



UTTyler™
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Dean, School of Health Professions

Leadership Profile

Summer 2026



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

The University of Texas at Tyler invites nominations, applications, and expressions of interest in its search for the next Dean of the School of Health Professions (Dean).

The University of Texas at Tyler, commonly known as UT Tyler, is a public research university and member of The University of Texas System. Following its 2021 merger with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, the university became a fully integrated academic health institution and is home to the first medical school in East Texas. Today, UT Tyler enrolls approximately 11,600 students and offers more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degree programs. Designated as an R2: Doctoral University – High Research Activity, UT Tyler is the highest-ranked Carnegie research institution in East Texas.

UT Tyler seeks a transformative, innovative, and collaborative leader to serve as Dean of the School of Health Professions. Reporting to Provost Barbara Haas and serving as a key member of the university's academic leadership team, the Dean will lead a thriving School that offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in kinesiology, psychology and counseling, occupational therapy, population health leadership and analytics, and speech-language pathology. A Doctor of Physical Therapy program is currently in development, creating additional opportunities for growth and innovation.

The School of Health Professions is distinguished by its strong integration of academic and clinical practice. Faculty members actively engage in patient care across disciplines including psychology, audiology, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy, creating rich opportunities for clinical education, research, and community impact.

The Dean will provide strategic leadership for the School's academic programs, faculty, students, research initiatives, and clinical partnerships while ensuring the long-term quality and success of its programs. Working closely with fellow deans, healthcare partners, and external stakeholders, the Dean will advance interprofessional education and collaboration across UT Tyler's health sciences enterprise, helping prepare graduates to meet the evolving needs of the healthcare workforce.

The ideal candidate will be an accomplished leader with a record of success in academic leadership, clinical practice, administration, or a combination thereof. The next Dean will bring strong strategic, financial, and operational leadership skills, a commitment to academic excellence, and the ability to drive organizational growth, educational innovation, and meaningful partnerships. This is an exceptional opportunity to shape the future of health professions education at one of Texas' fastest-growing public research universities.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.

Role of the Dean, School of Health Professions

The Dean of the School of Health Professions will provide visionary leadership for one of UT Tyler's most dynamic and clinically integrated academic units. Reporting to Provost Barbara Haas, the Dean will advance the School's mission through excellence in education, scholarship, clinical engagement, and community partnership. As a visible and collaborative leader, the Dean will champion student success, support faculty achievement, and foster innovation across a growing portfolio of health professions programs.

The Dean will guide the strategic direction and continued development of the School's academic offerings, ensuring programs remain responsive to workforce demands and emerging trends in healthcare and higher education. Working closely with faculty, university leadership, and healthcare partners, the Dean will promote interprofessional education, strengthen clinical and community partnerships, and create opportunities for research, practice, and experiential learning.

The Dean oversees the School's leadership team, including the Associate Deans and Academic Chairs of Kinesiology, Population Health Leadership and Analytics, Psychology & Counseling, Rehabilitation Sciences, and Speech-Language Pathology. Through these leaders, the Dean provides administrative, financial, and academic oversight for the School's programs, personnel, and resources while ensuring alignment with institutional priorities. The Dean will foster collaboration across departments, support leadership and faculty development, and promote a culture of accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement.

This role presents a unique opportunity to lead the School through a period of significant growth and transformation, including the integration of the Department of Psychology & Counseling and Clinical Psychology into the School of Health Professions, the planned development of a Doctor of Physical Therapy program, and the continued expansion of clinical, research, and community partnerships. The Dean will also serve as a key ambassador for the School, cultivating relationships with healthcare leaders, alumni, donors, and community stakeholders to advance strategic initiatives, strengthen philanthropic support, and enhance the School's regional and national reputation.

Key Responsibilities of the Dean

- Provide visionary and strategic leadership for the School of Health Professions, advancing its mission, goals, and priorities in alignment with the University's strategic plan and commitment to academic and clinical excellence.
- Lead the continued growth and evolution of the School's academic portfolio, including the development of new programs, enhancement of existing offerings, and expansion of innovative educational models that address healthcare workforce needs.
- Oversee the School's financial, operational, and human resources functions, ensuring effective stewardship of budgetary, personnel, and facility resources.
- Foster collaboration and integration across all departments, programs, and disciplines within the School, creating a cohesive culture that supports interdisciplinary education, research, and clinical practice.
- Strengthen and expand strategic partnerships with healthcare providers, community organizations, industry leaders, alumni, and other stakeholders to support student learning, clinical placements, research opportunities, workforce development, and philanthropic initiatives.
- Champion excellence in teaching, learning, scholarship, research, and clinical practice while promoting innovation and continuous improvement across all areas of the School.
- Serve as a visible and engaged leader who inspires faculty, staff, and students and promotes a culture of collaboration, transparency, accountability, and shared success.

