



PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP PROFILE

The Search for UTulsa's
22nd President



THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

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Executive Summary

The University of Tulsa seeks a visionary and dynamic leader to serve as its next president and to guide the private research institution to the next phase of success.

The University of Tulsa (UTulsa) is a private research university located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, known for its strong academic programs, intimate campus environment, and commitment to student success. Founded in 1894, UTulsa has historic roots in the Presbyterian School for Indian Girls and later Henry Kendall College, evolving into a nondenominational institution with a Collegiate Gothic architectural style. It offers a wide range of undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees, organized into several colleges, including the Kendall College of Arts & Sciences, the Collins College of Business, the College of Engineering & Computer Science, the College of Law, the Honors College, and the Oxley College of Health & Natural Sciences, each offering specialized programs and research opportunities. With a student-faculty ratio of 9:1 and a campus spanning over 200 acres, UTulsa emphasizes personalized education and career readiness, including a job placement guarantee for graduates. Student life at UTulsa is vibrant, with over 150 student organizations, Greek life, and a strong sense of community. Athletics play

a central role as well – UTulsa competes in NCAA Division I as part of the American Athletic Conference, with spirited support for its men's and women's Golden Hurricane teams.

UTulsa's incoming president will need to prioritize several key initiatives to ensure the institution's continued growth and stability. The board is in the process of developing a financially sustainable pathway, which emphasizes innovation in cybersecurity, energy, and STEM fields while reinforcing the liberal arts foundation; strengthening student support systems and enhancing career readiness as students transition into the workforce; stewarding budgets and finances that balance academic excellence with sustainable operations; emphasizing community engagement and service; and maintaining a vibrant campus culture that upholds UTulsa's identity and mission.

The next president must possess a strong commitment to excellence in higher education, demonstrated leadership skills in managing a complex organization, and the ability to work collaboratively with UTulsa's Board of Trustees. This leader also must have a record demonstrating commitment to maintaining a robust system of shared governance and to navigating a challenging landscape in academia. An appreciation for the integral role of UTulsa in the local community, a willingness to further develop national connections, and the capacity to attract financial support from the public and private sectors will be essential. As the chief representative of the university to a wide variety of external constituencies, the president must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and an ability to connect with a variety of groups and constituents both internal and external to the institution. The president must be a decisive leader who embodies integrity, is responsive, collaborative, and creative, and is dedicated to student success and wellbeing.

[🔗 Learn more about UTulsa](#)

