History

UTSA was created by a mandate from the 61st Texas Legislature on June 5, 1969, to be a university of the first class offering bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees “as are customarily offered at leading American universities.” The first class of 671 graduate students was admitted in June 1973. Upper-division undergraduates were admitted in September 1975; lower-division undergraduates were admitted in June 1976. The first commencement ceremony was in August 1974. The UTSA Alumni Association was formed in 1978, and UTSA now has nearly 119,000 alumni including students from South Texas and around the world.

UTSA received full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in February 1974. UTSA’s first endowed professorship was established in 1981 in the life sciences. The first endowed chair was established in 1985 in the College of Business. As of fall 2017, UTSA has 77 Board of Regents approved endowed positions, 18 of which have market value of $1 million or more. The UTSA Honors Program was initiated in September 1985 and became the UTSA Honors College in fall 2002.

As of August 2017, UTSA has 160 degree programs in nine colleges. UTSA will introduce new programs at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels over the next few years.

In fall 2017, enrollment was 30,674, which is in keeping with the enrollment management plan. Based on the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanic students, UTSA is in the top ten of all Hispanic-serving public universities in the continental United States.

Ninety-nine percent of tenured and tenure-track faculty hold a doctorate or terminal degree in their fields. As of fiscal year 2016, UTSA ranks eighth in research expenditures among Texas public universities.

In 1986, the Institute of Texan Cultures became part of The University of Texas at San Antonio. In 2009, the Institute of Texan Cultures site was designated the UTSA HemisFair Park Campus. The UTSA Downtown Campus opened at the Cypress Tower Building in 1994, moving to its permanent site in 1997. Space on all three campuses total more than 5 million square feet.

The most current information on UTSA is also available on the Fast Facts page at http://utsa.edu/about/glance/.