high research productivity with lower teaching loads, and have strong mentoring for new faculty, including opportunities to learn how to effectively write successful research grants.

Provide professional and career development services for doctoral students.

Doctoral students will continue to be offered services through UT Dallas' Office of Graduate Education (OGE) and Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). OGE services include dissertation and thesis writing camps, assistance applying for external funding, one-on-one consulting, one-on-one meetings for students with concerns, and workshops for students on academic probation. Programs include the Grant Writing Certificate Program, the Three-Minute Thesis Competition, Dissertation Research Awards, and Outstanding Graduate Student Awards. CTL provides teaching training and experience in pedagogy through a Graduate Teaching Certificate and an Advanced Graduate Teaching Certificate.

Support for Doctoral Candidates

Research Assistantships, Teaching Assistantships, Teaching Fellowships

UT Dallas will continue to attract extramural funds, which creates a significant opportunity to support doctoral students via research grants. Our goal is to fund our doctoral students at or above the National Institutes of Health (NIH) minimum stipend level and/or at a level competitive with our peer and aspirational schools to maintain a competitive level of financial support. In addition, UT Dallas is actively pursuing T32 and other institutional training grant mechanisms, as well as utilizing endowments, to fund our doctoral students. Our schools also have internal fellowships to support graduate students (e.g., teaching fellowships).

Travel Awards and Other Support

OGE, Graduate Student Assembly, and the schools will continue to provide competitive travel awards to support graduate student travel to conferences. In addition, OGE and the schools will encourage doctoral students to apply for extramural funding and provide grant writing support and feedback on their research.

Other Internal Funding Opportunities and Support

ORI will continue to support doctoral student research through its internal seed funding program, offering competitive graduate student fellowships, matching funds on training grants, and assistance with costs like health insurance and tuition assistance, as needed. OGE will also continue to provide competitive research awards to doctoral students.

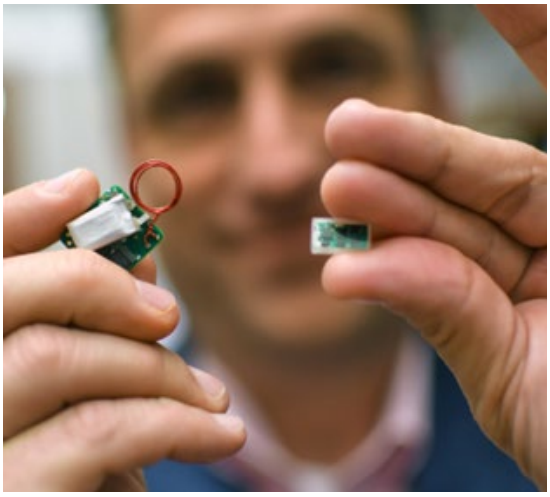
Support for Postdoctoral Scholars

The UT Dallas Postdoctoral Mentoring Program supports postdoctoral scholars' career development through training, mentoring, and networking opportunities. It collaborates with the UT Dallas Postdoctoral Association (UTDPDA) to address scholars' needs and hosts events like town hall meetings and seminar series. The program focuses on enhancing research skills, effective communication, teaching, and professional development. It also provides resources for career planning and well-being, including membership in the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA). Overall, the program aims to help scholars excel in their academic and professional pursuits.

Areas of Emphasis

Degree Programs and Certificates

To meet workforce demand, UT Dallas will continue to hire expert faculty and plan to develop new degree and certification programs in areas such as biomedical science, clinical psychology and mental health, advanced manufacturing, energy science and technology, health innovations, semiconductor science and technology, transportation science and engineering, film and media production, animation and games, and new digital technologies.



Plan for Faculty Development

New Faculty

Recruitment Programs

We will continue to recruit faculty who can support our research and teaching needs. We will use opportunities like the Governor's University Research Initiative and the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to recruit outstanding faculty candidates.

Faculty Research

New and Early-Career Faculty Support

Our Provost's Office will continue to play a central role in offering tailored support to new and early-career faculty through our Faculty Success team. To ensure new faculty members feel supported, Faculty Success offers comprehensive new faculty orientations in both the fall and spring. These orientations cover a range of topics, including teaching, research, and campus resources.

Throughout the year, Faculty Success organizes monthly workshops that focus on topics such as research, grant writing, work-life balance, collaboration, networking, and tenure and promotion. These workshops provide a platform for faculty to learn and share ideas, as well as an opportunity to network with colleagues across various schools.

Finally, a key initiative is pairing new faculty members with a mentor for their first year. These mentorship relationships can continue well beyond the official period, fostering long-term professional growth and development.

Our schools also support new and early-career faculty through mentorship programs. For example, the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (BBS) is currently developing and deploying its first BBS Faculty Academy to train new faculty for career success in three specific domains: mentorship, effective teaching, and research funding success. The BBS Faculty Academy will start in fall 2025 and will be delivered in partnership with the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Faculty Mentorship operations in the Provost's Office.

New Faculty Research Symposium and Seed Grant

The University will continue to host our annual New Faculty Research Symposium, which is designed to introduce the research of new faculty to the UT Dallas community and facilitate collaboration. The University will also continue to fund the New Faculty Research Symposium Grant, which is an internal funding mechanism designed to stimulate interdisciplinary research collaborations between newly hired and established UT Dallas faculty, with the goal of securing extramural research funding.

Research Active Faculty

Within our schools, mechanisms such as research retreats, matching support, release from teaching, internal funding support (e.g., summer salary), and named chairs and professorships are in place to facilitate research collaborations, support research activities, and incentivize research-active faculty.

Fast Facts

#1 in North Texas for Value (Money)

#3 best public university in Texas (*U.S. News & World Report*)

Dallas ranks in the **top 10** best-performing large cities by the Milken Institute (2024)

Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) is home to:

2 major airports

6 major professional sports teams

The Dallas-Irving-Plano area topped all U.S. markets for **greatest job gains in the last five years.** (*Bureau of Labor Statistics*)

21 **Fortune 500 companies**, all of which have hired UT Dallas graduates

1969 founding year

students from over **130** **nations**

Most represented states:
Texas, California, Illinois, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Washington

29,886 students enrolled

27% graduate

73% undergraduate

4,196 freshmen
1 in 5 are first generation students

175 freshman National Merit Scholars

51% of UTD freshmen live on campus

26 fraternities & sororities

over 150 academic programs

over 350 campus organizations

nearly **70%** of our undergraduate students receive some form of need- or merit-based financial aid

61% of UTD graduating seniors have **no student debt**

compared to

49% in Texas

45% in the U.S. among public universities

20 **conference titles** in the past five years

NCAA Division II

Lone Star Conference

Men's and women's basketball, soccer, golf, tennis, track and field and cross country
Men's baseball
Women's softball and volleyball

86,488 hours of **student volunteerism** (2024)

UTD mascot: **Temoc** is "Comet" spelled backward

24 **nationally ranked** graduate programs (U.S. News & World Report)

UTD earned a **STARS Gold** ranking for sustainability and was named a Bee Campus USA, Tree Campus USA, and Bicycle Friendly University

THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

The Office of Research
and Innovation

800 W. Campbell Rd. AD15
Richardson, TX 75080