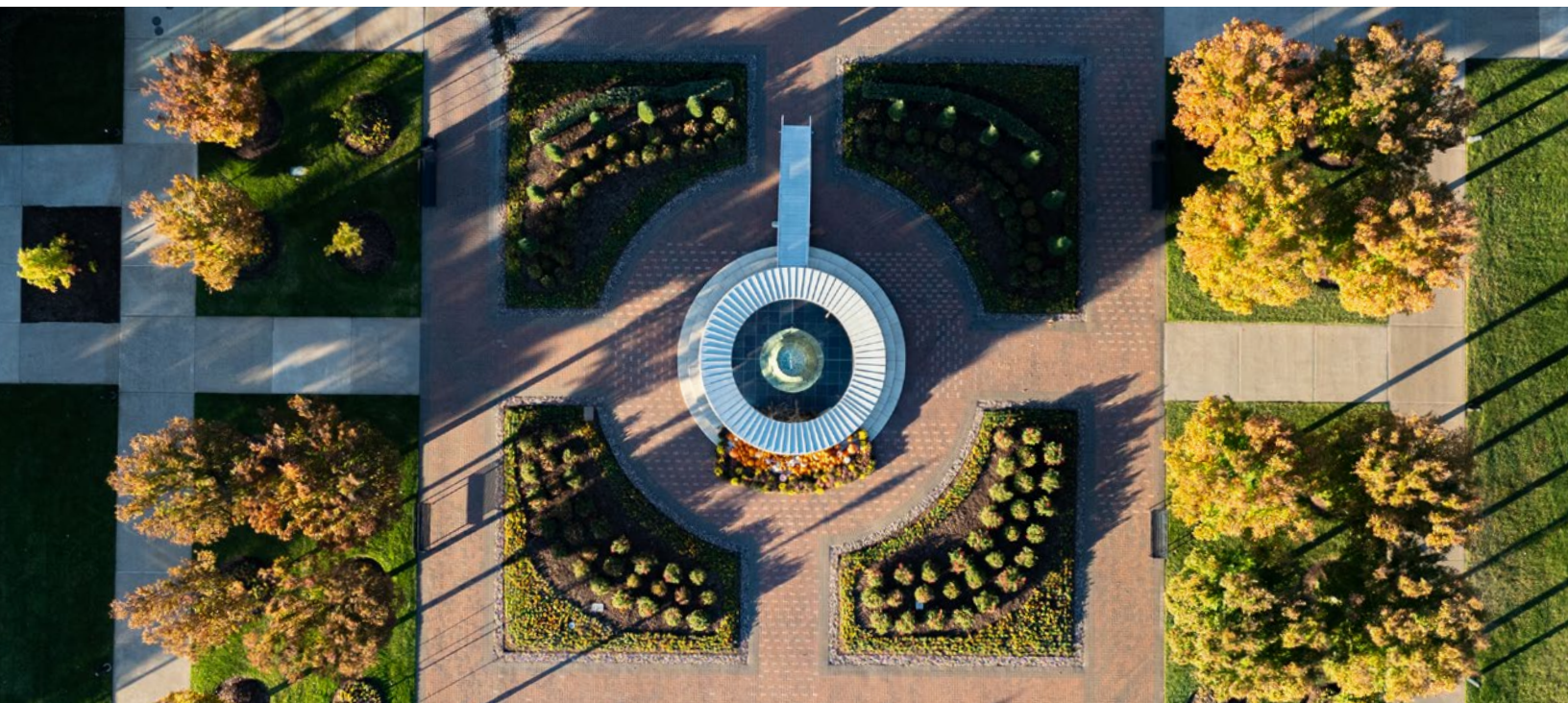
[🔗 Learn more about working at UTulsa](#)



Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The incoming president will be expected to advance the following priorities:

- **Academic Innovation and Excellence:** Strengthen UTulsa's leadership in high-impact fields like cybersecurity, energy, and health sciences, while preserving its liberal arts foundation and expanding interdisciplinary opportunities.
- **Strategic Enrollment Growth and Retention:** Develop targeted recruitment strategies to attract a talented student body, strengthen retention through enhanced student support, and align enrollment goals with academic capacity and market demand.
- **Student Success and Career Readiness:** Enhance support services, experiential learning, and career pathways to uphold UTulsa's job placement guarantee and ensure graduates are prepared for a dynamic workforce.
- **Financial Sustainability and Strategic Growth:** Address budgetary challenges with transparent planning, diversification of revenue streams, and creative financial management while identifying investments that align with long-term institutional goals.
- **Campus Culture and Community Engagement:** Foster a vibrant student life, support athletics and the arts, and deepen partnerships with Tulsa's business, civic, and cultural organizations.
- **National Reputation and Distinction:** Elevate UTulsa's national profile through targeted marketing and communications strategies, alumni and donor engagement, and storytelling that highlights the university's distinct strengths and values.



Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The University of Tulsa's next president will be an experienced and accomplished leader with a proven record of advancing ambitious institutional/organizational goals, bringing strategic acumen, drive, and the personal qualities needed to engage and inspire the university community.

Candidates must have a record of leadership accomplishments, such as progressive higher education administration or executive leadership experience, and proven management capability sufficient to warrant the respect and confidence of the academic community. Candidates from non-academic sectors who have comparable skill sets will be fully considered. An earned doctorate, or terminal degree, with transferrable experience and a record of scholarly work is preferred.