- Advance interprofessional education and collaboration across the University's health sciences enterprise, including partnerships with the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, and regional healthcare systems.
- Ensure compliance with all accreditation standards, regulatory requirements, and professional expectations, maintaining the quality and integrity of academic and clinical programs.
- Recruit, develop, support, and retain outstanding faculty and staff while fostering a culture of mentorship, professional development, scholarship, and leadership growth.
- Serve as the School's chief advocate for research and scholarly activity by expanding external funding, strengthening research infrastructure, and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Partner with University Advancement and external stakeholders to secure philanthropic support, grow endowments, and increase investments that advance the School's strategic priorities.
- Lead initiatives to grow enrollment, enhance student recruitment and retention, improve student success outcomes, and strengthen pathways across undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs.
- Promote meaningful faculty, staff, and student engagement with local, regional, and national communities to advance the School's impact and fulfill its service mission.
- Represent the School and the University with distinction at professional, community, state, and national levels, serving as an ambassador who elevates the visibility, reputation, and influence of the School of Health Professions.
- Cultivate a forward-thinking environment that embraces innovation, adapts to changes in healthcare and higher education, and positions the School for long-term growth and success.
- Other duties as assigned.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Advance a Vision for Growth, Innovation, and Excellence in the School of Health Professions

The Dean of the School of Health Professions will provide strategic leadership for a high-performing and evolving academic unit within UT Tyler's expanding health sciences enterprise. Building on the School's strengths in education, clinical practice, research, and community engagement, the Dean will establish a clear vision that supports continued growth, academic excellence, and regional impact.

A key priority will be leading the successful integration of the Department of Psychology & Counseling and Clinical Psychology into the School of Health Professions, creating opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, expanded academic offerings, and enhanced clinical training experiences. The Dean will foster a culture of excellence, accountability, and innovation while ensuring programs remain responsive to workforce demands and changes in healthcare and higher education.

The successful candidate will value shared governance, empower faculty and staff, and create an environment where individuals and programs can thrive. As a visible leader, the Dean will leverage best practices in health professions education to elevate the School's reputation and influence throughout the region and beyond.

Strengthen Interprofessional Collaboration and Clinical Integration

The School of Health Professions is uniquely positioned within UT Tyler's integrated academic health environment, creating meaningful opportunities to collaborate with the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, and regional healthcare providers. The Dean will advance partnerships that enhance education, research, clinical practice, and workforce development.

Given the School's substantial clinical footprint, the Dean must possess a strong understanding of healthcare delivery and the challenges facing healthcare organizations and practitioners. Whether from an academic, clinical, or administrative background, the successful candidate will be a credible leader who can engage health system executives, faculty practitioners, clinicians, and community partners.

The Dean will strengthen clinical partnerships that expand experiential learning opportunities, support workforce needs, improve community health outcomes, and reinforce the School's role as a trusted healthcare partner across East Texas.

Advance Student Success, Programmatic Growth, and External Engagement

The Dean will champion student success across undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs by ensuring access to outstanding academic, clinical, and professional development experiences. Working collaboratively across the University, the Dean will support enrollment growth, retention, graduation outcomes, and career readiness.

As the School continues to evolve, including the planned development of a Doctor of Physical Therapy program, the Dean will lead efforts to strengthen and expand the academic portfolio while maintaining a commitment to quality and innovation. Aligning programs with workforce and community needs will be essential to sustaining growth and enhancing the School's competitive position.

The Dean will also serve as the School's chief external ambassador, cultivating relationships with alumni, donors, foundations, corporate partners, and community leaders. In partnership with University Advancement, the Dean will play an active role in fundraising by articulating a compelling vision for the School and securing support for scholarships, faculty excellence, research, program innovation, and strategic initiatives.

