LIVING THE LONGHORN LIFE

Impact Report 2019-2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You Do You</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Are Here</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Change the World</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influencing the Longhorn Life</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tell us about this year. What stands out?
The word that comes to mind is “resilience.” Our students are brimming with it. COVID-19 challenged them to finish the spring semester online. Not only did students stay connected, they remained intent on making UT Austin a welcoming, rewarding place for every student. It’s clear that this is where they’re learning to change the world.

What have you learned from students this year?
Actions speak louder than words. I meet with students all the time, and they love discussing how they’re Living the Longhorn Life®. But they’re also eager to do—to get out there and turn their plans into reality. And in many ways, that’s what the Division of Student Affairs is here to do: offer our students opportunities to thrive.

Most students live off campus. How are you trying to keep them engaged with campus life?
We started by asking: What do you need? How can we help? What’s missing? We learned a lot, including the fact that many of these students don’t realize that they’re also citizens of Austin, which comes with a whole range of opportunities and services.

We launched a new initiative to help engage students who live off campus focusing on four key areas of education: Connect with Campus, Give Back, Explore Austin and Be a Good Neighbor. Flip to page six to learn more.

Speaking of food, can you tell us about the UT Outpost?
Too many students experience food insecurity or hardship. No student should skip a meal or miss out on a professional opportunity. That’s why we continue to expand the size and accessibility of the UT Outpost—a food pantry and career closet available to any student who needs it. We’re also exploring how to deliver food directly to students with disabilities.

To me, the most important mission of the Division of Student Affairs is to meet the core needs of our students, and that will never change.

University Health Services turns 100 years old this year. What do you think the next 100 years look like?
“Integrated health” will be a big theme in the coming years. University Health Services collaborates with the Counseling and Mental Health Center to treat the entire student. Physical well-being and mental health are deeply entwined, and we intend to support both. And along the way, we’ll continue to destigmatize mental health concerns. I’ve witnessed how, in just the last few years, discussing stress, depression and anxiety have become common practice.

OK, now a little bit about you: What’s the best thing you’ve read lately?
I always have a couple of books in progress. One that stands out is “What Got You Here Won’t Get You There” by Marshall Goldsmith. The book is full of inspiring ideas, and it reminds me how important it is that I remain open-minded and curious. Here, we champion big ideas.

And finally, what would you like to say to someone considering supporting the work being done at the Division of Student Affairs?
Where do I even begin? There’s so much wonderful work happening here every day! But it always comes back to the students. Their passion, their resilience, their vision of the future—it’s all so astounding.

This generation is poised to do amazing things, and we’re going to help them get there.
YOU DO YOU.

UT Austin is the ideal place to tell your personal story. The Division of Student Affairs is committed to providing as many high-quality opportunities for students to discover who they are—and whom they want to become. There are many ways to be a Longhorn.
Longhorn Helps Reduce Risk

Leading more than 100 workshops in four years, Lillian Ford, BBA ’20, educated her fellow Longhorns about risk management, prevention and emergency resources. All 1,000 student organizations are required to attend these Safety Education Program workshops annually.

As a graduating senior, this student assistant working for Sorority and Fraternity Life within the Office of the Dean of Students, was recognized with the President’s Student Employee of the Year Award. While Ford was honored by the award, her work and influence on UT Austin students is the biggest reward.

“Being able to stand in front of students and teach them about important topics that they will need in times of crisis or distress is critical. This workshop helps students reach the resources that are available to them. The work we do is meaningful and impactful.”

Ambassadors for Recovery

This year, the Center for Students in Recovery launched its Ambassador Program. Ambassadors are friends and alums of the program who advocate for the center’s mission: “To provide a supportive community where students in recovery and in hope of recovery can achieve academic success while enjoying a genuine college experience free from alcohol and other drugs.”