The successful candidate will bring many, if not all, of the following professional qualifications, skills, and experiences:

- A demonstrated record of strategic and decisive decision-making, exemplified by a record of courage in making difficult decisions in a complex environment with competing demands and limited resources.
- An understanding of current and evolving nuances of private comprehensive higher education and be knowledgeable about the major issues facing the sector, including enrollment management, research opportunities and challenges, program innovation, athletics, sustainability, technology adoption, shared governance, and best practices.
- A demonstrated record of being able to effectively align resources with priorities and identifying opportunities to garner new resources that will support the advancement of an institution, including a record of successful fundraising efforts.
- Demonstrated intercultural competence and a global perspective with comfort engaging across many backgrounds and disciplines.
- A record of building high-functioning teams, empowering individuals to advance the goals of the organization, and holding oneself and others accountable for decisions and outcomes.
- An understanding of the impact of intercollegiate athletics on a campus and the ability to support its success.
- Strong communication skills and demonstrated success establishing and maintaining partnerships with external constituents that benefit the institution and positively impact the community it serves.
- A commitment to being an active and visible presence in an institution's community and accessible to a wide range of constituents.
- A commitment to transparency.
- The highest levels of personal and professional integrity.
- Resilience, optimism, authenticity, humility, and a sense of humor.



Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting The University of Tulsa in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by Dec. 1, 2025.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's candidate portal.

[🔗 Access the candidate portal](#)

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Zachary A. Smith, Ph.D., Christine Pendleton, and Julia Bradley

[🔗 Email representatives at UTulsaPresident@wittkieffer.com](#)

The University of Tulsa does not discriminate on the basis of personal status or group characteristics including, but not limited to individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, ancestry, or marital status in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other university-sponsored programs. Questions regarding implementation of this policy may be addressed to the Office of Human Resources, 800 South Tucker Drive, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-9700, 918-631-2259. Requests for accommodation of disabilities may be addressed to UTulsa's 504 Coordinator at 918-631-2315. To ensure availability of an interpreter, five to seven days notice is needed; 48 hours is recommended for all other accommodations.