Through effective relationship-building and external engagement, the Dean will strengthen the School's visibility, resources, and long-term impact.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The next Dean of the School of Health Professions will be a visionary and collaborative leader who can build upon the School's strong foundation while advancing innovation, growth, and excellence across its academic, clinical, and research missions. To achieve these goals, the successful candidate will possess the following qualifications and attributes:

- Strategic and forward-thinking leader with the ability to articulate and execute a compelling vision for the School's future.
- Demonstrated success leading complex academic, clinical, or healthcare organizations through periods of growth, change, and transformation.
- Strong record of academic achievement, scholarship, and leadership, with credentials that support appointment at the rank of Full Professor.
- Proven ability to develop, support, and retain high-performing faculty and staff while fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and professional growth.
- Experience building and strengthening interdisciplinary programs, integrating diverse departments, and promoting interprofessional education and collaboration.
- Deep appreciation for the clinical environment and an understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing health professions education, healthcare delivery, and workforce development.
- Demonstrated commitment to student success, including enrollment growth, retention, graduation outcomes, and career readiness.

- Strong leadership and management skills, including strategic planning, academic administration, program development, accreditation oversight, and financial stewardship.
- Exceptional interpersonal, communication, and relationship-building skills, with the ability to engage effectively with faculty, students, staff, healthcare partners, alumni, donors, and community stakeholders.
- Experience cultivating external partnerships and advancing the School's mission through engagement with healthcare organizations, industry leaders, and professional associations.
- Record of success securing external funding through grants, contracts, philanthropy, or other revenue-generating initiatives.
- Ability to build trust through transparent communication, shared governance, collaborative decision-making, and a commitment to academic freedom and excellence.

Required Education and Experience

- Ph.D., clinical doctorate, or other terminal degree in a discipline relevant to the School of Health Professions.
- Nationally recognized record of scholarly achievement, professional accomplishment, and leadership.
- Significant administrative leadership experience at the department chair, associate dean, dean, or equivalent level within higher education, healthcare, or a related setting.
- Demonstrated success overseeing faculty development, academic assessment, strategic planning, accreditation, and resource management.
- Experience leading within a complex academic or academic-health environment and supporting faculty, staff, and students in achieving institutional and professional goals.
- Demonstrated ability to build collaborative relationships across academic, clinical, and community settings.
- Experience working with healthcare systems, clinical partners, and professional organizations to enhance educational, research, and practice opportunities.
- Fundraising experience and a demonstrated ability to partner with advancement professionals to secure philanthropic support from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other funding sources.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience leading a clinically integrated health professions school or college.
- Record of success expanding academic programs, including the development of new degree offerings and strategic growth initiatives.
- Experience overseeing externally funded research programs and promoting interdisciplinary scholarship.
- Demonstrated success leading organizational integration efforts, including the incorporation of new programs, departments, or academic units.
- Understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with healthcare workforce development in rapidly growing and underserved regions.
- Experience working across multiple health disciplines to advance interprofessional education, research, and clinical practice.

About The University of Texas at Tyler

The University of Texas at Tyler owes our reputation to the talent, strength, and determination of our faculty and staff. Together, we strive to make this institution bigger and better through creative problem-solving, a spirit of service, unwavering collaboration, and an investment in the next generation of East Texas professionals.

UT Tyler's strategic plan is driven by three guiding priorities: student success, teaching excellence, and service to East Texas.

Student **SUCCESS**

We exist to ensure that every student who enrolls with us not only completes their degree but also graduates truly prepared to enter the workforce — all while enjoying the journey. We'll prepare our students for a lifetime of success and meaningful impact.

Teaching **EXCELLENCE**

Faculty-student interactions lay the foundation for the development of knowledge and critical thinking. We recognize the critical role of innovative and effective instruction in preparing students for real-world challenges and lifelong success. We'll be known for teaching excellence.

Serve **EAST TEXAS**

We are only as strong as our community. By fostering economic growth, advancing healthcare, and creating vibrant cultural communities, we will forge a strong bond with our community and serve as a trusted partner for years to come.

OUR MISSION

UT Tyler is a comprehensive public university. We help our students, patients, and community members achieve their educational and health goals by offering a combination of excellence in higher education, research, public service, and advanced healthcare delivery.

OUR VALUES

Servant Leadership: We put the needs of our students, patients, colleagues, and community first.

Excellence: We work collaboratively every day to be better and strive to establish and achieve exemplary outcomes.

Accountability: We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and manage the resources of UT Tyler wisely.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be an impactful, values-centered institution unified in common purpose; a community that fosters opportunity, committed to providing a uniquely balanced student experience and improving the quality of human life.