Patrick Rosenthal, BA ’06, is one of the first ambassadors. “We’re asked to help in specific ways,” Rosenthal explains, “We serve as an information resource, train other advocates for recovery, provide mentorship, host events, help with fundraising, and so on. For me, the Center for Students in Recovery was life-changing. For others, it is life-saving. I’m happy to help in any way I can.”
Bridging the Off-Campus Gap

Approximately 85% of Longhorns—i.e., 43,000 students, enough to fill UFCU Disch-Falk Field more than six times over—don’t live on campus. They commute to the Forty Acres a few times a week but rarely spend more time on campus than it takes to attend class.

The sheer number of off-campus students has inspired the Division of Student Affairs to find a way to solve this challenge: How do we remind off-campus students of, and connect them to, the resources and services we offer?

We began tackling this question in earnest by talking to commuter students. Our conversations revealed that living away from home was a new experience in many cases. Our students are navigating the city to make the most of their off-campus living situation, learning how to be a neighbor and community member.

“It’s a whole different world outside of campus,” points out Paige Muehlenkamp-McHorse, our off-campus and outreach coordinator in New Student Services. “There’s a whole city out there—a big city, a complex one. Many of our students haven’t lived on their own before. Many of them come from smaller towns and rural areas.”

This year, New Student Services has organized several efforts to begin bridging the gap:

1. We launched a website in Spring 2019 that offers advice and curates resources for off-campus Longhorns (offcampus.utexas.edu).
2. We offer in-person events to introduce off-campus students to Austin’s opportunities. At a recent event, students learned the Capital Metro bus system to travel to a volunteer event at a local animal welfare agency. After, we explored Austin.
3. We continue to develop resources for our website and to share with students during events. Resources include an apartment comparison guide, a budgeting worksheet and meal planning tips.
4. We’re forming partnerships with off-campus stakeholders and landlords who manage apartments with a large student population. We want to meet off-campus students where they live.

Also, our Division of Student Affairs partners in University Housing and Dining offer a Commuter Meal Plan. This makes eating on campus more affordable and convenient for commuter students.

“We’re doing a lot for off-campus students,” she explains. “And we intend to do more. With more support and partnerships, we will continue to make UT Austin, and Austin, feel like home. That’s our mission, to make this city—and this campus—home.”
Redefining a Healthy Student Culture

At the end of his sophomore year, Miles Greenfield realized he was making unhealthy, sometimes risky, choices, and needed to make some changes in his daily life. “I was missing my ambition. And as time went on, I grew less content with my behavior. That’s when, through an amazing coincidence, I got connected to the SHIFT initiative. Now, I’m its biggest advocate.”

The SHIFT program, launched in the fall of 2019, aims to shift the culture of substance use on campus—to remind students that college can be fun and social without revolving around or relying on alcohol or drugs.

But that’s a big challenge—especially at a school as large and diverse as UT Austin. So SHIFT is tackling it on multiple fronts, thanks to funding from the Hildebrand Foundation.

“We want to be realistic and meet students where they are,” the junior health and society major explains. As a key member of SHIFT’s Student Advisory Board, he has helped shape the program since before it was rolled out. “We’re going into the classrooms. We’re equipping faculty with resources they can offer their students. We’re forming partnerships with bars that are popular with students.”

Along with these personal connections, SHIFT uses shift.utexas.edu to highlight efforts in and out of the classroom. Pilot initiatives engage students, faculty and staff in a dialogue about how substance use may or may not relate to the student experience. Ultimately, SHIFT aims to cultivate a more mindful student, enhancing their safety, well-being and success.

But perhaps SHIFT’s most innovative tactic is the SHIFTovation Awards—money for research projects pitched by faculty and students. These studies are aimed at helping SHIFT the culture on college campuses as it relates to substance misuse.

“We will know we’re successful when there’s a culture change on campus,” Greenfield points out. “We want every student to graduate into a life that’s successful, celebrated and healthy.”
UT Outpost’s Grand Reopening

In fall 2019, UT Outpost opened the doors to a newly renovated space in north campus—providing students better access to nutritious food and tackling barriers to career success in one location. Each visit to the food pantry can provide a student with food for at least 15 meals and students have access to professional outfits from the career closet. We look forward to growing our inventory and strengthening the student safety net for this program within Student Emergency Services in the Office of the Dean of Students.