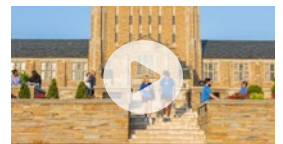




OVERVIEW

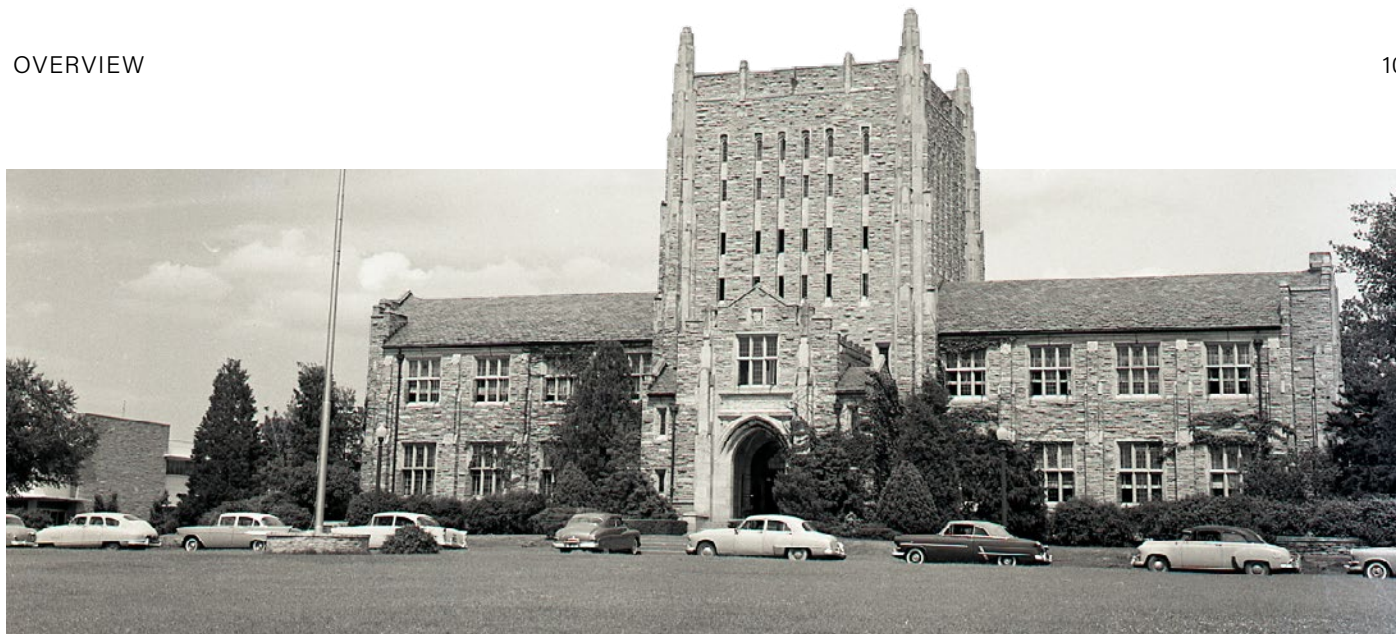
MISSION

We are a student-centered research university that cultivates interconnected learning experiences to explore complex ideas and create new knowledge in a spirit of free inquiry. Guided by our commitment to service and belonging, we prepare individuals to make meaningful contributions to our campus, our community, and our world.



Stand Out. Belong.

See why The University of Tulsa attracts the most National Merit scholars per capita.



A Brief History

The University of Tulsa is a private, independent, NCAA Division I, doctoral degree-granting institution with roots in the Presbyterian School for Indian Girls, a small boarding school in Muskogee, Indian Territory, founded in 1882. In 1894, the Presbyterian Church elevated the academy's status and chartered it as Henry Kendall College, honoring the first general secretary of the Home Missions Board. The first classes were held Sept. 12, 1894.

In the years that followed, Kendall College sold its land and sought a new location. Courted by Tulsa's booming business community after the discovery of oil, Kendall College moved there in 1907, the year of Oklahoma's statehood. A new college, to be named after oilman Robert M. McFarlin, was later proposed. Realizing Tulsa couldn't support two competing colleges, Kendall trustees proposed affiliating with the contemplated McFarlin College under the name The University of Tulsa. McFarlin College never materialized, and a charter for the new university was approved Nov. 9, 1920.

Today, UTulsa operates as a nondenominational university welcoming students from many faiths and countries. The campus fosters a rich experience for students and faculty through mutual respect and understanding. The university houses the world's second-largest James Joyce collection and extensive archival materials related to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Notable alumni include author S.E. Hinton; the late U.S. Sen. James Inhofe; NFL Hall of Famers Steve Largent and Drew Pearson; Walmart CEO Doug McMillon; QuikTrip CEO Chet Cadieux; golfer Nancy Lopez; Emmy-winning actress and screenwriter Mary Kay Place; actor and producer Julius Tennon; and the late actress Rue McClanahan.



Vision

The University of Tulsa aims to provide for students and their families the maximum return on investment from their education. UTulsa seeks to deliver deep, career-ready knowledge and skills married with a well-rounded educational experience that fosters critical thinking skills and emotional intelligence.

Students benefit from personalized faculty attention and support inside and outside the classroom. Each student builds a portfolio of skills comprised of broad academic courses, internships, research, and service. UTulsa offers an academically serious and intellectually curious student community to support these goals. The university has a symbiotic connection to Tulsa, a dynamic city and metropolitan region of 1.2 million.

