

SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES



**WE CHANGE PEOPLE.
THEY CHANGE THE WORLD.**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN**

THE NEW SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES addresses the top concerns of the Commission of 125, which recognized that we should develop a new undergraduate core curriculum that would better prepare students for lives of accomplishment.

In Undergraduate Studies, we strive to exceed that goal by developing the best undergraduate program in the country at The University of Texas at Austin.

How do we do that? We begin by giving every first-year student the attention needed to develop from a good high school student into an outstanding college student. That requires access to top-notch faculty, the best academic advisers, and coursework that develops the skills needed to succeed.

Undergraduate Studies also exists to help each student explore options and create an individualized path toward a degree. We offer tools to harness the vast array of opportunities available at this amazing University: many disciplines, undergraduate research, internships, student leadership, honors programs, community volunteerism, and more.

We put the tremendous resources of a leading research university to work to deliver the personalized, transformative experience of a small elite college to every student.

A Revised Core Curriculum

A core set of classes common to every graduate is a vital part of what makes a degree from UT Austin nationally respected. Our most important task is the evaluation, revitalization, and improvement of the core.

We are working with every college and school to streamline and modernize the courses our incoming students are required to take. Imagine: No matter his or her major, a UT graduate will have enhanced writing and speaking skills. A UT graduate will be familiar with making ethical choices in tough situations. A UT graduate will understand global cultures and observe the spectrum of diversity. A UT graduate will be curious and encouraged to look beyond the surface of a problem to explore solutions. A UT graduate will be, in short, a leader for the community, for the state of Texas, and beyond.

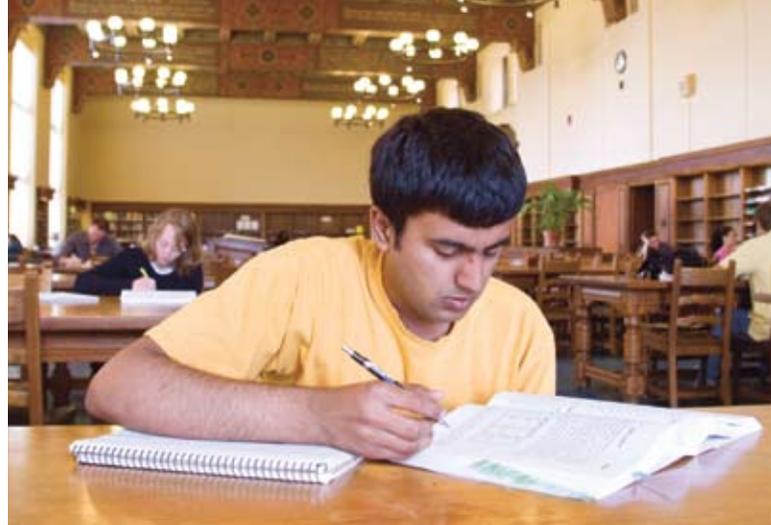
Signature Courses

What else will our new student discover? Imagine a small, 18-person seminar created exclusively for first-year students and taught by a full professor in a beautifully designed classroom in the Tower.

Signature Courses provide a common experience for **all** first-year students and represent the centerpiece of the university's new core curriculum. They are academically rigorous and taught by our most distinguished faculty members. They encourage students to utilize the University's most impressive resources, from the Blanton Museum to the Gutenberg Bible. These courses introduce college-level discussion, writing, and analysis, giving all our students the tools for academic success.

First-year Seminar Center

A major renovation of the elegant Life Science Library will open the Main Building each year to freshmen of all majors, bringing them into the heart of campus for a memorable small-class experience under the Tower.



The six new seminar classrooms will be part of a larger environment for undergraduates. We are designing a collaborative learning center to adjoin the seminar rooms, where students may study together, meet with their professors outside class, attend small lectures, and browse books.

First-year Interest Groups

Imagine: Every student at the university has the opportunity to begin college as part of a small community of learners. The First-year Interest Groups (FIGs) are a way in which Undergraduate Studies is giving the personal feel of a small college to a great university.

We are aggressively expanding the FIG program, which groups 15-20 students who share three or four courses in their first semester. One of the classes is small so that students get to know and recognize one another in their larger classes. With peer mentors and professional facilitators, students share experiences of living and learning in the UT community. FIG students have a built-in set of peers; they are rarely overwhelmed, and they succeed at a higher rate.



Center for Strategic Advising

Freshmen need to explore career options, choose a major, graduate on time, and succeed beyond college. Most students change their major at least once during their college career, and all too many of them delay graduation by making a bad choice of major, with courses they will not be able to count later toward their degrees.

The Center for Strategic Advising will guide students through their choice of major and minimize the number of unneeded hours students complete before graduating. It will serve as a central resource for undecided students who need specialized advising and time to explore coursework and career options.

Personalized advising will be combined with a new web-based advising tool to help prospective and newly enrolled students find the right path through college. This interactive resource will combine video clips, instant messaging with advisers, and other communication tools most used by students.

Center for Core Curriculum Development

How do we help outstanding faculty develop outstanding undergraduate courses? We offer them professional advice on teaching ethics, leadership,

writing, and oral presentations. We also provide faculty the resources to improve their courses, so that UT will be at the forefront of curricular innovation.

Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Experiences

Imagine: remarkable resources from many disciplines brought together into one life-changing experience. By combining coursework, research, and internships, students work closely with faculty mentors to earn certificates in concentrations such as international studies, digital arts and media, or social entrepreneurship and nonprofits.

Through the Bridging Disciplines Programs (BDPs), we teach students to be versatile, critical thinkers, to draw connections across disciplines, approach problems from diverse perspectives, and apply knowledge through hands-on experience.

Students are encouraged to look past the traditional academic paths. They enhance their core coursework with internships and research projects, as well as clusters of classes that produce an interdisciplinary concentration not offered in any other college or school.

A DISCIPLINED CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

The campaign for the School of Undergraduate Studies is part of the University-wide campaign to increase resources across the campus and to create the “disciplined culture of excellence” called for by the Commission of 125, which established goals for the University for the coming 25 years. Gifts to the school will support the following areas:

Students	\$8.5 million
Bridging Disciplines Programs (BDP) scholarships	
Research scholarships	
Longhorn Scholars scholarships (targets underrepresented Texas high schools)	
Research and Academic Programs	\$128 million
Signature Course teaching	
First-year Interest Group expansion	
BDP support	
Center for Core Curriculum Development	
Center for Strategic Advising	
Undergraduate Research Office	
Facilities	\$29 million
Undergraduate Studies Center in the Life Science Library	
Six Tower Signature Course seminar classrooms	
Center for Strategic Advising	
Total	\$165.5 million

Note: The University will recognize and acknowledge generous donors with naming opportunities for classrooms, advising centers, and academic programs.



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