YOU ARE HERE.

We want to meet students where they are—to remind them that, no matter where they come from or where they’re headed, this is home. UT Austin welcomes every student, no matter what.
Happy 100th Birthday, University Health Services!

When University Health Services first opened its doors in 1920, healthcare—and the world—looked mighty different. But throughout the many scientific and social advancements of the last century, the department has remained steadfast in its mission to keep Longhorns safe, healthy and informed. We don’t know what marvels await us in the next 100 years, but we know University Health Services will be right there, ready to serve.

Vice President for Student Affairs Reunion Tailgate

Alumni, friends, staff and supporters of the Division of Student Affairs gathered for our inaugural football tailgate event in fall 2019. There was no shortage of food, friends and fun. (And the Longhorns won on a last-second field goal!) We look forward to making the tailgate an annual tradition!
Therapy Goes Digital

If you ask Dr. Joey Hannah why so many students seem overwhelmed, he’s quick to think big.

“You get to college and discover that you still have a lot to learn on your way to becoming an adult,” he explains. “That’s a huge shock. Combined with all of the pressure to succeed and big transitions that students experience during college, it’s no wonder we’re seeing record levels of anxiety, depression and so on.”

As a diversity counseling and outreach specialist at the Counseling and Mental Health Center, Hannah witnesses what students are facing every day. “In a student body of more than 51,000, we have thousands of young adults who could use some degree of mental health support.”

As part of the center’s mission to expand and simplify access to mental health services, last fall, Hannah and his colleagues began mental health services via phone and video. Using a secure platform, this allows students to use video conferencing to speak with a licensed, full-time counselor via their smartphones, computers or mobile devices.

“Services by phone and video complement in-person services,” Hannah clarifies. “Providing this service to students allows us to remove barriers by expanding hours and giving students more flexibility. We want every student who needs help to be able to get it quickly.”

In addition to the program, the center is making other changes to make mental health support more accessible:

- The center plans to hire more case managers who can help students connect with additional mental health resources on and off campus.
- A peer support initiative will be added, providing students with training to help fellow students.
- The number of full-time counselors will increase while exploring additional “affiliate” counselors in the Austin community to assist with providing counseling to UT Austin students.

“The stigma around mental health has decreased significantly,” Hannah says. “Students are more willing than ever to ask for help. The Counseling and Mental Health Center is trying to ensure that, when they ask for help, we’re standing by to provide it.”
Rebecca Larson’s Story Begins on Earth. But It Doesn’t End There.

“I joined the Air Force after high school because I couldn’t afford college,” she explains. “I spent months studying Arabic in California before being transferred to the National Security Agency in Maryland, where I took college courses in my free time.”

Larson left the Air Force in 2010 after six years to focus on her undergrad degree.

“I enrolled at UT Austin,” Larson says. “I looked at the list of majors and saw ‘Astronomy.’ I’d never considered studying that. But I love space and I love sci-fi, so I figured, why not? I worked hard, learned quantum mechanics and taught myself to code.”

But adjusting to college life was challenging. “College can be especially hard for veterans,” she explains. “We miss the community of the military.” Still, she dug in and went on to conduct transformative astrophysical research.

Astronomers had theorized that turbulence in space might slow star formation, but nobody had proven it. Nobody, that is, until Larson spent a year poring over data and definitively confirmed that shockwaves traveling through massive gas clouds can disrupt how stars come to exist. “Nobody had ever observed this. It changed my life,” she remembers. “I knew then that I didn’t want to do anything else.”

Exception that’s not exactly true. In addition to winning awards, earning federal research grants and getting published in leading journals, this fourth-year Ph.D. student is helping transform the student veteran experience. As vice president of the Student Veterans Association, Larson is collaborating with her peers and working closely with Student Veteran Services in the Office of the Dean of Students to ensure that student veterans thrive on the Forty Acres.

“We want to help veterans adjust to student life when they first get to UT Austin,” she says. “But that’s just half of the equation.” The other half? Helping veterans succeed after graduation. “So we’re building out a huge career development program—lining up internships, funding research, providing scholarships and so on.”