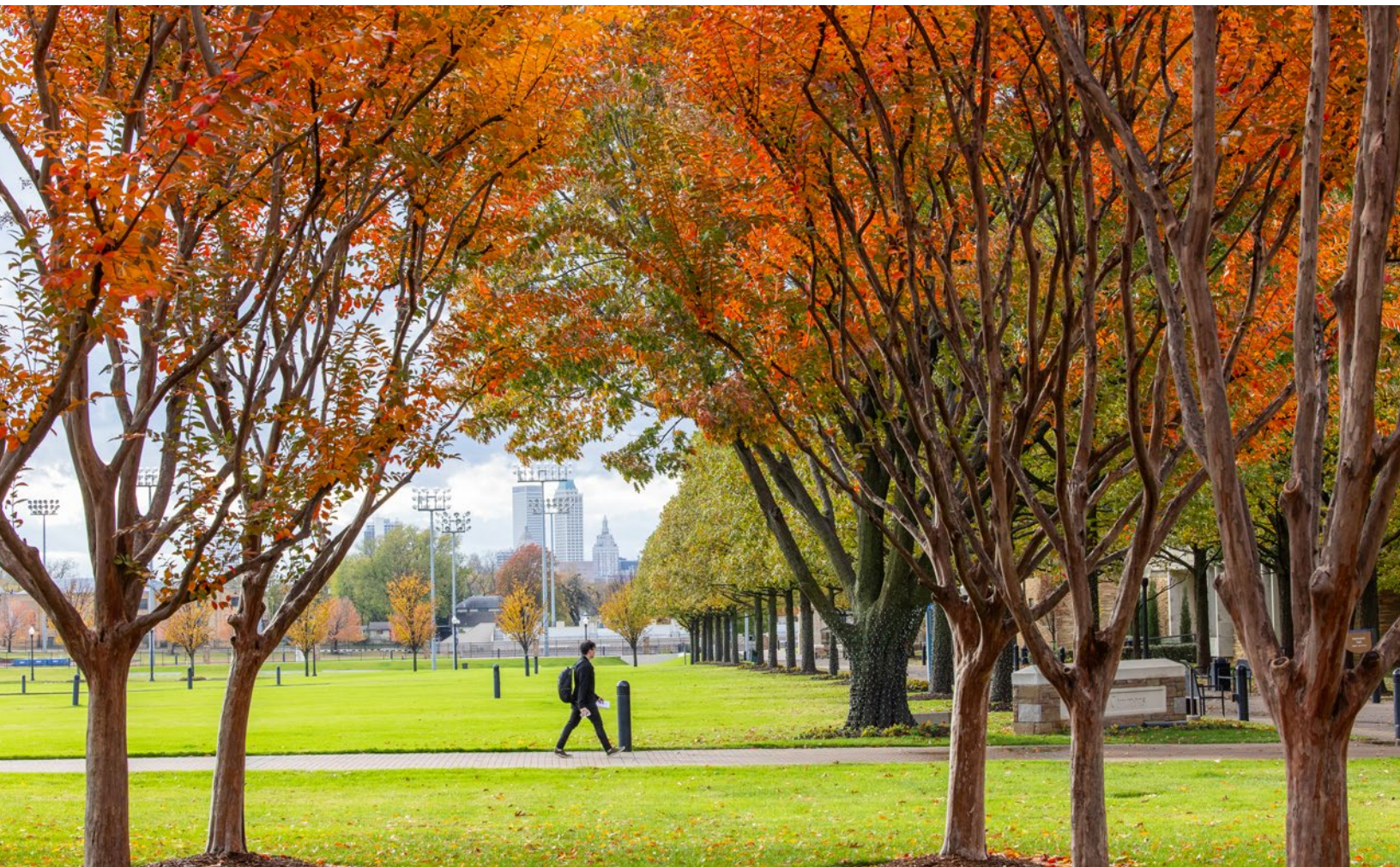
UTulsa boasts top faculty delivering exceptional teaching and scholarship across arts and humanities, engineering, natural and social sciences, health, technology, business, and law. It is also fortunate to benefit from endowment funds in excess of \$1 billion thanks to its highly dedicated philanthropic and alumni base. UTulsa is developing a culture that encourages more transparency and asks program areas across the university to be responsible for financial sustainability, student return-on-investment, student and employer demand, continual improvement based on strengths, and promoting access and resilience.

