The University

The University of Texas at Dallas serves the Metroplex and the State of Texas as a global leader in innovative, high quality science, engineering, and business education and research.

The University is committed to (1) producing engaged graduates, prepared for life, work, and leadership in a constantly changing world, (2) advancing excellent educational and research programs in the natural and social sciences, engineering and technology, management, and the liberal, creative, and practical arts, and (3) transforming ideas into actions that directly benefit the personal, economic, social, and cultural lives of the citizens of Texas.

History of The University of Texas at Dallas

Prior to World War II, Eugene McDermott, Cecil Green and J. Erik Jonsson, the founders of Geophysical Services, Inc., were in the business of searching for natural resources. The war changed the focus of the company from searching for natural resources to creating instruments that aided in finding enemy planes and submarines. GSI spawned Texas Instruments and in 1958, TI employee Jack Kilby invented the integrated circuit that launched a new era for the company, for North Texas, and for the world.

During the expansion of Texas Instruments, the Founders were forced to import engineering talent from outside the state, while the region's bright young adults pursued education elsewhere. McDermott, Green and Jonsson saw that Texas needed highly educated minds if the state were to remain competitive in the decades to come. They noted that, in 1959 alone, Columbia University conferred 560 doctoral degrees - more than the entire Southwest region. They wrote at the time, "To grow industrially, the region must grow academically; it must provide the intellectual atmosphere, which will allow it to compete in the new industries dependent on highly trained and creative minds."

Therefore, they established the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest (later renamed the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies) in 1961. The center recruited some of the best scientific talent in the nation. The Texas Legislature concurred with the vision of the Founders and mandated in 1967 that science and technology educational opportunities needed to exist in North Texas. McDermott, Green and Jonsson decided to donate SCAS and its lands to The University of Texas System, and on June 13, 1969, Governor Preston Smith signed the bill creating The University of Texas at Dallas. The SCAS scientists formed the core of U.T. Dallas's educational infrastructure.

By terms of its enabling legislation, U.T. Dallas offered only graduate degrees until 1975 when the addition of juniors and seniors increased enrollment from 408 in 1974 to more than 3,300 students. By the fall of 1977, the enrollment reached over 5,300. In 1986, U.T. Dallas established the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science. Today, the Jonsson School plays a critical role in providing a highly educated work force for the advanced technology industry.

In 1990, the Texas Legislature authorized U.T. Dallas to admit lower division students. U.T. Dallas's first freshman class consisted of only 100 students. Despite its small size, this cohort's achievements set the standard for future classes. Since then, freshman classes have grown in size while the university has maintained high enrollment standards. Nationally published data indicate that U.T. Dallas's freshman class compares extremely well with those from many prominent national universities

The Rise to National Prominence

The university's ability to attract and retain these students has propelled U.T. Dallas into national prominence within a few short years. *US News and World Report* ranks U.T. Dallas as one of the three best public universities in the state along with U.T. Austin and Texas A&M. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine, in its October 2000 article "100 Best Values in Public Colleges", ranked U.T. Dallas 60th among all public universities nationally. The quality of the students who attend U.T. Dallas has remained consistently high. Over forty percent of the incoming freshmen are in the top 10% of their high school graduating class and their average SAT scores place them in the top twenty percent of all college-bound students.

The addition of freshmen has accelerated the rise in the percentage of full-time undergraduates from 31% in 1986 to nearly 70% in 2006. Masters, doctoral and post-baccalaureate students currently comprise 36% of the student body. Given its location and mission, U.T. Dallas will continue to have significant numbers of professionals attending undergraduate or master's courses part time.

The transition of the university from a part-time upper division school to a four-year university with an

emphasis on engineering, mathematics, the sciences, and the management of new technologies has been greatly facilitated by the university's faculty. By retaining key faculty members and attracting more nationally and internationally prominent researchers and instructors, U.T. Dallas has enabled its faculty to provide quality instruction to an increasingly diverse student population while sustaining the university's longstanding research tradition. In the past decade, the faculty has increased the level of external research funds substantially. During this same period, the university expanded its teaching mission, became a full-fledged institution, enhanced its areas of focused excellence, and became independently recognized as one of the top public universities in the nation.

University Libraries

The Eugene McDermott Library and Callier Library support the research, instruction, and community service programs of the University by providing access to information in print, microform and electronic formats. The libraries consist of over two million items, including more than 1,000,000 books, over 37,000 current periodical titles, as well as over one million government documents, microforms, and maps. The McDermott Library is a U.S. and Texas state depository. Special Collections include the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library, the Belsterling Collection, and the History of Aviation Collection. The libraries provide an ever-expanding digital collection that is available to distance learners. Users connect to these resources through the library portal at http://www.utdallas.edu/library. Current students have unlimited access to the digital library.

The librarians and staff provide competent and cordial interactions with the people they serve. Librarians provide classroom and individual instruction on the use of the library. The library collections are enhanced by the Interlibrary Loan Service, which provides students with books or articles from a network of major libraries. Student research is facilitated by copiers available to duplicate from paper, microfilm, or microfiche. The libraries offer students with disabilities a range of services to encourage their independent research.

Facilities for Study and Instruction

Computing Services

Technology Customer Services, a branch of Information Resources, provides computing facilities for student, faculty, and staff use in instruction and research.

The Microcomputer Center, located in the McDermott Library building, provides a modern, networked computing environment with both PCs and Macs in five separate labs. In addition, a general-access microcomputer laboratory equipped with both PCs and Macs is available in the UTD Bookstore Building. The ground floor of the Jonsson Building also offers a lab of PC's for student use.

Dedicated systems are also available to support such functions as campus information services, programming, research-related activities, and computationally intensive applications.

A sophisticated campus-wide network permits offices and laboratories direct access to extensive computing resources both on and off campus. Internet traffic volumes are high both from and to the campus. In addition, a high-speed connection to Internet2 is available.

The university is also providing wireless LAN access to the campus community in most areas. The Conference Center, most of the student apartments, large auditoriums, and common public areas are all part of the on-going deployment of wireless access. Students may utilize the campus network from several locations around campus using laptops with the appropriate wireless LAN 802.11b/g network cards. This is an increasingly popular service that is expanding rapidly across the campus.

Many of the schools, programs, and research centers operate their own computing facilities that are also available to students as appropriate. Details of these facilities can be found in the individual school/program sections of this catalog. For the latest information regarding computing facilities visit http://www.utdallas.edu/ir.

Help Desk and Other Services

The university Help Desk is located in the Jonsson Building and is open seven days a week throughout the regular semesters. Students, faculty, and staff may ask for assistance via telephone, email, web, or personal visit. A Live Chat service is also available at the web site http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/tcs/helpdesk/index.htm. Other popular services include the publication of the Quick Guide to Computing Services (http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/tcs/guide/) and the Campus Locator Map (http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/locator/) for quickly identifying all campus buildings and rooms.