Larson is quick to point out that she isn’t alone. “Student veterans are doing big things at UT Austin. We’re changing the world. We’re making waves.” Sometimes, those waves reach the edge of the universe.
What starts here changes the world. But with more than 51,000 students, UT Austin is a world unto itself. Our mission is to create opportunities for students to change this world, right here on the Forty Acres, then apply what they’ve learned to their communities after graduation. Here are some of the latest ways they’re doing exactly that.
Launched in fall 2019, CoachUT pairs student employees with professional leadership development coaches. Participating students get five personalized, one-on-one coaching sessions over the course of a semester. This type of leadership coaching is usually reserved for executives moving into the peak of their careers. The innovation of CoachUT is bringing this experience to students, at a time when it can influence the trajectory of their future.

For two of CoachUT’s pilot participants, the coaching has been transformative.

“The first thing we did was set specific goals,” says TraQuana Smith, BSW ’19. “For example, I decided I wanted to become more personable and sociable in work settings. I’m in the process of getting my master’s in social work, so this was a great opportunity to enhance my skills. Together, my coach and I created ‘homework’ exercises I could do between our sessions—things I could do to improve how I interact with coworkers.”

The University Housing and Dining student employee and current graduate assistant was one of 50+ Longhorns who took part in the pilot program. It’s now been rolled out Division-wide and with more support, we can help more students participate.

While we expected CoachUT to help students with their professional skills—after all, 90% of students who participated in the pilot program reported that coaching was valuable—we were delighted to discover just how much further coaching can go.

“Adjusting to UT Austin was difficult for me,” explains Viviana Perry, a junior neuroscience major. “I transferred from the Naval Academy, and I didn’t really know anyone here. So when I heard about CoachUT, I figured it might introduce me to someone objective, someone who could help me figure it out.”

The Recreational Sports student employee and her coach dove into the coaching process; they set goals, identified strengths and weaknesses and created action plans. But something else came out of those sessions.

“I know CoachUT wasn’t designed to make me feel at home here,” she notes. “But that’s exactly what it did.”
More than a Paycheck

“Career readiness” is a complex concept comprising an ever-evolving set of skills and expectations. Preparing students for the workplace means staying plugged in to what tomorrow’s employers need.

Fortunately, we know what they need. The National Association of Colleges and Employers released the results of a nationwide employer survey on career readiness—identifying eight “core competencies” that will ensure a successful transition from graduation to the workforce. They are:

- Critical thinking
- Written and oral communications
- Teamwork
- Digital technology
- Leadership
- Professionalism
- Career management
- Global and intercultural fluency

These competencies guide our career readiness efforts in the Division of Student Affairs. Recreational Sports was the ideal department to test this approach.

“Our department employs approximately 1,000 student employees each academic year,” explains Mark Munguia, director of programs. “Students help manage our eight Recreational Sports facilities and six programmatic areas. We’re the perfect place to make ‘career readiness’ an experiential and formal program.”

Munguia and his colleagues have turned these competencies into guideposts. “We work one-on-one with our student employees, identifying strengths and connecting the work they do to the skills that future employees are seeking in college graduates,” Munguia says. “We utilize new employee orientations, monthly meetings, workshops and exit interviews to prepare students and learn how we can enhance our efforts. Because ultimately, we care for our students’ success far beyond graduation.”
Student Interns Are Changing Campus

The Division of Student Affairs Internship Program listing — Environmental Sustainability Coordinator: University Unions — struck Chris Berry, BS ’20, as serendipitous. “I’d recently begun studying a brand-new major, sustainability studies. And I’d just completed a semester-long sustainability internship in University Housing and Dining. This was a perfect fit.”

Berry spent summer 2019 interning with supervisor James Buckley, director of facilities and operations for University Unions. He then got hired and stayed on the team as one of approximately 150 employees across the University Unions’ five facilities.

“I just tried to stay out of his way,” Buckley explains. “Because when it comes to sustainability, Chris is more of an expert than I am. I have resources, and I have a vision for our facilities, but then I just let Chris do his thing. We don’t micromanage.”