Despite recent challenges around financial sustainability and rankings, all stakeholders agree that UTulsa has great strengths upon which it can and must capitalize. The board is in the process of developing a financially sustainable pathway around which trustees and other key stakeholders are aligning. This effort will facilitate the selection of the next president whose vision must be aligned with the board and key stakeholders to build the next chapter for UTulsa.



The Most Beautiful Campus

The University of Tulsa's campus radiates charm with lush greenery, historic architecture, serene pathways, and vibrant seasonal colors throughout.



By the Numbers

Students

4,173 STUDENTS ENROLLED 3,061 undergraduate 1,112 graduate	28 AVERAGE ACT	92% FRESHMAN RETENTION RATE
96% STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	4.1 AVERAGE GPA on weighted 4.0 scale	96% PLACEMENT RATE 2024 graduates

Colleges

305 FULL-TIME FACULTY 43 endowed positions	6 COLLEGES + Graduate School	
81 UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS	41 MASTER'S PROGRAMS	17 DOCTORAL PROGRAMS



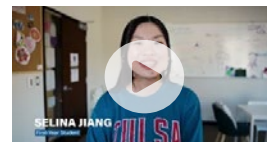


Rankings

- Highest-ranked private research university in state and region (U.S. News & World Report)
- No. 10 “most generous university” (Forbes)
- Top 100 “best value” among all national universities (U.S. News & World Report)
- Among “best colleges” as determined by the Wall Street Journal, Princeton Review, and Money magazine
- No. 1 petroleum engineering graduate school and No. 3 among all PE programs (U.S. News & World Report)

Distinctions

- The Tulsa Undergraduate Research Challenge involves university's youngest students in advanced research and faculty mentorship.
- UTulsa's Oklahoma Center for the Humanities promotes critical thought, ethical inquiry, bold imagination, and respect for the human experience.
- The university is so confident in the success of its students that it offers a unique CaneCareers Job Placement Guarantee.



Job Placement Guarantee

The University of Tulsa's CaneCareers Guarantee ensures students who complete career prep coursework will secure a job or graduate school placement within six months — or receive a semester of free UTulsa graduate tuition.

The Colleges

There are six colleges at The University of Tulsa, including the Honors College:

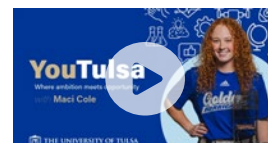


College of Engineering & Computer Science

The mission of the College of Engineering & Computer Science provides the knowledge and principles upon which engineering and science are founded in order to graduate engineers and technology experts who are technically competent, creative, literate, ethically informed, and socially aware. Highlights include:

- Ranked No. 1 among petroleum engineering graduate schools by U.S. News & World Report
- Home of the Cyber Corps, a university flagship program housed within the Tandy School of Computer Science that trains “cyber warriors” in advanced computer science, engineering, and cyber security operations to work at the NSA, CIA, FBI, Department of Defense and other agencies as well as state and local law enforcement operations
- Produced a 2017 Rhodes Scholar
- North Campus energy facility hosts 10 research consortia and joint industry projects
- Home of the Make a Difference Engineering initiative that designs and fabricates mobility and developmental devices for local residents
- Designated one of the NSA Centers of Academic Excellence

[🔗 Learn more about College of Engineering & Computer Science](#)



YouTulsa: Maci Cole

94%
PLACEMENT RATE
within 6 months of graduation

74
full-time
FACULTY

38
DEGREE PROGRAMS



Collins College of Business

Collins College of Business graduates integrate knowledge, technical competence, and interpersonal skills to launch successful careers in today's global economy. Undergraduate and graduate students can expect classroom learning that fuses a solid business foundation with hands-on work solving complex problems. Internships, specialized minors, study abroad opportunities, and community partnerships round out a complete experience that emphasizes personal development. Highlights include:

- Fewer than one-third of business schools are accredited by AACSB International – the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – a distinction held by UTulsa
- Home to the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Center for Energy Studies and Center for Real Estate Studies
- Finance majors manage the Student Investment Fund, a portfolio with a value of nearly \$9 million – providing crucial financial management experience, as well as earnings that subsidize scholarships
- Friends of Finance Executive Speakers Series brings business leaders to campus to share their knowledge and explore important issues
- Students have access to a state-of-the-art trading floor learning environment that includes 9 Bloomberg terminals