The School of Health Professions

The University of Texas at Tyler School of Health Professions is dedicated to preparing the next generation of healthcare leaders, practitioners, and scholars through innovative education, research, and community engagement. Located across both the UT Tyler main campus and the UT Tyler Health Science Center, the School leverages its position within East Texas's only academic health science center to provide students with exceptional opportunities for interdisciplinary learning, hands-on training, and meaningful service to the region. With approximately 800 students, 10 academic programs, and a 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio, the School offers a highly personalized educational experience that fosters student success and professional growth. Further strengthening its interdisciplinary focus, the Department of Psychology will join the School of Health Professions beginning in the 2026-27 academic year, expanding opportunities for collaboration across the behavioral, clinical, and population health sciences.

The School of Health Professions combines academic rigor with a strong commitment to research, healthcare innovation, and community impact. Students benefit from close mentorship by nationally recognized faculty engaged in scholarly research, externally funded initiatives, and outreach programs. Through internships, fieldwork, capstone projects, and partnerships across East Texas, students gain practical experience while contributing to improved health outcomes in the communities they serve. As part of a university that integrates academics, research, and healthcare delivery, the School is uniquely positioned to develop compassionate, forward-thinking professionals prepared to lead in an increasingly complex healthcare environment.

Department of Population Health Leadership and Analytics

The Department of Population Health Leadership and Analytics prepares students to improve health outcomes through leadership, data-informed decision making, population health strategies, and healthcare administration. The department offers programs in Health Science, Public Health, Healthcare Administration, and Applied Arts and Sciences, equipping graduates to lead complex healthcare organizations, influence public policy, and address critical health challenges facing communities and populations.

Department of Kinesiology

The Department of Kinesiology focuses on the science of human movement, exercise, wellness, and performance. Through undergraduate and graduate programs, students develop expertise in exercise science, physical activity promotion, wellness programming, and performance optimization. Faculty engage students in applied learning and research experiences that prepare graduates for careers across health promotion, fitness, sports performance, rehabilitation, and related disciplines.

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences is committed to preparing healthcare professionals who improve function, independence, and quality of life for individuals across the lifespan. Through the Master of Occupational Therapy program, students receive rigorous academic preparation and hands-on clinical experiences that develop the skills needed to serve patients in a wide variety of healthcare and community settings.

Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

The Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences educates future communication sciences and speech-language pathology professionals through undergraduate and graduate education. Students gain the knowledge and clinical expertise necessary to assess and treat communication and swallowing disorders while supporting improved health, communication, and quality of life for individuals and families.

Eight Academic Colleges & Schools

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Students in the College of Arts and Sciences are a community of innovators and creators. With programs spanning the humanities, natural and social sciences, communications, the arts, and career preparation, our students not only launch their careers or pursue graduate studies but also serve and grow the East Texas region and beyond.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Our students are taking the next step toward making a positive impact in the community. The School of Education equips students with the tools and preparation for becoming caring, service-oriented educational professionals and leaders in schools.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Students in the College of Engineering are innovating our world by solving problems using scientific skills, technical creativity, and business knowledge. We are ranked No. 62 in the nation in the *U.S. News and World Report's* 2025 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs (no doctorate) and are the third-best undergraduate program in the state.

SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The Soules College of Business gives students the knowledge and experience needed to launch their careers and advance the economy of East Texas and beyond. Our students are prepared after graduation to become business leaders, thinking critically and strategically on every business decision they make.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The School of Health Professions trains students to become driven, caring problem-solvers. Our students are prepared for careers in public health, healthcare administration, psychology, rehabilitation, or exercise and movement science through hands-on instruction that examines existing challenges and equips them to propose forward-looking solutions.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

From registered nurses on the front lines of healthcare delivery to clinicians and researchers contributing to nursing's scholarly output, the UT Tyler School of Nursing prepares students for careers as caring, community-oriented professionals serving East Texas and the nation. Ninety-five percent of our students already have a job or pursue graduate studies after graduation.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Emphasizing a community-centered approach, the UT Tyler School of Medicine combines advanced research, hands-on learning, and partnerships with regional healthcare providers to cultivate a new generation of physicians prepared to improve healthcare outcomes and enhance the quality of life in East Texas. We are the first medical school in East Texas and seventh in The University of Texas System. We offer a robust graduate program with 22 residency and fellowship training programs in areas such as family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, psychiatry, surgery, and anesthesia. Our Master of Biotechnology program's interdisciplinary curriculum emphasizes medical research and biotechnology innovation and prepares students for careers in medical research, diagnostics, and therapeutic development. The new, five-story, 248,000-square-foot Medical Education

Building (MEB) in Tyler's Midtown District will support interdisciplinary education for medical students and resident training and will be part of a medical education program expansion throughout the UT Health East Texas Health System.

