



Dean, College of Science

Leadership Profile
Spring 2022



The University of North Texas (UNT) invites applications and nominations for the next Dean of the College of Science.

About the Position

Created in 2017, the College of Science offers 12 undergraduate and 14 graduate programs spread out over 4 academic departments: Biology; Chemistry; Mathematics; and Physics and is home to more than 260 faculty members and 3,800+ students. As a rapidly growing College and University, UNT seeks an innovative, dynamic, and entrepreneurial individual with the vision, scientific standing, and administrative abilities to provide strategic leadership to its College of Science. The next Dean will have the opportunity to promote disciplinary excellence and increased national visibility through the planning of new facilities and renovation of existing ones, strategic growth of the faculty, expanding upon recent gains in sponsored research, and further developing strong graduate and undergraduate programs.

Reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean is the College's Chief Executive Officer and leads the College in accordance with the University's mission and goals. Among the Dean's general responsibilities are to:

- Lead and articulate the College's academic vision and identify and promote research trajectories;
- Recruit, mentor, develop, and retain faculty, as well as students and staff;
- Lead efforts to improve UNT's research facilities, including a planned state-of-the-art STEM building, renovation of the Science Research Building (SRB), and shared institutional research core facilities;
- Manage space in support of research and educational missions;
- Support and expand the research mission of the College;
- Leverage interdisciplinary research activities of the UNT Research Institutes of Excellence – two of which have a majority of their faculty researchers in the College of Science;
- Encourage collaboration, enhance partnerships, and promote innovation for *Teach North Texas* and *Interdisciplinary Program Analytics & Computational Science*;
- Garner resources in support of the College's strategic vision, including private fund raising;
- Consult with faculty to develop curricula and maintain and improve standards of performance;
- Develop, administer, and allocate the College's budget; and
- Lead in faculty personnel matters, including tenure, promotion, and appointment.



Opportunities

UNT has highly regarded academic programs, a committed faculty and staff, and a student-focused culture. The following are examples of opportunities and challenges for the new Dean of the College of Science:

- Expanding Research – in keeping with the University's goal to increase scholarly activity and innovation, the President has set a very ambitious goal for expanding research. The College must continue to develop new research initiatives and support existing efforts to increase external research funding.
- Budget Management – with the University's goal of growing its research portfolio, the Dean of the College of Science has the ability to construct and utilize a budget that supports strategic developments of the College, including startup funding to support new faculty hires.
- Faculty Recruitment, Development, and Support – the College of Science is home to a very strong faculty, representing a diverse range of disciplines. The next Dean will have the opportunity to add new faculty lines, which requires experience in recruiting, mentoring, and retaining faculty.
- Strengthening Diversity – it is imperative that the Dean is committed to promoting a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is expected that the next Dean will positively impact the culture of support for diversity within the College.
- Fund raising – the next Dean is expected to establish a strong record of seeking and obtaining resources from private-sector sources, including but not limited to corporations in both the Dallas-Fort Worth area and beyond, as well as engaging with the State and Federal governments.
- Student Recruitment – the College of Science has a reputation for high-quality programs and research. The Dean will be central to branding efforts to ensure that the College is considered a "School of Choice" for top-performing science undergraduates and graduate students. The next Dean must strengthen the College's support for a diverse and inclusive student body.
- Building Relationships University-wide – the Dean will work cooperatively with the other Deans and University Administrators and should be an effective advocate for the entire College of Science.



Other Preferred Qualifications Include:

Successful applicants must have the academic qualifications and record of achievements consistent with an appointment as a tenured full professor.

In addition, it is preferred that candidates have an administrative record that demonstrates:

- Innovative and effective leadership in higher education;
- Ability to articulate an ambitious and realistic vision for a College with an excellent undergraduate program and a robust graduate research agenda;
- Strong commitment to quality in the delivery of academic programs;
- Understanding of university finances and how to use a budget to drive strategic initiatives;
- Experience in hiring, mentoring, and evaluating faculty;
- Collegial administrative style that promotes a sense of mutual respect and collaboration with faculty, staff, and students;
- Commitment to strengthening an environment that fosters and supports the highest quality research and scholarship;
- Commitment to the recruitment and retention of a diverse and inclusive faculty, staff, and student body population;
- Ability to foster strong connections between internal and external constituencies;
- Experience working within a diverse community of undergraduate and graduate students, staff, and faculty in a complex university setting;
- Capability to be a forceful advocate for the institution, its faculty, and its academic programs, both internally and externally;
- Experience in reconciling differing viewpoints and developing solutions within a shared governance model;
- Experience with strategic planning, extramural funding, assessment, instructional technology, and interdisciplinary approaches in education;
- Experience with space allocation, including planning and overseeing new facility construction;
- Commitment to academic freedom;
- Ability to formulate and inspire others with a clear vision;
- Outstanding listening and communication skills;
- Openness in dealings with others and engagement with diverging perspectives;
- Skills and the capacity to bring individuals and groups with diverse views to consensus and common action;
- Ability to frame issues and conflicts in ways that foster resolution; and
- Intellectual vision, high levels of energy, impeccable integrity and other personal qualities that will inspire the College of Science community to attain new levels of excellence.



About the University

A Carnegie-ranked Tier One institution, UNT is one of the nation's largest public research universities with more than 41,000 students. Located only 35 miles north of both Dallas and Fort Worth, in Denton, Texas, UNT has become one of the fastest growing and increasingly influential research universities in one of the nation's fastest-growing regions. An abiding characteristic of the university is that UNT nurtures a strong sense of community and teamwork. As a Hispanic-Serving Institution, UNT's dedication to diversity and inclusion earned the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award for the fourth straight year. For more than 130 years, UNT has served an increasingly diverse student body and economically booming region. Now, under the leadership of a President with an expansive, aggressive vision for the institution, the University stands poised to expand its national and global impact.