When we launched the internship program in 2019, Berry and Buckley’s working relationship was precisely what we imagined. Students learn how workplaces operate (especially in their future career fields), as well as valuable skills like problem-solving, leadership and communication.

“We figured out how to further prevent our recycle bins from being contaminated by regular trash, meaning we can recycle more. We’ve created some environmental education resources for students. We continue to work with our vendors to help them shift to sustainable products,” explains Berry.

Accomplishments like these are happening in internships across campus—including roles in e-sports, wellness, professional development, public health, design and photography, housing and dining and more. As support for the internship program grows, so too will the number and diversity of roles we can fill.

For Buckley, the value of the internship program is obvious. “Students are the engine that drive us,” he says. “Working with them is a win-win. They get business experience; we get their passion and energy. We’ll definitely be asking the Division of Student Affairs for more interns in the future.”
The Longhorn Family Leadership Council is a team of parents (of current and former students) who lend their philanthropic and professional expertise to make real, immediate improvements to student life. If you’re interested in learning more about the council, please contact Vice President of Student Affairs Development at vpsadevelopment@utexas.edu.

Student Photographer: Joy Qin

2019-2020 Longhorn Family Leadership Council
Dawn and Jim Coronado
Lynette and Mark Cone
Angela Crates
Michelle and Bryan Goolsby
Suzanne and Don Laidlaw
Jane and Bill McDonald
Kristin and Tony Schell
Joan and Bruce Sostek
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The Division of Student Affairs touches the life of every student, from the moment they step on campus until long after graduation. In many ways, we define their “college years.” Here are a few of the people who spend every day influencing the Longhorn life.
Recognizing a Compassionate Counselor

Joan Long, Counselor
Counseling and Mental Health Center

Joan Long has spent more than a decade giving students a safe space in which to bolster their mental and emotional wellness. By leading with compassion, Long routinely reinstills hopes in her clients, and her data-driven approach has led to large-scale, institutional improvements at the Counseling and Mental Health Center.

Honoring a Creative Colleague

Andrew Mendoza, Art Director
University Health Services and Counseling and Mental Health Center

Andrew Mendoza has dedicated 26 years to serving students. In his official role as art director, Mendoza regularly innovates new ways to communicate important health messages across campus. But behind the scenes, Mendoza does so much more—mentoring student employees, managing a creative professionals networking group and staying calm and optimistic when the pressure’s on.

Celebrating a Data Leader

Rita Miller, Director of Data and Analytics
Vice President for Student Affairs

As a second-generation Longhorn (who proudly bleeds burnt orange), Miller skillfully weaves data points into compelling stories. From undergraduate student leader to graduate student to her more than 10 years as a university employee, Miller uses her keen insight to make sense of the numbers. She takes on extra projects, mentors student employees and creates collaborations across campus.
Texas Blazers Organization Turns 25

When they were founded in 1994, the Texas Blazers had a humble goal: create a student organization based on a love for serving the community.

“Our members love helping others,” explains Alan Shaw, BBA ’20, the organization’s outgoing chairman. “The Texas Blazers was created to give service-minded students the opportunity to have a positive impact on campus and in the broader community.”

For the Blazers’ first 25 years, the primary beneficiary of their service has been Eastside Memorial Early College High School. “It’s an amazing school filled with amazing kids,” says Neal Makkar, BBA ’15. “But nearly 80% of them live below the poverty level. So over the years, we have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for both scholarships to UT Austin and supporting students in need off campus. And six days a week, we go to the high school campus to tutor, beautify the campus and build new pathways to college.”

But that’s just the tip of the service iceberg. Every year, a new class of students joins the organization with their own “pocket passions.” The group has helped with Hurricane Harvey recovery, volunteered at the Special Olympics and staffed the Texas Tribune Festival.

