



The University of Texas System invites applications and nominations for the position of President, Stephen F. Austin State University, a member of The University of Texas System

The University of Texas System (UT System) Board of Regents is seeking an exceptional president to lead Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA), a new member of The University of Texas System. As the chief executive officer of SFA, the President leads development and implementation of goals and strategies to achieve the University's mission.

About Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA)

[Stephen F. Austin State University](#), the newest member of [The University of Texas System](#), began a century ago as a teachers' college in Texas' oldest town, Nacogdoches. Today, it has grown into a regional institution comprising six colleges — business, education, fine arts, forestry and agriculture, liberal and applied arts, and sciences and mathematics. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, SFA provides the academic breadth of a comprehensive university with the personalized attention of a liberal arts college.

Nestled in a pine tree sanctuary, the main campus encompasses 421 acres that include 36 academic facilities, nine residence halls, and 68 acres of recreational trails that wind through six gardens. With the inclusion of its off-campus Todd Agricultural Research Center, DeWitt School of Nursing Complex, and aviation program hangars, SFA is spread across 1,210 acres of land in Nacogdoches County.

The University offers more than 80 bachelor's degree programs, more than 40 master's degrees, and four doctoral degrees, covering more than [120 areas of study](#). Small class sizes, with a student-faculty ratio of 17:1, ensure students receive personalized attention from faculty members who are active mentors.

SFA's academic offerings have evolved with shifting industry expectations. Within the past five years, it has launched an aviation initiative where students can graduate with a bachelor's degree and pilot's license in four years, an agricultural communications major, a master's degree in publishing, and a Bachelor of Business Administration in entrepreneurship. SFA added its fourth doctoral-level degree program in 2023 with the creation of the Doctorate in Social Work.

Opportunities for immersive learning prepare students to enter the workforce. A survey of SFA's May 2022 graduating class indicated that 90% of graduates self-reported positive career outcomes within six months of graduation. Also, last year, SFA achieved its highest six-year graduation rate in its history.

The University's commitment to academic excellence has garnered multiple distinctions, including being ranked in the top 12 public universities in Texas by educational rating agency Niche. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked SFA's Charter School the second-best charter elementary school in Texas in 2022. SFA's forestry program continues to achieve high rankings, named as the best in Texas by education technology firm Plexus.

SFA also continues to make substantial upgrades to campus infrastructure and technology to encourage academic innovation. Recent additions include the Naymola Basketball Performance Center, Cole STEM Building with innovative makerspaces and cutting-edge tech, and a new first-year residence hall. A significant expansion of the Griffith Fine Arts Building completed in 2023 added a recording studio, sound stage, audio and video editing rooms, and an art gallery, among several other state-of-the-art additions.

A new 20,000-square-foot dining hall scheduled to open in fall 2024 will add outdoor seating and flexible spaces for events such as culinary expos. The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture is also set to undergo major renovations as the UT System has budgeted \$77 million toward improvements for the Forestry Building, Agriculture Building, Forestry Laboratories and Agricultural Mechanics Shop.

SFA's [athletic teams](#) compete in 18 intercollegiate sports — six men's and 12 women's — in the Western Athletic Conference at the NCAA Division I level. Steeped in tradition, SFA athletics enjoy unwavering support from SFA students and the Nacogdoches community. The university's vibrant and passionate student fan base, known as the "Purple Haze," has its own special traditions during football and basketball seasons that create a unique and exciting atmosphere. With a history of notable achievements in football, basketball and track, and national championships in softball and women's bowling, the Lumberjacks and Ladyjacks are part of the fabric of the full SFA experience.

