

2024 - 2029 UT Tyler School of Medicine Strategic Plan

MISSION

- The mission of the UT Tyler School of Medicine is to: Embed the School of Medicine within East Texas, focusing on communication, responsiveness, and community involvement.
- Recruit, support, and develop a regional healthcare and research workforce from East Texas, focused on reducing health disparities.
- Develop biomedical, clinical, translational, and population-based research programs.
- Expand access to top-quality healthcare in East Texas by developing innovative healthcare systems.

VISION

To improve the quality of life and access to care in rural regions by training committed and regionally focused physician leaders who work with interprofessional teams to develop innovative, value-based healthcare systems.

VALUES

- Perseverance
- Excellence
- Respect
- Community
- Creativity
- Service

The UT Tyler School of Medicine Strategic Plan (2024–2029) outlines a bold vision for advancing medical education, research, and community engagement in East Texas. Aligned with the University of Texas at Tyler's priorities—Student Success, Teaching Excellence, and Service—the plan focuses on expanding the School's regional impact, reducing health disparities, and improving healthcare quality.

Guided by values of excellence, respect, and service, we aim to train physician leaders and foster innovative, value-based healthcare systems tailored to the needs of rural communities. This strategic plan serves as our roadmap for shaping the future of healthcare in East Texas.

Dr. Sue Cox



PRIORITIES



Student Success



Teaching Excellence



Serve East Texas



Student Success

GOAL

Expand student success initiatives focused on retention, degree completion and flexible programming.

INITIATIVES

- Strengthen support services, particularly academic counseling, tutoring, and mental health and financial services to help every student be successful through degree completion.
- Deliver a high-quality curriculum and targeted resources that equips students to meet all MD degree requirements, succeed on medical licensing exams, and ultimately graduate the students.
- Create more flexible degree pathway opportunities in healthcare such as PA, CRNA, and master's programs.
- Create new mentorship, experiential learning and professional development opportunities for students.
- Attract, recruit, and enroll a student body reflective of East Texas, united by a strong commitment to serving our rural communities.

GOAL

Promote student engagement.

INITIATIVES

- Cultivate a vibrant campus culture and foster student traditions by broadening initiatives that bring students together, fostering pride and a sense of community at UT Tyler SOM.
- Create dynamic, student-centered spaces that prioritize student life in the Campus Master Plan - reconfiguring spaces to enhance housing, recreation, engagement, and learning opportunities across campus.
- Assure a dynamic Graduate Medical Education (GME) environment by aligning and integrating across entities to train compassionate and competent physicians.

+200

NUMBER OF RESIDENT PHYSICIANS TRAINING THROUGHOUT
THE UT HEALTH EAST TEXAS SYSTEM

GOAL

Prepare students for the workforce.

INITIATIVES

- Leverage the unique relationship between UT Tyler and UT Health East Texas and develop a dynamic feedback loop to continuously refine curricula and workforce training in current and new degree programs, ensuring UT Tyler graduates are exceptionally prepared to meet the evolving needs of health systems.
- Educate the next generation of health professionals by promoting and supporting current UT Tyler SOM Graduate Medical Education (GME) training programs.
- Establish a workforce pathway that creates a positive impact on the community by closing the gaps in our need for primary care in the East Texas region.
- Elevate and grow a wide range of clinical sites for students in coordination with workforce leaders.
- Creation and expansion of clinical educational experience in SOM required disciplines.
- Create expanded clinical clerkship opportunities and clinical elective experiences in specialty care.
- Explore opportunities for new residency and fellowship programs, to increase the workforce, specifically the attendee to student ratio within the medical community.
- Aggressively grow multidisciplinary academic programs that foster a team-based approach to meet specialty and critical workforce needs.





Teaching Excellence

GOAL

Enhance teaching practices and strengthen faculty-student interactions.

INITIATIVES

- Celebrate innovation and creativity in faculty and staff who exemplify a deep passion and commitment to student learning and success.
- Grow professional development programs to stay abreast of best-in-class teaching methods.
- Create new mentorship, strengthen faculty and professional development opportunities for students.
- Achievement of full accreditation by the LCME, which promotes high academic standards, continuous improvement, and increased accountability for the medical education program.

GOAL

Increase quality of academic and cocurricular programs across all disciplines.

INITIATIVES

- Improve annual faculty evaluation systems and peer observations to encourage the dissemination of innovative and best teaching practices.
- Regularly review academic program curricula to address emerging workforce demands and enhance real-world problem solving.
- Utilize continuous quality improvement to enhance the medical school curriculum, thus, preparing students for matriculation into residency programs.
- Develop and recruit faculty leadership in all academic departments and divisions and ensure succession planning.

GOAL

Strengthen research infrastructure and support research that enriches our students and serves our community.

INITIATIVES

- Invest in research infrastructure that enhances faculty support, streamlines grant management processes, and strengthens policies to ensure accountability and regulatory excellence.
- Support research that directly increases experiential opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students.
- Support research tied directly to improving the health and wellness of the region and training the next generation of healthcare professionals, especially by leveraging our clinical partnership to attract industry sponsored clinical research trials.
- Develop multi-level mentorship programs.
- Expand clinical research structure to better serve community needs.
- Assess current infrastructure and identify expansion opportunities.
- Develop and support internships/externship opportunities.





Serve East Texas

GOAL

Ensure UT Tyler is meaningfully engaged with the East Texas community.

INITIATIVES

- Grow UT Tyler brand awareness and favorability across East Texas.
- Enhance internal coordination of external engagements to strengthen our stewardship and improve our connection with the community.
- Optimize the operations of the Cowan Center as well as other UT Tyler facilities, such as athletics, to ensure ease of usage and accessibility to community members.
- Provide faculty leadership and expertise in patient quality and safety initiatives and process improvement activities throughout our health system as well as population-based initiatives working with state, regional and community partners to improve health outcomes.
- Expand partnerships with state and federal agencies and philanthropic foundations to meet the needs of our community.
- Explore opportunities for new residency and fellowship programs with appropriate partners in our evolving medical community.

GOAL

Ensure operational excellence in service to our stakeholders: students, patients, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and taxpayers.

INITIATIVES

- Enhance financial transparency and accountability throughout the institution and ensure accurate financial analysis and reporting.
- Establish robust training programs through mentorship and professional development for faculty, staff, and administrative leaders.
- Identify and meet technology infrastructure needs that will support long-term growth.
- Conduct a design thinking initiative to address and streamline some of the most complex and challenging experiences for our students and employees. Focus on eliminating bureaucratic hurdles to enhance efficiency and support - such as improving financial aid or advising services for students or HR, IT and procurement processes for employees.
- Develop programs and processes that foster lifelong relationships and engagement between the university, students, alumni, and donors.

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IN EAST TEXAS