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## **2.1 - Degree-granting Authority**

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*The institution has degree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies.*

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### **Compliance Judgment**

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Compliance

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### **Narrative**

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An Act of the Regular Session of the 61st Texas Legislature established The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) in 1969 [1]. Section 2 of that act granted the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System “...the authority to prescribe courses leading to such customary degrees as are offered at leading American universities, and to award such degrees...[including] baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees...” This authorizing legislation further stipulated that “[i]nitial [sic] programs and departments will be limited to those which now exist in the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies; provided, however, approval of these programs, their expansion, and initiation of other programs shall be recommended by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System and approved by the Coordinating Board.” The Act, as amended, is codified in the *Texas Education Code (TEC)* Chapter 70 [2].

Chapter 61 of the *TEC* establishes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) [3]. *TEC* Section 61.051 outlines the general powers and duties of the THECB, and these duties include authorizing programs leading to degrees [4]. *TEC* Section 61.051(a) states that “[t]he board shall represent the highest authority in the state in matters of public higher education and is charged with the duty to take an active part in promoting quality education in the various regions of the state.”

Chapter 65 of the *TEC* codifies authority for administration of the UT System and its Board of Regents [5]. *TEC* Section 65.11 designates the Board of Regents as the governing body of the UT System [6]. *TEC* Section 65.31 [7] states that the board is authorized to: (1) “govern, operate, support, and maintain each of the component institutions that are now or may hereafter be included in a part of The University of Texas System,” (2) “prescribe for each of the component institutions courses and programs leading to such degrees as are customarily offered in outstanding American universities, and to award all such degrees,” (3) “promulgate and enforce such other rules and regulations for the operation, control, and management of the university system and the component institutions thereof as the board may deem either necessary or desirable,” (4) “make joint appointments in the component institutions under its governance,” (5) “administer gifts, grants, or donations of any kind, from any source, for use by the system or any of the component institutions of the system,” and (6) “delegate a power or duty of the board to a committee, officer, employee, or other agent of the board.”

All degree programs at UT Dallas have been approved by the THECB and can be found on the THECB’s website in the UT Dallas Program Inventory shown in CIP code terminology [8] and in THECB’s Inventory of Degree Programs by Administrative Unit [9].

Series 40101 of the UT System Board of Regents’ *Rules and Regulations* sets forth the role of faculty in education policy and gives university faculty degree-granting authority [10]. Section 5 therein specifies that it is “the duty of the several institutional faculties to recommend approval or disapproval of all candidates for degrees. This duty may be delegated by affirmative vote of the institutional faculty, or its legislative body, to the respective deans or other appropriate official. Should this duty not be delegated, the institutional registrar, or his or her equivalent, shall furnish to the members of the institutional faculty a complete list of the degree candidates for recommendation.” As such, UT Dallas’ Academic Senate certifies the degrees each semester [11]. The following wording can be found in Senate minutes:

“**UNDERGRADUATE** — These students have applied for graduation and have been reviewed by the Office of Records. The Office of Records declared that all of these students will be eligible for graduation upon the completion of the current semester’s work at the necessary levels. I request, therefore, that the Academic Senate certify these students to graduate upon receipt of final grades, and notification of completion of other requirements, provided that the grades are consistent with the standards for graduation prescribed by this University. I also request that the Academic Senate certify those students designated as eligible to graduate with honors upon completion of coursework and requirements consistent with the standards for honors at the levels offered by this University. **GRADUATE** — These students have applied for graduate degrees and have been reviewed by the Graduate Dean. The Graduate Dean certifies that all of these students will be eligible for the degrees indicated upon satisfactory completion of the current semester’s work. I request, therefore, that the Academic Senate certify these students to receive the degrees as indicated upon receipt of final grades and notification of completion of other requirements, provided that the grades received are consistent with the standards for credit prescribed by this University [12] [13].”

UT Dallas’ president confers those degrees at graduation, stating that, “By virtue of the authority vested by law in the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System, I confer upon each of you the respective academic degree for which you have been recommended, with all rights, privileges, responsibilities, and obligations appertaining thereunto, and I offer my sincere congratulations [14].”

## ***Supporting Documents***

[1]	<b>Texas Legislative Service House Bill No. 303 Establishing UT Dallas in 1969</b> <i>PDF Document, 6 Pages, 106KB</i>
[2]	<b>Texas Education Code 70 - Including repealed Section 70.08, regarding UT Dallas</b> <i>PDF Document, 3 Pages, 8KB</i>
[3]	<b>Texas Education Code 61 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</b> <i>PDF Document, 92 Pages, 387KB</i>

[4]	<b>Texas Education Code 61.051 Coordination of Institutions of Public Higher Education</b> <i>PDF Document, 5 Pages, 17KB</i>
[5]	<b>Texas Education Code 65 Administration of The University of Texas System</b> <i>PDF Document, 9 Pages, 24KB</i>
[6]	<b>Texas Education Code 65.11 Board of Regents</b> <i>PDF Document, 1 Page, 7KB</i>
[7]	<b>Texas Education Code 65.31 General Powers and Duties</b> <i>PDF Document, 1 Page, 8KB</i>
[8]	<b>THECB Program Inventory List from THECB Website</b> <i>PDF Document, 9 Pages, 69KB</i>
[9]	<b>THECB Inventory of Degree Programs as of February 2007</b> <i>PDF Document, 2 Pages, 13KB</i>
[10]	<b>Series 40101, Board of Regents: Faculty Role in Educational Policy Formulation</b> <i>PDF Document, 3 Pages, 23KB</i>
[11]	<b>UT Dallas Handbook of Operating Procedures Title III Chapter 21 Faculty Governance</b> <i>PDF Document, 13 Pages, 30KB</i>
[12]	<b>Approved Academic Senate May 17 2006 Sample Degree Certification Wording</b> <i>PDF Document, 7 Pages, 28KB</i>
[13]	<b>Approved Academic Senate April 18 2007 Sample Degree Certification Wording</b> <i>PDF Document, 8 Pages, 30KB</i>
[14]	<b>Sample Commencement Script President Confers Degrees page 15</b> <i>PDF Document, 18 Pages, 56KB</i>