[Learn more about Collins College of Business](#)



YouTulsa:
Catherine Dooley

99%
PLACEMENT RATE
within 6 months
of graduation

39
full-time
FACULTY

14
DEGREE PROGRAMS



Kendall College of Arts & Sciences

The Kendall College of Arts and Sciences forms the core of a UTulsa education and the intellectual foundation for life in a free, democratic society. The college produces and shares knowledge and artistic expression at the highest levels, drawing on the unique opportunities of a student-centered learning community within a research university. Its rigorous curriculum challenges and expands students' understanding of the world, preparing them to ask compelling questions, solve complex problems creatively, engage respectfully with diverse cultures, communicate persuasively and professionally, and contribute meaningfully to society. Highlights include:

- Truman, Marshall, Gilman, and Fulbright Scholarship award winners
- Psychology research (via the Tulsa Institute for Trauma, Adversity & Injustice) includes post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep disturbance and pain tolerance information
- Home of the Institute for Bob Dylan Studies, International Joyce Foundation, James Joyce Quarterly, and journals such as Nimrod, Stylus, Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature

[🔗 Learn more about Kendall College of Arts & Sciences](#)



YouTulsa:
Hennessy Guerrero

96%
PLACEMENT RATE
in jobs or graduate school

100+
full-time
FACULTY

45
DEGREE PROGRAMS

Oxley College of Health & Natural Sciences

The Oxley College of Health & Natural Sciences offers programs that prepare students to be the next generation of health care providers, research scientists, and problem solvers. Programs include undergraduate- and graduate-level nursing, sports science, speech-language pathology, biology, chemistry, physics, and more. Each program includes a significant amount of clinical experience and lab work, enhancing knowledge gained in the classroom. The College also offers online nursing programs for working professionals. Highlights include:

- Advanced partnership with the Laureate Institute for Brain Research in the fields of Alzheimer's disease, anxiety issues, and trauma
- The only Nurse Anesthesia Doctor of Nursing Practice program in Oklahoma
- Doctor of Nursing Practice programs accredited by ACEN
- State-of-the-art Lawson Clinical Simulation Center
- Home to the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship
- Pre-med program that touts double the national average for medical school admits
- Annual Route 66 Conference on Communication Disorders (30 years)

[🔗 Learn more about Oxley College of Health & Natural Sciences](#)



YouTulsa: Joshua Le

99%
PLACEMENT RATE
2024 graduates

79
full-time
FACULTY

27
DEGREE PROGRAMS

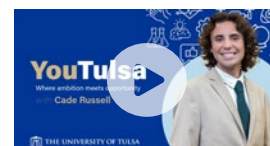


College of Law

The College of Law delivers an academically rigorous and professionally impactful J.D. program, including an array of internships, externships, and practicum opportunities. Graduates go on to rewarding careers across the country, many at prominent firms or serving on the bench. UTulsa Law enjoys a congenial atmosphere where students become practice-ready through a high-quality, relevant curriculum and participation in experiential learning programs. These include the on-campus legal clinics, award-winning law journals, student organizations, and competitive moot court teams. Highlights include:

- Two renowned journals: Energy Law Journal and Tulsa Law Review
- 8:1 student-to-faculty ratio
- Best Building, 2024 preLaw
- Best Law School for Native American Students (preLaw Magazine)
- #8 Most Chosen By Older Students (Princeton Review Best Law Schools)
- #27 in law schools for most graduates in public interest law (U.S. News and World Report)

[🔗 Learn more about College of Law](#)



YouTulsa:
Cade Russell

93.4%
PLACEMENT RATE

150+
EXTERNSHIP PARTNERS
across the country

TOP 25
BEST VALUE
among public and private law
schools (prelaw magazine)



Athletics

The University of Tulsa Athletics program fosters excellence in NCAA Division I competition, emphasizing student-athlete success on and off the field.