BEN AND MAYTEE FISCH COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Our PharmD program is at the forefront of pharmacy education, teaching future pharmacists the solutions-oriented skills used every day in the healthcare field — preparing them to become an asset to any healthcare team and to deliver compassionate and effective patient care.

Leadership

Julie V. Philley, MD

President, The University of Texas at Tyler

On June 1, 2024, Julie V. Philley, MD, became the sixth president of The University of Texas at Tyler and the first woman to lead the university. A Professor of Medicine and board certified in internal, pulmonary, and critical care medicine, Dr. Philley served as UT Tyler's Executive Vice President for Health Affairs following the 2021 merger of UT Tyler and the UT Health Science Center at Tyler, which created a single, integrated university. She also served as Vice Provost from 2022 until she was appointed President. Dr. Philley played an instrumental role in launching the UT Tyler School of Medicine — the UT System's seventh medical school, which welcomed its first cohort in 2023. Previously, she was Chair of the Department of Medicine and Professor of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center at Tyler.

A native of East Texas, Dr. Philley was raised in Overton. She returned to the region in 2012, serving as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center at Tyler, where she continued research efforts in nontuberculous mycobacterial disease and bronchiectasis. An accomplished researcher, Dr. Philley has led numerous studies and published book chapters and articles. She earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's University and her MD at UT Health Houston's McGovern Medical School, completing an internal medicine residency program at Johns Hopkins University/Sinai Hospital and a fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Dallas. Dr. Philley is an active member of the East Texas community. In addition to her board leadership with UT Health East Texas, she also serves on the boards of Hospice of East Texas, the East Texas Quality Care Network, the East Texas Medical Center Foundation, UT Health Tyler, and Teaching Hospitals of Texas, among other community service activities. She and her husband, Richard Lee, live in Tyler, where Lee serves as Music Director of the East Texas Symphony Orchestra.

Barbara Haas, PhD, RN

Provost, The University of Texas at Tyler

Barbara Haas, PhD, RN, serves as Provost and Chief Academic Officer at The University of Texas at Tyler. A member of the UT Tyler faculty since 1992, Dr. Haas brings more than three decades of experience in higher education, academic leadership, nursing education, and healthcare. Prior to her appointment as Provost in 2025, she served as Dean of the School of Nursing, where she led significant growth in enrollment, academic programming, faculty scholarship, and community impact. Under her leadership, UT Tyler's School of Nursing became one of the largest nursing schools in Texas and expanded its portfolio of undergraduate and graduate programs.

Dr. Haas earned a PhD in Nursing from The University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Science in Nursing from Marquette University, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Before entering academia, she served as a staff nurse and research nurse. Throughout her career, she has published extensively, secured external grant funding, and held numerous leadership roles within the university. As Provost, she is committed to supporting faculty excellence, advancing innovative academic programs, and ensuring exceptional educational experiences for UT Tyler students.

About Tyler and East Texas

Renowned as the Rose Capital of the United States, Tyler is a growing mid-size city located less than 100 miles east of Dallas. As a regional focal point for entertainment, retail, healthcare, dining, arts, and outdoor recreation, Tyler offers small-town affordability with the comforts of a big city. Whether you want to take an afternoon to hike through Tyler State Park, shop at the Village at Cumberland Park, or eat your way through all the local Tex-Mex joints, Tyler is a vibrant place to live and work. Plus, it was named the No. 1 city in Texas to move to by USA Today. So, beat the crowd and discover Tyler for yourself.

For more information about UT Tyler and East Texas visit: [About | The University of Texas at Tyler](#) and [ut-tyler-profile.pdf](#).

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited.

Applications should include, as two separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile. Professional references are not requested at this time.

[WittKieffer](#) is assisting the University of Texas at Tyler in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by September 28.

Nominations, inquiries, and application materials can be directed to:

Mercedes Chacon Vance and Charlotte Harris

charris@wittkieffer.com

The University of Texas at Tyler is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.