

SEARCH PROFILE:

DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
PERMIAN BASIN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE POSITION	3
THE PERMIAN BASIN AND WEST TEXAS	4
THE COLLEGE	5
DEAN RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS	6
ATTRIBUTES	6
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PERMIAN BASIN	7
UTPB VALUES	8
MIDLAND & ODESSA	8
NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS	9
UTPB EMPLOYMENT COMMITMENT	9



THE POSTION

The University of Texas Permian Basin seeks applications and nominations for an academic leader for the College of Arts & Humanities. The dean will help guide the college's effort in academic and curricular development, as well as faculty and staff development, and will help build partnerships with university stakeholders and alumni. The Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities will be an experienced, visionary leader with outstanding credentials and strength in fostering excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, and community engagement.

Reporting to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the dean will serve as the college's Chief Academic Officer, playing a central role in enhancing academic excellence and aligning priorities with the strategic plans for Academic Affairs and the University. The dean is a role model of integrity and professionalism for the college's faculty and is accessible to undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, the dean is responsible for the articulation of the college's vision in alignment with the University mission on academic distinction; the development and administration of academic programs; scholarship, research, and

service initiatives among faculty; college policies relating to instruction, curriculum, enrollment, student success, research and other high impact practices; and faculty and academic staff appointments and performance assessments.

The Arts and Humanities faculty actively engage in creating a positive change in the lives of their students through their teaching, research, and outreach. By doing so, they help create reflective citizens and confident leaders. The dean will oversee and provide strategic leadership for the following four departments: Visual and Performing Arts, Communication and History, Literature and Language, and Social Sciences.

In addition, working collaboratively with all stakeholders in the campus community, the Dean supports excellence in teaching, research, creativity, and service while fostering activities that improve student retention, achievement, and timely graduation. Additionally, the Dean works with external sponsors, funding agencies, industry, and community leaders to develop research and educational partnerships that contribute to the region's economic vitality.



THE PERMIAN BASIN AND WEST TEXAS

UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY

The Permian Basin is one of the country's fastest-growing, culturally vibrant, economically invigorated regions—full of industry, culture, and wide-open spaces. Spanning an area of 75,000 square miles, the low-lying geological formation of the Permian Basin is a stunning stretch of land with unique beauty that's home to the big, beautiful Texas skies. It's also home to the world's largest petroleum field.

Accounting for more than 30% of the domestic oil production and recently named the largest oil reserve on the planet, the Permian Basin region of West Texas is poised to boost local and global economies for decades. As the U.S. is set to surpass Saudi Arabia as the world's largest oil producer, much of the growth in domestic oil production will come straight from the Permian Basin. The International Energy Agency expects global oil demand to grow until around 2040, which experts predict will support the creation of approximately 45,000 jobs across the Permian Basin through 2030.

However, it's not only oil fueling the region's substantial energy boom; wind and solar developments are diversifying the Permian Basin, putting it on the map as a critical energy provider for the future. West Texas is seeing an explosion in economic activity as other industries such as education, finance, construction, healthcare, digital technology, transportation, real estate, and public sector jobs grow alongside it.

The Permian Basin is also home to a vibrant education community including two school districts and two community colleges. With the regional growth comes a high demand and need for additional education expertise and collaborative partnerships. Organizations such as the Permian Strategic Partnership, along with local foundations, play a pivotal role in providing extensive collaboration and financial support. As the only major university in the Permian Basin, UTPB is positioned to be its academic center, providing leadership and skilled professionals across all of the region's prominent and growing education industries.



THE COLLEGE

One of UT Permian Basin's most academically diverse colleges, the College of Arts and Humanities contributes to the education of virtually every student at UT Permian Basin through its core curriculum. In addition to excellent teaching, the college produces quality research and creative work.

The departmental websites can be found at www.utpb.edu/academics/colleges/coah/

MISSION

The mission of the College of Arts and Humanities is to offer academic programs that teach students the following personal and marketable skills: to know the importance of a liberal arts education in a diverse and complex world; to better understand the meaning of the student's life; to become more sensitive to the meaning of other people's lives; to increase the student's range and complexity of information and data that make sense to the student by developing critical thinking skills; to teach the student to write and speak well enough to convey the special quality of their mind to others; to teach the student to explore the boundaries of their intellect; to seek truth,

knowledge and wisdom; and to develop a good work ethic as a productive adult. By achieving these objectives, the College of Arts and Humanities prepares students to excel both personally and professionally, equipping them with the skills and mindset needed to navigate a dynamic world with confidence and integrity.

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR DISCIPLINES

The College of Arts and Humanities offers the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in the following disciplines: Art, Communication, Criminology, English, History, Humanities, Leadership Studies, Political Science, Sociology, and Spanish. The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) is offered in Art and the Bachelor of Music (BM) is offered in Music.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

At the graduate level, Master's degrees are offered in four Arts and Humanities fields. The Master of Arts (MA) degree is offered in English, History, and Spanish; and the Master of Public Administration (MPA) is offered in Public Administration under Leadership Studies.

