TEXAS EXES
UT ADVOCATES

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

I'M WITH UT

UT Austin is dedicated to excellence in education, research, and public service. As a direct result of the efforts of students, staff, faculty, alumni, the Texas Legislature, and the Governor, UT Austin continues to be a powerful research and economic engine—leading the way in higher education across Texas, the nation, and the world.

With the highest four-year graduation rate among Texas public institutions, UT Austin graduates adaptive educators, forward-thinking business leaders, and engaged community members.

Continued state investment in UT Austin is an investment in Texas's future.

The Texas Exes works to organize, inform, and engage alumni and friends of the University, focusing on empowering alumni to connect with legislators and members of Congress on issues affecting UT Austin.

CALL TO ACTION

During the 89th Legislative Session, lawmakers need to hear from Longhorn alumni. Your voice as a voter, engaged community member, and alumnus—through email, calls, or visits to the Texas State Capitol—helps maintain and grow support for the university and public higher education, especially as the Legislature considers strategic investments for Texas's next biennium.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

1. **Become a UT Advocate** at **TexasExes.org/advocate** or by texting **LONGHORNS** to **52886** and champion the university with fellow alumni this coming legislative session.
2. **Attend the Orange & Maroon Legislative Day** on **February 26, 2025**. Go to **TexasExes.org/omld** to learn more.
3. **Use the priorities in this booklet to inform and engage** other Longhorns, neighbors, and friends about UT Austin's profound impact on Texas and beyond.

PRIORITY:
THE YEAR OF AI

We ask the Texas Legislature to partner with the University and make a one-time $200 million investment to establish UT Austin and Texas as world leaders in artificial intelligence. This includes $160 million for UT Austin and $40 million for Dell Medical School, empowering UT Austin to drive advancements in AI across energy, technology, and healthcare.

BACKGROUND

In 2024, UT Austin launched its "Year of AI," including the new Center for Generative AI powered by one of the largest GPU clusters in academia. Previously chosen to lead the NSF AI Institute for Machine Learning, UT Austin is poised to become a global AI leader.

Dell Med is advancing healthcare and contributing to UT Austin's vision to become a premier public research university. It draws top physicians and leads impactful research and innovation in healthcare.

AI EXCEPTIONAL ITEM $200M

- **Dedicated Computing Power:** The foundation of artificial intelligence is computing power and a one-time investment will allow UT Austin and Texas to lead the most advanced research agenda in AI.
- **Material Discovery Center:** The Auto-Lab system, an AI-driven and robotics-integrated lab, will enable autonomous materials synthesis and testing, transforming industries such as energy and technology.
- **Material Discovery Center (MDC) and Quantum Metrology Lab (QLab):** The MDC and QLab will drive the creation and utilization of novel materials to advance the next-generation of devices essential for key sectors in Texas including batteries, fuel cells, semiconductors and quantum technology.

AI EXCEPTIONAL ITEM $200M (cont.)

- **Medical Robots:** UT Austin will enhance capabilities in medical robotics, human-robot interaction, and robot manipulation through an investment in new, state-of-the-art robots and robotics platforms, rapid prototyping facilities, and additional space to support growth and industry collaboration.
- **Texas Institute for Therapeutic Neurotechnology (TITAN):** TITAN will make Austin a global hub for neurotherapeutics by accelerating the discovery, translation, and application of novel technologies and approaches for diagnosing and treating devastating neurologic and psychiatric disorders.
- **Nuclear Energy Systems Efficiency Lab (NESE Lab):** The Lab will securely expand the use of artificial intelligence in the nuclear energy industry to improve both reactor construction and operation to reduce costs.
- **Texas HealthTech Immersive Learning Laboratory Dell Med:** The Laboratory will provide realistic, experiential, and immersive training that will provide a collaborative research and prototyping environment to discover, design, and implement the next generation of digital technologies.

BOTTOM LINE:

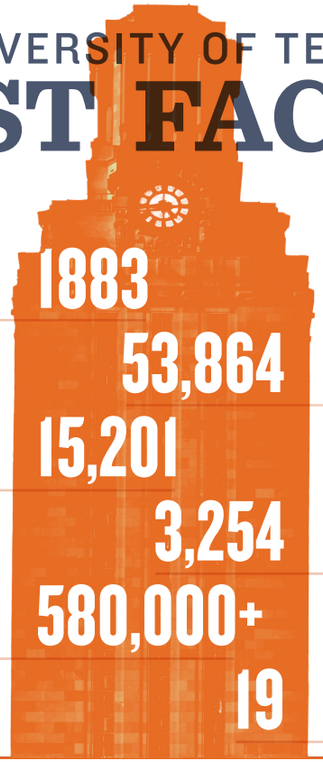
Investment in UT Austin enables us to use collective expertise to address Texas's most pressing challenges. The requested AI funding will position Texas at the forefront of technology innovation, similar to the Texas Institute for Electronics' success in semiconductor advancements.

Additional Legislative Priorities:

- Fully funding the base budget for core university operations and teaching.
- Enhance the Texas Research University Fund (TRUF) to support groundbreaking research in Texas.
- Fully funding the Texas Grant Program to meet student financial needs.

For more details, visit
texasexes.org/advocate

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
FAST FACTS:



Year Founded: 1883

Enrollment (Fall 2024) Total students: 53,864

Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees CONFERRED 2023-24: 15,201

Teaching faculty (Fall 2022): 3,254

Alumni: 580,000+

Colleges and schools: 19

TEXAS ADVANCE COMMITMENT

EXPANDING FINANCIAL AID TO MAKE UT MORE AFFORDABLE FOR TEXANS

Tuition Covered
$0 to $100,000
ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME
→ 9,600+ Students

Tuition Support
$100,00 to $125,000
ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME
→ 5,100+ Students

34.0% of Enrolled Fall 2024 Undergraduate Students

ACADEMICS:

- Undergraduate degree programs: 156
- Undergraduate fields of study: 170+
- Graduate degree programs: 139 (237 including doctoral)
- Courses: 12,400+

CAMPUS:

- Volumes in UT Libraries: more than 10 million
- Specimens in the Texas Science & Natural History Museum collection: 5.7 million
- Works at the Blanton Museum of Art: 17,000+
- Student organizations: 1,000+

RESEARCH:

- Research expenditures (FY23): $1.04 billion
- Externally sponsored projects (FY23): 4,643
- No. 1 among U.S. universities for research financed by the National Science Foundation (FY23)
- Companies created by UT entrepreneur (past 10 fiscal years): 90
- U.S. and international patents issued (past 10 fiscal years): 1,291
- Licensing revenues (past 10 fiscal years): $231.1 million