

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONAL SUMMARY

2008-2009

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Background	Established 1927	Founded as a junior college		
History	Changed names six times	Name changes reflect institutional evolution-- broader mission, larger enrollment, new affiliations		
Current Status	Comprehensive regional university	General academic component of The University of Texas System; projected classification-- Doctoral/Research Intensive by 2010		
Current Enrollment	17,534 (Fall 2008) (15,336 undergraduate; 87.5%)	10th largest in state		
Projected Enrollment	18,000 in Fall 2010 20,000 in Fall 2015 (targets for Closing the Gaps)	10th largest in state in 2015		
Ethnic Enrollment	86.3% Hispanic (Fall 2008) (94.3% total minority-includes international students)	Largest number of Hispanic students among Texas universities, 2 nd in the nation		
Primary Service Region	Hidalgo County 725,978 in Jan. 2008 over 1 million by 2020 Rio Grande Valley 1,201,537 in Jan. 2008	8th largest county in state 4th fastest growing MSA in nation as per 2000 Census Rio Grande Valley is the 6th largest population center in Texas		
Degree Programs	Bachelor's 57	Master's 57	Doctorate 3	Cooperative 2
Degrees Awarded (AY 2007-08)	2,420	654	24	n/a
Faculty (Fall 2008)	819 total faculty 639 full-time 727 FTE 464 tenured/tenure track 41.9% female 35.9% Hispanic 53.6% total minority (includes international)			
Annual Budget (adjusted)	\$235.2 million for FY 2009	26% Appropriated general revenue; 35.3% Total appropriated funds (from General Appropriation Act)		
Research Expenditures	\$8,478,536 in FY 2008	56% funding from federal, 28% state government.		
Physical Facilities	2,409,874 gross sq. ft.	No new additions in FY08		
Buildings in Progress	Starr County Upper Level Center and Fine Arts Event Center			

Updated February 09, 2009

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The University of Texas-Pan American is the state's tenth largest public university, located in the state's seventh most populous metropolitan area (Hidalgo County) and serving one of the fastest growing areas of the state, the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

UT Pan American is a dynamic, evolving institution, with a long history of responding to changing regional needs. During the institution's over eighty years of existence, we have gone through six name changes and numerous changes in status and affiliation to meet the educational needs of the area.

Currently, the institution is continuing its institutional evolution, driven by its vision of serving the South Texas region as a doctoral university and educational leader. To these ends, the University is pursuing six goals: 1. Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion. 2. Become an outstanding research institution, emphasizing collaborative partnerships and entrepreneurship. 3. Enhance UTPA's engagement with the community to meet challenges and maximize opportunities. 4. Collaborate with P-12 schools to enlarge the pool of applicants who are personally prepared and academically qualified for higher education. 5. Infuse Inter-American and global perspectives throughout the University community. 6. Optimize institutional effectiveness and efficiency consistent with high quality organizational standards.

We believe that this next stage in our evolution is what the Legislature intended when the members authorized the expansion of our role and scope by supporting engineering programs and doctoral programs in international business and education, when they approved the creation of South Texas Community College to share the responsibility for lower division education, and when they initiated and sustained special funding that is helping the region to gain educational parity with other regions of the state.

To fulfill the Legislative intent, UT Pan American has expanded outreach and incentive programs to increase higher education aspirations and encourage academic preparation among prospective students; enhanced student support services to improve retention and graduation; developed additional degree programs, especially at the graduate level, to broaden opportunities for the people of South Texas; stepped up our involvement in research and public service activities, with special emphasis on regional matters; strengthened our collaborative efforts with public schools to improve the whole spectrum of education; and emphasized the use of technology to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of institutional programs and services.

Transitioning into a regional research university (Doctoral Research Intensive) does not come without attendant costs. Graduate programs and high-end undergraduate programs have substantial start-up costs. Faculty with the necessary credentials to initiate and sustain these new programs must be hired and retained. The added emphasis on research and professional service that characterizes a doctoral university increases the number and quality of the required faculty and supporting resources. Building the kinds of specialized instructional and research spaces and providing the equipment and infrastructure to incorporate and utilize technological advances is more expensive than constructing and maintaining the simpler classrooms of the past. In recent years, there has been a trend in the state and nation to pass more of the cost of higher education to the students, but this trend may be taking university education out of the reach of many of our disadvantaged students. The state needs to make sure that increased higher education opportunities are not only available but accessible and affordable as well.

It is clear to us that the South Texas region needs and deserves the instructional programs and the research benefits of a first-class doctoral university, and **The University of Texas-Pan American** is working diligently to fulfill that role and to continuously improve and advance the cause of education in the region.