The enhanced collaboration across campus creates a campus community that is united by a shared purpose to provide students with the best research-informed educational experience in Texas and beyond. In addition, UNT's strategic international partnerships seek to facilitate the exchange of ideas and culture and allow for important research addressing global issues. UNT hosts visiting scholars and faculty from more than 50 countries, offers global learning and experience programs in more than 37 countries, and serves 4,400 international students representing 144 countries. UNT also continues to build on a longstanding legacy of conservation and environmentalism.

As one of the largest universities in Texas, UNT offers 113 bachelor's, 94 master's, and 37 doctoral degree programs through the G. Brint Ryan College of Business; the Colleges of Education, Engineering, Health and Public Service, Information, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism, Music; Science, and Visual Arts and Design; Toulouse Graduate School; Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism; Honors College; New College; and the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS).



Over the past several years, UNT has invested heavily in advancing the organization's infrastructure, including data systems, analytics, financial systems, effective dashboards across the enterprise, merit raises, facilities renovations, and capital projects. UNT has made significant strides in enrollment management, with substantial financial allocations for new scholarships and student support services. The university is proactive in retaining high performing, collaborative faculty with equity and other opportunities. It has more than 800 tenure/tenure-track faculty members. Additionally, in 2016 UNT went through its 10-year SACS-COC accreditation process and was reaccredited, allowing the incoming chief academic officer the freedom to focus on advancing initiatives that will most impact UNT's current success and future legacy.

UNT is a nationally recognized university continually listed as one of the "Best of the West" by *The Princeton Review* and "America's Best Value Colleges" by *Forbes* magazine. Among its many accolades, UNT has 89 academic programs ranked in the Top 100 nationally and has an array of impressive and often unique offerings. UNT is currently investing in a number of new faculty positions and high impact hires while growing graduate education in a number of areas to support students and build UNT's national brand.



Meet President Smatresk

President Neal J. Smatresk (pronounced SMAH tresk) joined UNT in 2014 with a vision for leading the University of North Texas to national prominence as the largest, most comprehensive university dedicated to meeting the needs of the dynamic North Texas region.

Under his leadership, UNT has been named a Tier One research university by the Carnegie Classification, identified as a top 10 U.S. public university on the rise, grown in enrollment to serve more than 42,000 students and earned designation as both a Minority-Serving and Hispanic-Serving Institution.



Thanks to strategic student success investments, UNT has increased student retention, graduation rate, and its role as a social mobility elevator for students. Today, 88 of UNT's 244 academic programs are ranked among the nation's Top 100, including 20 of which are recognized by U.S. News & World Report. Following athletic investments and facility expansions, Mean Green student-athletes and teams are thriving, as evidenced by the men's basketball team's 2021 NCAA Tournament win.

President Smatresk has led the charge in creating new public-private partnerships with businesses like American Airlines, Liberty Mutual, Google and JP Morgan Chase. In response to the rapidly changing career marketplace, President Smatresk ensured the addition of 21st century degree plans in fast-growing fields such as business analytics, data science, and urban policy and planning, as well as a partnership with the Dallas Cowboys for an M.B.A. in sport entertainment management. UNT also unveiled the nation's first bachelor's degree from a U.S. university on Coursera, the world's leading online learning platform.

In addition, President Smatresk has worked to expand the university's services in Collin County by opening a location in Frisco, the second-fastest growing city in the nation. In partnership with the City of Frisco and its Frisco Economic and Community Development Corporations, UNT is building a branch campus scheduled to open in Spring 2023 and offer higher education and research opportunities to students in one of the fastest-growing regions of the country.



Location

The selected candidate will excel in an environment in which professional satisfaction and career achievement are paired with optimal quality of life in a highly desirable locale. Denton is an economic hub and one of the nation's fastest-growing areas. It's also one of the nation's Best College Towns and is known for its active music life. The North Texas State Fair and Rodeo, Denton Arts & Jazz Festival, and Denton Black Film Festival attract more than 300,000 people to the city each year. Residents enjoy a flourishing economy, cultural arts, abundant housing options, and endless entertainment and activities. Family members will discover a sophisticated, open community that offers an array of activities, amenities, services and opportunities whether they are looking for top-notch education, meaningful employment, or a safe, comfortable and affordable place to live.

UNT is situated in the heart of the Dallas Fort-Worth area, one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing metro areas and one of the world's largest economies. More than 40 Fortune 1000 companies are headquartered in DFW — from No. 2 Exxon Mobil to No. 9 AT&T.

In the DFW area, one can experience the greatest dining, shopping, sports, arts and entertainment a city can offer, with more shopping centers per capita than any other major U.S. city, and four times more restaurants per person than New York City. The DFW area represents the Southwest's leading business and financial center, boasting the largest wholesale market in the world and laying claim to being one of the top convention sites in the United States and the Number One Visitor Destination in Texas.



Nomination & Application Process

Parker Executive Search is assisting the University of North Texas in the search for the Dean of the College of Science. The Search Committee invites letters of nomination, applications (letter of interest, full resume/CV, and contact information of at least five references), or expressions of interest to be submitted to the search firm assisting the University. Review of materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment is made. It is preferred, however, that all nominations and applications be submitted prior to April 29, 2022. For additional information, please contact:

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