

HIGHER EDUCATION

Public higher education in Tennessee is coordinated by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and consists of two systems—the University of Tennessee campuses, governed by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, and the state universities, community colleges, and technology centers governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

These bodies are composed of appointed lay citizens to ensure public direction and policy guidance in higher education. All three employ chief executive officers and are legislative entities with defined purposes and responsibilities.

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) was created in the fall of 1967 by the Tennessee General Assembly to achieve coordination and foster unity in higher education in this state. The commission is composed of nine lay members, with six-year terms, representing congressional districts of the state; three constitutional officers (comptroller of the treasury, state treasurer, and secretary of state) who are ex officio voting members; two student members with staggered two-year terms with voting privileges in their second year (one student member from the University of Tennessee System and one student member from the Board of Regents System); and the executive director of the State Board of Education, as an ex officio, nonvoting member.

The commission has become one of the strongest coordinating boards in the country by providing leadership in public policy development for higher education and developing policies to ensure fair and equitable funding of the various public institutions and manage growth to maintain the efficiency of state appropriations.

Among the commission's statutory responsibilities are strategic planning for Tennessee postsecondary education; reviewing and approving new academic programs; developing formulae and recommending the operating and capital budgets for public higher education; providing data and information to the public, institutions, legislature, and state government; and providing authorization for private postsecondary institutions operating within the state. The commission is also the State Approving Agency for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Executive Director Richard G. Rhoda, Ph.D.

Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Richard G. Rhoda, executive director of THEC, started in 1973 as a research associate at the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), eventually becoming the executive assistant to the chancellor. He served in various administrative capacities at Tennessee State University beginning in 1985, and returned to TBR as vice chancellor for Administration in 1990. During his tenure as vice chancellor, he served as interim president at Nashville State Technical Institute, acting chancellor of TBR and interim president of Austin Peay State University. From 1995 to 1997 he served on the faculty of Vanderbilt University before returning to TBR in 1997. He was confirmed as executive director of THEC in September 1998. Dr. Rhoda received a B.A. in History from Vanderbilt, an M.A. in Education at Peabody and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at Vanderbilt.



to ensure that any postsecondary institution desiring to offer veterans benefits to its students meets the department's standards. The underlying principles of the commission in the fulfillment of the responsibilities and development of policies have been and continue to be equity, excellence, accessibility and accountability.

Members of THEC include: Katie Winchester, Dyersburg, chair; General Wendell Gilbert, Clarksville, vice chair; Jack Murrah, Hixson, vice chair; A.C. Wharton Jr., Memphis, secretary; the Honorable Riley C. Darnell, secretary of state; Adam Green, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, student, voting; W. Ransom Jones, Murfreesboro; Debby Patterson Koch, Nashville, Charles Mann, Columbia; the Honorable John G. Morgan, comptroller of the treasury; Dr. Gary Nixon, director of the State Board of Education; the Honorable Dale Sims, state treasurer; Robert White, Johnson City; Sondra Wilson, Tennessee Technological University, student, nonvoting; and Eleanor E. Yoakum, Knoxville.

The University of Tennessee System

The University of Tennessee is a statewide system of higher education with a presence in each of Tennessee's 95 counties.

Through the combined force of its education, research, and service capabilities, the university serves students, business and industry, schools, governments, organizations, and citizens throughout the state.

The statewide university provides a range of accessible and affordable educational opportunities and highly regarded professional schools. About 45,000 students are enrolled, and graduates number more than 9,000 a year. More than 300,000 alumni live throughout the state, nation, and world.

The University of Tennessee system is focused on the priorities of student access and student success, outreach to serve Tennesseans, preparation for the global marketplace, and research and economic development to enhance regional, national, and international competitiveness.

UT has nationally ranked programs in the fields of law, pharmacy, business administration, engineering, social work, education, arts and sciences, and medicine.

The UT-Battelle partnership manages Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the Department of Energy, strengthening the university's long-standing affiliation with the nation's largest science and energy laboratory. The Health Science Center in Memphis has extensive ties with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, an internationally recognized research institution.

The university system is governed by a board of trustees appointed by the Governor of Tennessee. Board members are: Andrea Loughry, Murfreesboro; George Cates, Memphis; Anne Holt Blackburn, Brentwood; William Carroll Sr., Sevierville; Barbara Castleman, Martin; Spruell Driver, Nashville; James E. Hall, Chattanooga; Charles Anderson Jr., Knoxville; Rhynette Hurd, Memphis; Jerry Jackson, Dyersburg; James L. Murphy III, Nashville; Robert Talbott, Knoxville; Karl Schledwitz, Memphis; Don Stansberry Jr., Huntsville; Douglas Horne, Knoxville; Charles Wharton, Winchester; and James L. Wolford, Chattanooga. Two UT students and two faculty members serve one-year terms on the board, and those positions rotate annually among the institutions within the UT system. Ex officio members of the board are the Governor of Tennessee, the commissioners of education and agriculture, the executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and the president of the university.

Dr. John D. Petersen is president of the statewide University of Tennessee system. Officials in charge of the UT campuses and institutes are Dr. Roger Brown, chancellor of UT Chattanooga; Dr. Loren Crabtree, chancellor of the Knoxville campus; Dr. Nick Dunagan, chancellor of UT Martin; Dr. William Owen Jr., vice president for health affairs and chancellor of the Health Science Center; Dr. Joseph DiPietro, vice president for the statewide Institute of Agriculture; Hank Dye, vice president in charge of the statewide Institute for Public Service; and Dr. Donald Daniel, associate vice president and chief operating officer of the Space Institute.

President John D. Petersen, Ph.D.

The University of Tennessee System

John D. Petersen is the chief executive officer of the University of Tennessee system. He became the 23rd president of the university July 1, 2004. Previously he was provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Connecticut and before that dean of the College of Science and professor of chemistry at Wayne State University. His background also includes service on the faculties of Clemson University and Kansas State University. Petersen received the Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara and the B.S. in chemistry from California State. His office is at the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville.



Roger Brown
*Chancellor
Chattanooga*

Loren Crabtree
*Chancellor
Knoxville*

Nick Dunagan
*Chancellor
Martin*

William Owen Jr.
*Vice President
and Chancellor
Health Science Center*



Joseph DiPietro
*Vice President
for Agriculture*

Hank Dye
*Vice President
for Public
and Government
Relations*

Donald Daniel
*Associate Vice President
and Chief Operating Officer
Space Institute*

University of Tennessee Campuses and Institutes

The University of Tennessee is headquartered in Knoxville and composed of:

- The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, a metropolitan university offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs through eight colleges and schools.
- The flagship campus at Knoxville, Tennessee's oldest and largest public university, a land-grant institution and major research university.
- The University of Tennessee at Martin, a primarily undergraduate campus with more than 100 specialized fields of study, located in northwest Tennessee.
- The Health Science Center at Memphis, the educational and research hub of the Memphis medical center since 1911.
- The Institute of Agriculture, a statewide education, research, and outreach organization serving students, producers, and consumers throughout Tennessee and beyond.
- The Institute for Public Service, a statewide organization of agencies serving city and county governments, training law enforcement professionals on a state and national level, and helping manufacturers throughout Tennessee reduce costs and increase revenue.
- The Space Institute at Tullahoma, a graduate education and research institution located in middle Tennessee adjacent to the U.S. Air Force Arnold Engineering Development Center.