“For our 25th anniversary, we wanted to do something big,” says Shaw. “Our scholarship fund and service at Eastside Memorial Early College High School aim to help students get to UT Austin, and the new Texas Blazers Excellence Fund will help them thrive once they get here. The fund, officially launched at a reunion event fall 2019, aims to raise $425,000 to support important on-campus services such as the UT Outpost and Student Emergency Fund.

It’s this relentless commitment to service that inspired the school to name the Texas Blazers the “Official Hosts of The University of Texas at Austin.” After all, who better to welcome the world to the Forty Acres—and demonstrate the true spirit of the Longhorn life—than a student organization that exists to serve others?

“We’re excited to build the excellence fund. Every contribution is being backed up by the work and passion of students. The Blazers are boots on the ground, offering their time and talents to serve the UT Austin community.” To learn more about the Texas Blazers—and to donate to the Texas Excellence Fund—visit www.texasblazers.com.
The Vice President for Student Affairs and the Division of Student Affairs’ nine departments honor students and staff in a variety of ways. Below is a list of our awards, recognitions and scholarships.

- 1999 Bonfire Unity Endowed Presidential Scholarship
- Abigail “Alu” Zeller Memorial Fund
- Acacia Fraternity Endowed Scholarship
- Alyx, Jones Bodoin Centennial Endowed Scholarship
- Arno Nowotny Medal
- Betty A. Thompson Endowment for Recreational Sports
- Bill Frisbie Endowed Scholarship
- Bill Patman Endowed Scholarship
- Brian L. Harlan Memorial Endowment
- C. Thomas Behrman/Tejas Scholarship
- Carol Weikman Farnsworth & James Walter Farnsworth Endowment for Students in Recovery
- C.C. “Jitter” Nolen Spirit Award
- Charles and Carolyn Spence, James and Kathryn (Spence) Nance, and William (Spence) and Edith Nance Endowed Scholarship
- Cristi Biggs Orientation Leadership Fund
- Cullen Trust for Higher Education Endowed Fund for Students in Recovery
- Dawn & Greg Crouch Endowed Excellence Fund for Students in Recovery
- Dean Byron Fullerton/Tejas Scholarship
- DeDoe and Joe Bill Watkins Endowed Scholarship
- Delta Gamma Foundation Endowed Lecture Fund in Values and Ethics
- Delta Tau Delta Endowed Scholarship
- Donna Stockton-Hicks & R. Steven Hicks Endowed Excellence Fund for the Center for Students in Recovery
- Eric M. Suh Endowed Scholarship
- Eyes of Texas Student Government Academic Endeavor Fund
- Fleming Fellowship Scholarship
- Fleming/Tejas Scholarship
- Floyd B. Hoeting Quality of Residence Life Award
- Foyle Family Endowment for Student Affairs
- George Kinsolving Endowed Memorial Student Services Fund
- Gerald E. Hawkhurst & Susan St. Denis Endowed Presidential Scholarship
- Glenn Maloney Memorial Scholarship
- Grants for Active Student Participants (GRASP) Endowment
- Gregory E. Lucia/Tejas Scholarship
- Harrison Brown Endowed Excellence Fund
- Haruko Weiser Endowed Excellence Fund for Campus and Student Safety
- Ingram Lee Endowed Scholarship
- Intramural Endowment
- James W. Vick Academic Bridge Fund Endowment
- Jean Perkins Foundation Combat Veteran Scholarship
- Jessica Michelle Fertitta Excellence Fund for Student Advocacy & Civic Engagement
- Jim Fenner Fund
- John M. Childs Scholarship for Intramural Referees
- Judge Harley Clark/Tejas Scholarship
- Judge Royce C. Lamberth/Tejas Scholarship
- Judge Zeke Zbranek/Tejas Scholarship
- Kenneth Ford Family Endowed Scholarship
- Lubbock Endowed Excellence Fund for Handball in Honor of Pete Tyson
- Maralyne S. Hermlich Scholarship
- Margaret Alexander Steiner Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Margaret C. Berry Student Activities Fund
- Marion B. Buescher Memorial Scholarship
- Mark L. Hart, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
- Max. Gene Alice and Lynn Sherman The Center for Students in Recovery Endowment
- Merrymans/Revel Excellence Endowment
- National Residence Hall Honorary Induction
- National Residence Hall Honorary “Of the Month” Awards
- Nelson Puett, Jr. Endowed Scholarship for Recreational Sports
