The University of Texas at Tyler was established in 1971 as Tyler State College, renamed as Texas Eastern University in 1975 and joined The University of Texas System (UTS) as The University of Texas at Tyler in 1979. As one of thirteen institutions, UT Tyler is subject to all UTS policies and procedures, including the UTS Board of Regents and the System Chancellor. In 2019 UT Tyler was recognized by Carnegie as a Doctoral Research Classification. In 2021, UT Tyler was officially named as a Division II member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) by the national committee.

In 2020, the UTS Board of Regents announced the consolidation of UT Tyler and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (UTHSCT) into one institution operating as UT Tyler and announced plans to establish a medical school in Tyler. The Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Board of Trustees approved the proposal for the merger in December 2020. The UTS Board of Regents named Kirk A. Calhoun, MD, FACP, as the fifth president of the newly unified UT Tyler in January 2021. UT Tyler submitted a Merger/Consolidation Substantive Change Prospectus to SACSCOC during the spring of 2021 with final SACSCOC Board of Trustees approval anticipated in December 2021. The newly merged institution also qualified for ranking as a Doctoral University with Higher Research Activity (R2).

UT Tyler offers more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, one post-baccalaureate certificate, and one post-graduate certificate. Doctoral programs include two professional doctoral programs, three PhD programs, and one EdD program. The university awards approximately 3,000 degrees a year. The university is organized into eight schools and colleges: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education and Psychology, College of Engineering, Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy, Soules College of Business, School of Nursing, School of Medical Biological Sciences, School of Community and Rural Health.

More than 3,200 employees, including 600 full-time faculty members, are under UT Tyler’s common administrative structure. The two operating agencies within this common structure, academic and health, employ 1,741 and 1,545 employees, respectively.

The university receives revenue from a variety of sources, including state appropriations, federal appropriations, philanthropic donations, and tuition revenue.

UT Tyler Vision Statement
We aspire to be the primary educational and economic driver of East Texas.

UT Tyler Mission Statement
UT Tyler is committed to student success by providing a uniquely balanced student experience in an environment of innovative teaching and research shaped to serve and advance the educational, economic, technological, and public interests of East Texas and beyond.

The university is dedicated to supporting students primarily within the 28-county East Texas region. However, UT Tyler students also come from around the United States and from dozens of countries around the world. The university is committed to providing a setting for free inquiry and expects excellence in the teaching, research, artistic performances and professional public service provided by its faculty, staff, and students. As a community of scholars, the university develops the individual's critical thinking skills, appreciation of the arts, humanities and sciences, international understanding for participation in the global society, professional knowledge and skills to enhance economic productivity, and commitment to lifelong learning.

Within an environment of academic freedom, students learn from faculty scholars who have nationally recognized expertise in the arts and sciences, and in such professions as engineering, public administration, education, business, health sciences, and technology. The faculty engages in research and creative activity, both to develop and maintain their own scholarly expertise and to extend human knowledge. The results of that research and other creative efforts are made available to students in the classroom and to the general public through publication, technology transfer, and public service activities. The institution also seeks to serve individuals who desire to enhance their professional development, broaden their perspectives, and enrich their lives.

The University of Texas at Tyler is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Questions about the accreditation of The University of Texas at Tyler may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC’s website (www.sacscoc.org).