Vision 2025

A Vision for the Future of College of Education and Psychology

The College of Education and Psychology’s 2025 Vision Committee, comprised of members of the faculty and staff from the School of Education, the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and the Department of Psychology and Counseling, was given the charge of developing a vision for the future of our College. The vision for the College is based on an interdisciplinary approach using the expertise of the faculty in all three administrative units. Specifically, the Committee focused on creating goals for our College in the areas of teaching, research and scholarship, community outreach and service, and marketing and growth. The vision developed by the Committee is as follows:

Teaching

The faculty of the College of Education and Psychology recognize that teaching is our core purpose as we strive to prepare competent, caring and qualified professionals in the fields of education, psychology and counseling.

• We envision a college that continuously maintains a rigorous and relevant set of undergraduate and graduate courses.
• We envision a college that exposes our students to cutting-edge curriculum while engaging them in discourse about current critical issues in our respective fields.
• We envision offering innovative undergraduate and graduate programs that produce regionally influential and nationally competitive graduates.
• We envision working among scholars that continuously seek to stay current with both the latest research in our fields of study and best pedagogical practices to ensure the students of UT Tyler have the opportunity to engage in learning that is rigorous and relevant.
• We envision developing doctoral programs that will provide the necessary coursework, applied learning opportunities, research training, and supervision necessary to develop competent doctoral-level practitioners, scholars, and researchers in the fields of education and psychology.

• We envision utilizing innovative educational practices, both in the classroom and in opportunities for graduate and undergraduate research.

• We envision continuing to expand our hybrid and online course offerings at the undergraduate and graduate level, when appropriate, in order to appeal to a more diverse population of students.

Research

The faculty of the College of Education and Psychology is committed to advancing the knowledge base in our respective disciplines through research and scholarship.

• We envision that the faculty of the College of Education and Psychology will be leaders in their respective fields of scholarship.

• We envision our faculty will be sufficiently supported in their efforts to: a) maintain knowledge related to current and reputable research findings, b) actively search and secure external funding, and c) establish research based collaborations between the university, the college, and other institutions and organizations such as school districts, clinics, and universities within and beyond Texas.

• We envision expanding opportunities for research as a component of students’ education so that these efforts will encourage students to learn about the process of the construction of the knowledge base in their field, and possibly encourage students to contribute to this knowledge.
Community Outreach and Service

The faculty of the College of Education and Psychology is committed to providing service to our profession and community.

• We envision nurturing existing partnerships while expanding and establishing new partnerships with individual schools, school districts, and other agencies that promote education and mental health.

• We envision fostering opportunities to integrate service with student training and faculty research endeavors, which may include providing professional development for educators and mental health professionals.

• We believe partnerships are an opportunity to serve as visible advocates for creation of the highest standards of practice in both education and mental health in our community and beyond and may include student training and faculty research endeavors.

Recruitment and Retention

The faculty of the College of Education and Psychology is committed to recruiting and retaining high ability, motivated students to our programs of study.

• We envision a College where the faculty engages students as we build a community of scholars in an effort to recruit and retain a diverse body of students.

• We envision providing exemplary educational, psychology and counseling programs which utilize progressive educational technology that allows for more effective instruction to reach a larger geographical area.

• We envision the expansion of courses to attract a population of students from more diverse backgrounds, including a greater number of students from outside the East Texas region, and those from traditionally underrepresented groups in university settings.
• We believe that the ability to secure additional financial resources will further increase our abilities to attract students from more diverse populations and make education affordable for all.

• We envision creating more robust and mutually beneficial partnerships with local school districts and mental health agencies to meet the needs of educators and mental health professionals interested in seeking a master degree or professional certification/licensure.

Individual Department Visions

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies core purpose is to prepare competent, caring and qualified P-12 administrators for the State of Texas.

The Department envisions principal and superintendent preparation programs that prepare aspiring educational leaders for the challenges of school administration. While developing aspiring principals and future superintendents’ awareness of current practices, rules, regulations, and critical issues, our program aims to improve their critical thinking and collaboration skills. Our goal is to empower aspiring leaders to efficiently solve problems regardless of the length of their tenure as school leaders and irrespective of the unforeseen changes and challenges they will face in their careers.

We are committed to developing our graduate students’ instructional leadership skills. Within the Principal Preparation Program, we aspire to produce well-rounded educational leaders who possess the skills to be instructional leaders while effectively managing their schools. We are committed to modeling best practices for teaching and learning to prepare highly competent and visionary superintendent-ready graduates for the workforce.
School of Education

The School of Education core purpose is to foster the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed for preservice and inservice educators to become successful and ethical teachers and lifelong learners while advancing our respective disciplines in education and being stewards of the discipline.

The School envisions an instructional classroom infrastructure that promotes current and supportive technologies used to promote instructional methods well beyond the traditional lecture-based model. We envision the creation of spaces for collaboration between faculty and students, as well as spaces for laboratories of practice that allow students to learn and examine cutting-edge technology in instruction using innovative curriculum.

We envision expanding both our undergraduate and graduate program offerings in delivery modes that meet the needs of a diverse body of students. Additionally, we envision adding additional certification programs to expand our students' knowledge and skills in order to meet the needs of today’s workforce. This includes expanding our programs to increase the numbers of highly qualified pre-service teachers across both elementary and secondary programs and professional educators in our graduate programs.

Department of Psychology and Counseling

The Department of Psychology and Counseling core purpose is to prepare our students to succeed in their chosen careers, bringing positive human values and dispositions, intellectual curiosity, science-based knowledge and evidence-based skills, and innovation to their work, lives and communities.

The Department envisions graduates of the undergraduate program will be prepared to pursue a diverse range of postgraduate and career options, from post-graduate studies in psychology and counseling, to other mental health-related professions (such as social work), to fields requiring expertise in designing and conducting research, to any job that requires them
to be critical thinkers and skilled writers. We will continue to develop courses that engage students in cutting-edge content in the field, offer opportunities to learn about and engage with the scholarly research process, and increase their qualifications for pursuing both psychology graduate programs and careers in relevant fields.

In our graduate programs, we envision creating learning contexts that reward students who actively pursue educational experiences that promote knowledge, skills, and dispositions that will prepare them to be highly competent and skilled mental health practitioners. We envision graduates of our clinical psychology, clinical mental health counseling, and school counseling programs will become alumni who are ethical, intellectually curious, collaborative counselors and mental health practitioners who strive to competently meet the evolving needs of their clients, agencies and communities. Our graduate program will offer sequential skills development courses in which students practice basic to advanced clinical/counseling skills, integrate pertinent theories, and apply interventions under the direct supervision of faculty and qualified licensed professionals in the community.

In our Pursuit of Our Vision

As we continue to be a highly regarded College among our peers and students, we must maintain our focus on excellent teaching, cutting-edge research, service to our community, and the recruitment and retention of both faculty and students.

In an effort to intentionally work toward our vision, the College of Education and Psychology as well as each department within the College must have strategic plans to accomplish the themes set aside in this document. These major initiatives are summarized in the strategic plan for each college and department which further refine our goals, objectives, and priorities.

Adopted: 1/22/16