- NOW Fund – Endowment for Immediate Student Support
- Office of the Dean of Students Dean’s Dozen
- Office of the Dean of Students Pillars of the Forty Acres Recognition Program
- Office of the Dean of Students Sorority and Fraternity Life Awards
- Office of the Dean of Students Swing Out Awards
- Office of the Dean of Students Transforming Texas Greeks
- Office of the Dean of Students Veteran Academic Leadership Award
- Orange Jackets Endowment for Voices Against Violence
- Parents’ Association Student Services Endowment Fund
- Phi Gamma Delta Endowed Scholarship
- Play Golf America University Endowment in Recreational Sports
- Rebecca H. Carreon Scholarship Fund
- Recreational Sports Divisional Endowment
- Recreational Sports Endowed Scholarship
- Richard B. Dyke Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Communications
- Robert G. Childress Endowed Scholarship
- Robert L. Dewar Golf Scholarship
- Scott B. Styles Endowed Excellence Fund for Lacrosse
- Sean N. Bourgeois Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Senate of College Councils Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Senate of College Councils’ William Powers Jr. Endowed Scholarship
- Sgt. Tyrell Seth Williams, U.S. Marine Corps Endowed Scholarship
- Sharon H. Justice Leadership Scholarship
- Shawna and Kara Wells Endowment for Horns Helping Horns
- Sonia Reagins-Lilly Award for Administrative Excellence
- Student Activity Center Program Endowment
- Student Emergency Fund
- Student Endowed Centennial Lectureship Endowment
- Student Government Endowed Excellence Fund
- Student Organization Development Fund
- Susan and Mark Baletka Endowed Scholarship
- Sylvia and Gary Crum Endowed Scholarship
- Tanya Norwood Staff Appreciation Award Endowment
- Texas Blaziers Excellence Fund
- Texas Cowboys Centennial Lectureship
- Texas Cowboys Endowment for UT Students
- Texas Men’s Lacrosse Endowment
- Texas Parents Mike Wacker Award
- Texas Parents Outstanding Student Awards
- Texas Parents Staff Merit Awards
- Texas Union Building Fund
- Texas Union Permanent Art Collection Endowment
- Texas Union Student Awards Endowment
- Texas Union Student Programs Endowment
- Texas Union-University Co-Operative Society Presidential Medallion Endowment
- The Bryant and Shari T. Truitt Veterans Scholarship
- The Center for Students in Recovery Scholarships
- The Center for Students in Recovery Alumni Endowment
- The David L. Shull Memorial Scholarship
- Theodore Henry Strauss Student Award for Exemplary University Service
- Thomas W. Dixon Endowed Scholarship
- Tom and Bitsey Hail Endowed Presidential Scholarship
- Transforming Texas Greeks Endowment
- University Health Services Healthy Student Organization Program Awards
- University Health Services Outstanding Student Health Leadership Award
- University Housing and Dining Residence Life Leadership Awards
- University Unions J.J. “Jake” Pickle Citizenship Award
- University Unions Pal—Make A Difference Award
- University Unions Shirley Bird Perry Leadership Award
- W. Ralph Canada, Jr. Endowment for Horns Helping Horns
- William Andrew Smith, Jr. GRASP Award
Vice President for Student Affairs

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Division of Student Affairs Departments

Center for Students in Recovery
recovery.utexas.edu
(512) 475-6778

Counseling and Mental Health Center
cmhc.utexas.edu
(512) 471-3515

New Student Services
orientation.utexas.edu
(512) 471-3304

Office of the Dean of Students
deanofstudents.utexas.edu
(512) 471-5017

Recreational Sports
utrecsports.org
(512) 471-1155

Texas Parents
texasparents.org
(512) 471-2353

University Health Services
healthyhorns.utexas.edu
(512) 471-4955

University Housing and Dining
housing.utexas.edu
(512) 471-3136

University Unions
universityunions.utexas.edu
(512) 475-6636

Your financial investment matters to our students. Give online at bit.ly/GivetoDivision or you can contact Vice President for Student Affairs Development directly at vpsadevelopment@utexas.edu or by calling (512) 475-6134.
CONFRONTING THE PANDEMIC
What we’ve done so far. What we’re doing next.

