



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**

Head, Department of Psychology
Leadership Profile

December 2025



WittKieffer

Position Overview

The Department of Psychology in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (BBS) at The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) is seeking an accomplished and visionary academic leader to serve as Department Head. The University invites applications from advanced Associate Professors or Full Professors with a strong record of scholarship, leadership, and expertise in one or more of the department's core areas of strength: cognitive neuroscience, developmental science, cognitive science, clinical psychology, or social/personality psychology. Candidates integrating artificial intelligence into their research are highly desirable.

This leadership role offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of a dynamic and interdisciplinary department. The Department Head serves as a central representative of the department faculty and a key partner to the Dean of the School, guiding strategic initiatives that include modernizing course offerings, refining academic programs, expanding the research enterprise, and launching new degree pathways.

The Department Head will provide strategic leadership and administrative oversight for the Department of Psychology, ensuring alignment with the academic mission of the School and University. This individual will collaborate closely with faculty and school leadership to enhance curriculum design and delivery, while supporting and promoting high-impact research across the Department's core areas. The Department Head will lead efforts to develop and implement new academic programs that reflect institutional priorities and emerging trends in the field. A key aspect of the role is fostering a culture of academic excellence. The Department Head will also represent the Department in school-wide and university-level planning and governance, mentor faculty across ranks, and support their professional development. In addition, the role includes oversight of departmental operations, including budgeting, staffing, department strategic planning, and ensuring compliance with institutional policies and procedures.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

Minimum Education and Experience

The successful candidate must have:

- An earned a PhD or equivalent doctoral degree from an accredited university in a relevant discipline and demonstrate their commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and service.
- Prior experience in academic leadership and clear evidence of servant leadership within their portfolio.
- The ability to work effectively in a highly collaborative, engaging, and dynamic environment comprised of individuals with a range of backgrounds, skills, and perspectives.
- The ability to produce research and scholarly or creative achievements that enhance the program and the discipline and deliver high-quality teaching using evidence-based practices to effectively engage students from a range of backgrounds and experiences.
- A well-established track record of extramural support, current extramural funding, and the ability to compete for extramural support in their field.

Preferred Education and Experience

Additionally, it is preferred that candidates have:

- Experience in leading academic units within a research-intensive university.

- Experience with development and deployment of new degree programs.
- A proven ability to foster collaborative research and interdisciplinary initiatives.

About the Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology is one of three departments within the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. The Department houses 44 faculty and has almost 1,400 students. The Department of Psychology was responsible for over \$12 million in new extramural grants in the past year and is home to a large number of multi-grant funded faculty members. The Department has a distinguished legacy of world class research across cognitive neuroscience and developmental science. It also houses multiple pioneering AI-engaged faculty innovating in the fields of cognitive science and human-computer interface research. The Department has a rich history of housing well-known research centers that lead their respective fields around the globe. For example, psychology faculty are active participants in several BBS affiliated research centers at UT Dallas including the [Center for BrainHealth](#), [Center for Vital Longevity](#), and [Center for Children and Families](#), with multiple centers led by Psychology faculty.

The Department of Psychology is home to the BS in Psychology, BS in Cognitive Science, and BS in Child Learning and Development. It is also home to the MS in Psychology, the MS in Human Development and Childhood Disorders, and the PhD in Psychology. It also shares degree programs with the Department of Neuroscience for the MS in Applied Cognition and Neuroscience and the PhD in Cognition and Neuroscience. The BS in Psychology represents the 7th most popular undergraduate major at UT Dallas. In fall 2026, the Department will enroll its first cohort of Clinical Psychological Science PhD students along with the opening of its Psychological Sciences and Education Center in summer 2026.

About the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is one of seven schools at UT Dallas and ranked 2nd in total new research grants and research expenditures over the past year. Within its walls, the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (BBS) stands uniquely positioned to advance knowledge and improve lives through the efforts of its 111 faculty and 3,000 students.

In North Texas, BBS serves as a trailblazer where research, education, and clinical training come together to prepare future leaders. It is home to world-class faculty with work ranging from bench-top to bedside studies, and ample resources and opportunities for students and faculty alike.

In the past year, BBS was recognized by the BlueRidge Institute for being #1 in Texas and #3 in the United States for NIH funding for schools of its type. Within BBS, faculty members are surrounded by colleagues who interface with science and technology at every level of translation – with a keen focus on using science to impact the health and well-being of people around the world while training the scientific leaders of tomorrow. Collectively, BBS leads UT Dallas in R&D rate and new awards per faculty member as well as many student success metrics across the University.

About The University of Texas at Dallas

UT Dallas is a top public research university located in one of the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan regions. Its seven schools offer more than 140 undergraduate and graduate programs, plus professional certificates and fast-track programs. The student body is approximately 30,000 strong, reflecting students from over 100 countries and a multiplicity of perspectives and experiences. Over 65% of UT Dallas undergraduate students receive some

form of need- or merit-based financial aid; and 66% of graduating seniors have no student debt compared to 48% in Texas and 32% in the nation (2021 TICAS report).

UT Dallas is committed to graduating well-rounded members of the community whose education has prepared them for rewarding lives and productive careers in a constantly changing world. The institution's mission centers on providing Texas and the nation with excellent and innovative education and research. The University's rapid growth is fueled by its creative and enterprising spirit, bright students, innovative programs, renowned faculty, dedicated staff, engaged alumni, and research that matters.

The University promotes a welcoming environment through programs and initiatives designed to support engagement and success for members of the campus community. Employee benefits include a range of physical and mental wellness resources, competitive insurance and retirement plan options, lactation facilities located throughout the campus, and Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) comprised of individuals who share common interests to help build community among UT Dallas faculty and staff (e.g., Universal Access ERG, Military and Veteran ERG, UT Dallas Young Professionals). Additionally, the University's modern campus, 400+ campus organizations, and prime location foster collaboration and community.

Situated in Richardson, Texas, the University's location offers abundant professional development and entertainment options. The Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) metroplex is rich with visual and performing arts venues, museum districts, professional and semi-professional athletics teams, botanical gardens, accessible trails, and much more, ensuring there's something for everyone. The University's partnerships with regional higher education institutions, local school districts, numerous companies, and the [Richardson Innovation Quarter](#) (Richardson IQ) – a major hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and educational activities – promotes collaboration, professional growth, and educational excellence.

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile and a CV or resume. WittKieffer is assisting The University of Texas at Dallas in this search. For full consideration, candidate materials should be received by February 18, 2026. Application materials, nominations, and inquiries can be directed to Ryan Crawford and Sarah Seavey at UTD-PsycHead@wittkieffer.com.

The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to providing an educational, living and working environment that is welcoming, respectful, and inclusive of all members of the university community. The University [prohibits unlawful discrimination](#) against a person because of their race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.