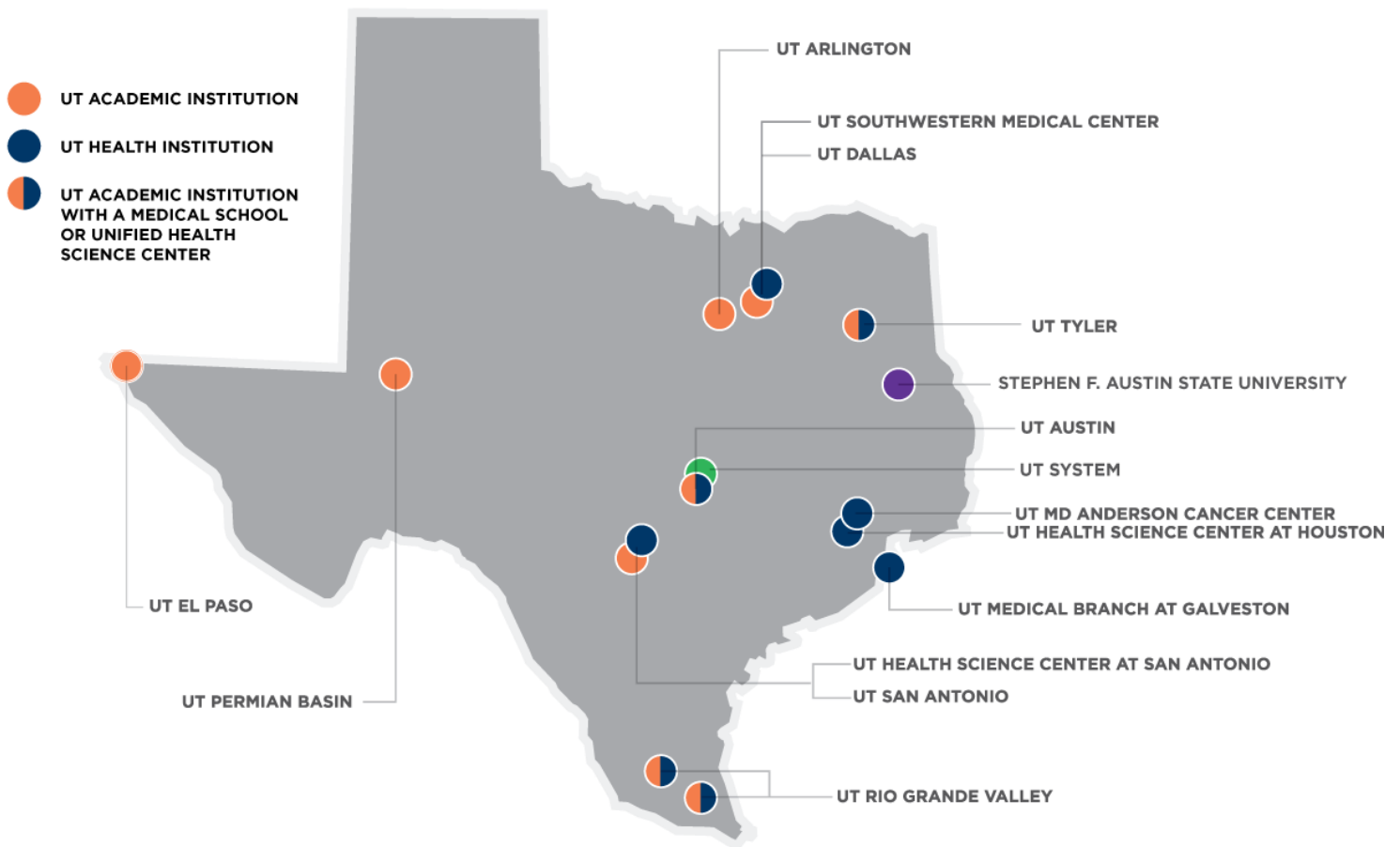
In addition, [live performances, cultural programs, and special events](#) occur throughout the year. The Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts presents nationally acclaimed artists, award-winning plays and lively choreography through a lineup of concerts, performances and exhibitions. The University Series, Children's Performing Arts Series, plus art, music and theatre and dance events offer an outstanding range of events for all tastes and ages. Learn more at www.sfasu.edu.

Institutional Profile

- **Fall 2022 enrollment: 11,232**
 - 36% male
 - 64% female
 - 20.6% Hispanic
 - 13.9% African American
 - 1.3% Asian
- **Over 40% of undergraduate students are "first generation" — being the first in their families to achieve four-year college educations.**
- **Approximately 37% of AY 2020-2021 undergraduate students received a Pell grant.**
- **There were 2,793 degrees awarded in AY 2021-2022, including:**
 - 2,230 Bachelor's
 - 553 Master's
 - 10 Doctoral
- **The University has approximately 737 faculty and 895 staff.**

Colleges/Schools by Fall 2021 Enrollment

College	Undergrad	Graduate
Nelson Rusche College of Business	1,622	142
James I. Perkins College of Education	2,619	835
Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts	823	87
Arthur Temple College of Forestry & Agriculture	762	99
College of Liberal & Applied Arts	2,663	312
College of Sciences & Mathematics	1,810	172



Qualifications and Qualities

The successful candidate must demonstrate a strong commitment to the values of Stephen F. Austin State University, a member of The University of Texas System. The Committee is particularly interested in candidates who present the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated record of leading with character and integrity.
- A strategic and visionary leader with the ability to drive results.
- A terminal degree from an accredited institution that will warrant the respect and confidence of the academic community.
- A successful record in executive leadership in complex organizations, including in higher education and/or at a public institution of similar size and scope.
- An understanding of and respect for academic values, demonstrated effectiveness working in a shared governance environment, and a recognition that exceptional instruction and scholarship are essential to the institution's success.
- An ability to effectively engage with students, faculty, and staff and participate in the education process and student life experiences and activities.
- Experience managing the financial operations of a complex unit or organization, including in public higher education, with integrity and transparency.
- Ability to work effectively in partnership with other university leaders, governing board, and local, state, and national political leaders.
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to inspire and motivate students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and other constituencies.
- Successful experience as a fundraiser with the ability to connect with and energize advancement efforts.
- Experience attracting, retaining, and managing a talented executive leadership team.
- Demonstrated success in creating and supporting a climate of community, understanding, engagement, openness, and mutual respect.
- A personal enthusiasm for leading a growing, vital institution in a dynamic community.

Confidential applications and nominations will be accepted until the new President is selected and may be submitted to SFAPresident@academicsearch.org. Applications should consist of a substantial letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, and a list of five professional references with full contact information. No references will be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate. The position is open until filled but only applications received by Wednesday, December 6, 2023, can be assured full consideration. The University of Texas System is being assisted by Academic Search. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting consultants Ann Hasselmo at Ann.Hasselmo@academicsearch.org and Chris Butler at Chris.Butler@academicsearch.org.

The University of Texas System is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Reasonable disability accommodation may be requested by contacting the Office of Human Resources.