At every phase of this unprecedented journey, the first goal of the Division of Student Affairs has been—and will remain—protecting the health and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Nothing matters more.

Spring 2020: Initial Response
When COVID-19 arrived in Austin, we did two things right away. First, all 37 units and nine departments within the Division found ways to continue serving students safely. Second, Division leadership began planning for the summer and fall semesters. In the spring:

• University Health Services started offering COVID-19 testing.
• Telehealth counseling (from the Counseling and Mental Health Center) kept students and their counselors connected virtually.
• With social distancing and recommended protective face masks—along with home delivery—UT Outpost remained open in order to ensure students who depend on them for food weren’t left hungry.

As the only Division that touches the lives of most students, we gave (and continue to give) insight into their needs, concerns and solutions in our ongoing planning with the Office of the President.

Summer 2020: Planning
We quickly decided that none of the new student and family orientation sessions could happen in person; the risk was too high. So, in coordination with Texas Parents and New Student Services, we moved all orientations online while keeping them as educational and engaging as ever. We also reduced the cost of registration and made family orientation free. Incoming students couldn’t come to the Forty Acres, so we brought the Forty Acres to them.

• We hosted 11 virtual summer orientations—including seven for freshmen, three for transfer students and one for both groups.
• We welcomed 10,200 students to UT Austin this summer—a 5.5% increase over last year.
• 79 student orientation advisors hosted 1,366 interactive video meetings in June and July.

Continued on reverse
We began raising extra money for the Student Emergency Fund—a fund we’ve always supported, but which took on special meaning this year. We have already activated the fund to help students purchase laptops, webcams and internet service for virtual learning, along with rent, utility payments and the countless unexpected needs that the pandemic created. This fund is often the only thing between students and hunger, homelessness or leaving school altogether. If you’d like to lend your support, please call or email us using the contact information to the right.

Throughout everything, communication remains a top priority. In the summer, departments continuously updated their websites and social media to keep our community informed. We also moved existing (and some new) programs online:

• The Division of Student Affairs Internship Program, through the Leadership and Ethics Institute, went 100% virtual.
• University Housing and Dining made all food “to-go” and eliminated self-service. They also created a socially distanced Moov-In for the fall—adding more days and extending hours to get students into their residence halls.
• Recreational Sports launched Stay Home. Stay Active. which offers virtual group exercise classes, at-home workout plans, articles about how to safely find adventure at home and outdoors and hosted an e-sports tournament.
• University Health Services extended services to graduating seniors through the summer.

Fall 2020: Returning to Learning

In late June, the university announced its Fall 2020 Reopening Plans, “Protect Texas Together.” Our shared goal is to create a safe environment for everyone while also reigniting the learning, teaching and research that make our university the world-changing place it is. Students will have online, hybrid and in-person learning, along with other ways to engage with one another.

Staff worked tirelessly through the summer to prepare for reopening. Our student-focused buildings and spaces began opening in a phased approach on Aug. 17. Here are some of the ways we are following social distancing and health guidance:

• Most staff are working remotely to reduce density on campus and many events/programs have transitioned to virtual platforms.
• We are wearing recommended protective face masks at all times when inside university buildings and encourage wearing these masks outdoors.
• Furniture and equipment have been rearranged to accommodate social distancing.
• Hand sanitizer stations and educational/informational signage have been placed throughout our facilities.
• To read more on the university’s efforts, visit protect.utexas.edu.

The Future

Today, we aren’t 100% certain what the future will look like at UT Austin. But we do know a few things for sure: UT Austin will continue to protect our students. UT Austin will continue to deliver a world-class education. And when emergencies occur, our Division of Student Affairs will be there, supporting students. That’s our promise and our purpose.