DEAN RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The University of Texas Permian Basin is seeking an exceptional individual to fill this critical leadership role and continue to advance the College of Arts and Humanities in its pursuit of academic excellence and societal impact. The dean will work with faculty and University leadership to develop strategic directions for the College, including a phenomenal opportunity to implement the academic reorganization, started last academic year. In addition to strong administrative experiences, the ideal candidate will have proven success in leading faculty in developing strong teaching, research, accreditation, and community/industry outreach initiatives.

SPECIFIC TASKS AND DUTIES

Collaborate with faculty and University leadership in the following areas:

- Developing and executing strategies for strong student recruitment, retention, and graduation rates in alignment with the university plans and goals;
- Effectively communicating the importance of arts and humanities majors for prospective students and their families, and current students;
- High commitment to advancing the crucial role of arts, humanities, and social sciences within the teaching, research, and mission of the university;
- Demonstrated visionary leadership with a proven track record of successful administrative leadership;
- Success building and executing a strategic and fiscally-sound academic budget;
- Solid track record in meeting University mission with respect to enrollment, graduation and research;
- Experience and ideas to enhance research and scholarly activity within the college;

- Outstanding communication and collaboration skills;
- Commitment to transparency in decision making process;
- Commitment to the success of all students, faculty, staff, and to advancing a culture of excellence.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- A terminal degree in an arts, humanities, or social science discipline or related field;
- Progressive academic and administrative or professional experience with significant accomplishments appropriate to service in this role;
- Experience in building successful, productive administration-faculty relationships and shared decision-making;
- Commitment and proven track record to promote and advance undergraduate and graduate student success;
- Success building and executing a strategic and fiscally-sound academic budget
- Solid track record in meeting University mission with respect to enrollment, graduation and research

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Proven track record in faculty mentorship with measurable outcomes
- Varied and extensive success in securing extramural funding from state and federal agencies, private foundations, or other external sources
- Success in promoting an academic unit to community partners, leading to significant financial support
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively across multi-function units to enhance student recruitment

ATTRIBUTES

A successful candidate

- Demonstrates candor, authenticity, and passion
- Nurtures the success of colleagues and students
- Possesses an energetic, well-grounded, success-oriented personality with a sense of humor
- Shows initiative and self-discipline, with confidence and charisma to lead, encourage, and empower
- Is creative, innovative, marketing-minded, and entrepreneurial
- Is a visionary
- Builds consensus and is a team leader who seeks collective wisdom and input
- Is flexible and able to facilitate multiple competing priorities and divergent viewpoints
- Is an effective change agent
- Possesses leadership and courage to make tough decisions
- Models a strong moral compass with unquestionable integrity and high professional standards
- Sells a point in a non-polarizing manner
- Possesses effective social skills
- Is politically astute, yet not political
- Possesses excellent written and oral communication skills with the ability to communicate complex or technical information clearly to a range of audiences.
- Is comfortable, effective, and engaging in public speaking.
- Shows respect for diverse cultures and is committed to all faculty, staff, and students.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PERMIAN BASIN

UT Permian Basin takes great pride in being part of The University of Texas System, known for its exceptional academic success, breakthrough research, and international reputation for excellence and innovation. It includes 13 educational institutions throughout the state, including eight universities and five health institutions.

Home to over 7,500 enrolled students, UT Permian Basin benefits from the vast resources and support of the world-renowned University of Texas System yet is lean enough to foster a connected, tight-knit community while remaining financially accessible to any student. With an unwavering commitment to students, a strategic approach to designing higher education, and the resources to ensure academic success, UTPB is set to nurture the leaders who will go on to shape the future of West Texas and the nation.

Each year, over 250 teaching faculty deliver a highly educated and savvy workforce back into the communities of the Permian Basin and across the nation. UTPB offers 36 baccalaureate degree programs and 20 master's degree programs in the arts and sciences, business, engineering, education, and health and human performance—and the University continues to grow.

UTPB is committed to meaningful faculty and student research. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) helps students and faculty find and secure grants to finance their academic and research efforts. The Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (RSCA) program is an internal grant program administered by ORSP to encourage eligible full-time faculty to develop individual projects leading to the pursuit of external funding sources and the promotion of research, scholarly, and creative activities in all disciplines. Research centers include the Biomedical Research Center, Cyber Center, Nancy Fyfe Cardozier Gallery, Natural Resource Center, Roden Center for Entrepreneurship, Small Business Development Center, Texas Water and Energy Institute, and the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized UT Permian Basin as the first public university in the state to implement AVID strategies at the post-secondary level. The University offers Texas' first Early College High School that serves remote school districts

using a blended online and in-person arrangement and with online dual credit courses available to schools throughout the state of Texas.

UT Permian Basin also offers residential, commuter, and online educational opportunities. Designated a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), almost half of UTPB's student population identifies as Hispanic. UTPB is also designated as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI). About half of the students at UTPB are first-generation college students.