With a strong tradition in football, basketball, and Olympic sports, Tulsa Athletics promotes integrity, leadership, and community engagement, enhancing the university's national profile and campus spirit.

- 18 NCAA Division I teams
- Entered American Athletic Conference on July 1, 2014
- A league-best nine American Athletic Conference championships during the first two years of membership

[Learn more about Tulsa Athletics](#)



Mac Attack: The Winningest Coach in UTulsa History

Since his first season as head coach, McIntosh (BSBA '89, MBA '91) has built Tulsa into a conference powerhouse, leading UTulsa to 14 conference championships, including nine tournament and five regular season titles.





Research & Economic Development

- Research and Economic Development ushered through and submitted \$86 million in requested award dollars within 168+ proposals for 2024-25.
- For the past three fiscal years, investigators received more than \$80 million in external research and sponsored project awards that are managed by Research and Economic Development staff in conjunction with faculty as principal and co-investigators. New awards in FY25 totaled \$26.9 million.
- For FY25, external award expenditures increased 44% over FY24 to \$25.3 million.
- The Oklahoma Cyber Innovation Institute and the Institute for Robotics & Autonomy are thriving with \$17.5 million in external federal funding.
- Technology commercialization is undergoing a growth transformation as UTulsa is a member of the steering committee for the new Tulsa Tech Hub designation and a recipient of funds from the \$51 million awarded by the EDA to establish and grow the Tech Hub.



A Reputation for Research

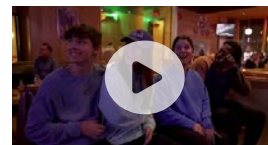
UTulsa research drives innovation and fuels economic growth—from energy tech to entrepreneurship.

[🔗 Learn more about Research & Economic Development](#)

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Tulsa is Oklahoma's second-largest city. Enriched by its oil heritage, Tulsa boasts world-class cultural attractions, including the Gilcrease Museum, Philbrook Museum of Art, Woody Guthrie Center, Bob Dylan Center, and the Tulsa Air and Space Museum.

The city stands tall with its magnificent art deco treasures, Route 66 gems, and the Cesar Pelli-designed BOK Center — a state-of-the-art venue for national concerts and sporting events. Family fun also prevails in T-Town, home of the Tulsa Zoo and Oklahoma Aquarium, as well as extensive Arkansas River trails. The world-renowned 66-acre park, The Gathering Place, provides outdoor respites from all the urban excitement, and has made New York Times' Greatest Places list.



Rules of Tulsa

Tulsa offers big city amenities, small town connections, professional sports, foodie feasts, and the peace of nature all within a few miles of campus.





Tulsa offers an array of cultural amenities including the acclaimed Tulsa Ballet, Tulsa Opera, Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, and other programs of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. Theater-going opportunities abound, and the music scene pulses with sound from diverse genres, ranging from country and western to indie rock. A multitude of annual festivals and events like Tulsa Mayfest, Linde Oktoberfest Tulsa, Juneteenth, and ScotFest celebrate Tulsa's culture and heritage.

Discover unique facets of Tulsa's personality by visiting the many vibrant districts within the city. The Blue Dome District is home to nightlife hot spots, hip restaurants, and live entertainment. Visit the Brookside District for unique shopping, upscale dining, and plenty of nightlife options. The Tulsa Arts District features historic buildings – including UTulsa's 101 Archer – that have been brought back to prominence via art galleries, theaters, restaurants, bars and dance clubs. For antique shopping, local and regional art galleries and more than 20 top local restaurants, visit the Cherry Street District. For more information, visit travelok.com/tulsa.

[🔗 Learn more about the city of Tulsa](#)

Application materials as described
on page 8 should be submitted using
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➦ [Access the candidate portal](#)

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Zachary A. Smith, Ph.D., Christine Pendleton, and Julia Bradley

➦ [Email representatives at UTulsaPresident@wittkieffer.com](mailto:UTulsaPresident@wittkieffer.com)



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