



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

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## Office of Strategic Management

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## Accountability

### What is Accountability?

A good accountability system clearly defines an organization's mission, goals, priorities, initiatives, where it intends to add value, and lays out measures or indicators of progress toward those goals.

Most simply, accountability means taking responsibility for and measuring the effectiveness of what you do. An effective accountability system makes it possible to answer these questions:

- Where do the UT System and its institutions seek to excel?
- How does UT System intend to act strategically to accomplish its goals?
- How well are the System and component institutions doing to achieve their goals and add value; what needs to be done next?

### Accountability and Performance Framework and Report

When Chancellor Yudof assumed his position in 2002, he and the Board of Regents made accountability a major initial priority. The UT System developed a new, integrated framework for System-wide accountability and performance reporting. The goals of this framework were derived from the System's long range plan, mission statement, and other more immediate priorities. The fourth annual [accountability report](#) was accepted by the board on February 8, 2007.

[A Comparison of UT System Accountability Measures and Definitions with THECB Accountability Measures and Definitions - 8/16/2005](#)

[University of Texas System Accountability and Performance Conceptual Framework - Board of Regents, December 2002](#)

### National Commission on the Future of Higher Education

In October 2005, U. S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings established the National Commission on the Future of Higher Education to lead a national debate on issues of access, affordability, quality, and accountability. Nineteen Commission members from higher education, business, and not-for-profit organizations, together with ad hoc member from a number of federal agencies, will address questions such as

- How can we ensure that college is affordable and accessible?
- How well are institutions of higher education preparing our students to compete in the new global economy?
- The Commission will submit a final report by August 1, 2006 with specific findings and recommendations.

[More about the Commission](#)

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