In addition to its accredited and prestigious academic programs, the University boasts beautiful, state-of-the-art facilities that attract more than just the student population to its campus. The Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center is ranked as one of the top performing arts centers in the world and #1 in Texas for university-based centers. With a gorgeous exterior design referencing local geology and open sky themes, the facility is a source of pride for the campus and surrounding communities of Midland and Odessa. It is committed to providing various local and national acts to attract visitors of all income levels, ages, and artistic tastes. The \$81 million facility and USITT Merit Award Recipient for excellence in architecture hosts over 150 scheduled shows a year, ranging from Broadway and ballet to comedy and country music.

The campus is growing. The UT Permian Basin Engineering Building opened in 2019. The D. Kirk Edwards Family Human Performance Center opened in 2020. The busy Student Activity Center is the heart of campus life, offering group meeting and study spaces, hang out spots, food, and fitness.

Football is more than a beloved pastime in the Permian Basin. As the home of *Friday Night Lights*, football is written into our history and runs deep in the hearts of West Texans. The growing football and marching band program, coupled with a larger cheer and dance squad, is attracting new students excited about building new traditions at UTPB. UTPB football won the Lonestar Championship in 2023.

UT Permian Basin provides outstanding experiences for students and area residents by setting the standard for cooperation and inclusiveness with surrounding communities via programs, events, and learning opportunities.

UTPB VALUES

VALUE STATEMENTS

- **Extra Mile Service** starts with an attitude of “yes,” enables flexibility to go above and beyond, and is proactive in finding solutions.
- **Kindhearted** means being nice, positive, friendly, and respectful; being generous with your gifts and talents; and investing in the success and well-being of others.
- **Integrity** means doing right, even when no one else is looking; being forthright in your intentions, words, and actions; and being honest, honorable, and trustworthy.
- **Collaboration** is a big tent mentality, being a partner who embraces and considers diverse perspectives and always being aware of and pursuing positive collective impact.
- **Innovation** inspired by curiosity, adaptability, and responsiveness; embracing the wildcatter spirit to be the solution.

MIDLAND & ODESSA

Though people from all over the country call the Permian Basin home, there's no shortage of southern hospitality. Neighboring cities Midland and Odessa are known for their laid-back, inviting communities that people around the country have come to associate with Texas towns. It's not all cowboys and the wild west in the Permian Basin. The two cities combined make for a thriving metropolis, home to 300,000 people, with plenty to do and see in the growing region – from a great variety of restaurants, museums, and theatres, to hiking, hunting, and enjoying the area's natural wonders.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Outdoor enthusiasts will find an essential stop at the I-20 Wildlife Preserve and Jenna Welch Nature Study Center. The 99-acre preserve is centered on a playa wetland and has a 2.4-mile trail system with an ADA-assessable trail loop, a 24-foot hawk observation tower, butterfly gardens, and feeding stations. A boardwalk that coasts for over 2,000 feet just above the wetlands with seven bird blinds is the perfect walk for birdwatchers. Just don't forget your binoculars!
- History buffs will enjoy seeing the first bell that hung at the Alamo at the Haley Library and History Center, as well as President George Bush's childhood home.
- The Permian Basin Petroleum Museum boasts the world's most extensive collection of antique oil drilling equipment, but it also has a gallery featuring minerals from around the globe and a Chaparral Race Car Gallery.
- If the Texas night sky isn't celestial enough, book a star party at the Marian Blakemore Planetarium, home to a state-of-the-art Spitz SciDome HD Projector, one of the few in the world.
- There's no shortage of nightlife, music festivals, art galleries, and ballet. If you love Broadway shows, you'll want to frequent the stunning Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center owned by the University.
- The area is home to minor league baseball, hockey, and football teams.
- If you come with an appetite, you're in the right place. Midland/Odessa is a hub for local culinary arts and cuisine.
- Texans flock to Odessa for their annual Beer and Wine Festival and Summer Evening Concert Series that aren't to be missed.
- The Permian Basin is the perfect starting point for the great American road trip; there's so much to explore within a three-hour radius. Head west toward the border of New Mexico to explore the limestone caves at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Head south near the border of Mexico for hiking, biking, canoeing, or an extended camping trip within the gorgeous river canyons at Big Bend National Park. Even another country and cultures are waiting for you to explore three hours away if your passport is updated and ready to go.
- The Permian Basin has so much to offer in and around its one-of-a-kind location.
- Only a four to five-hour drive to the great city of Dallas and the State Capital of Austin.
- Midland International Airport provides convenient air travel.





NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Applications should consist of a substantial letter of interest, a CV, and a list of five professional references with full contact information and a note indicating the nature of your working relationship with each. No references will be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted electronically, and in confidence, to: UTPBArtsHumanitiesDean@academicsearch.org

Review of applications will begin on **Friday, July 3, 2026**. The University is being assisted by Academic Search. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultants Chris Butler at Chris.Butler@academicsearch.org or Anne Briggs at Anne.Briggs@academicsearch.org. Further information about The University of Texas Permian Basin can be found at www.utpb.edu/

UTPB EMPLOYMENT COMMITMENT

UTPB is committed to providing an educational, living, and working environment that is welcoming and respectful. The University fosters an environment that allows members of the University community to excel in their academic and professional careers. UTPB follows all applicable state and federal laws and is an Equal

Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting The University of Texas Permian Basin in this work. For 50 years Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations.

Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute.

