Executive Summary

The University of Texas at Arlington (UT Arlington or UTA) is seeking applicants for the role of Chief Information Officer. This position reports directly to the Vice President of Business-Finance and Chief Financial Officer.

The CIO is a collaborative change agent focused on business practices and technologies that support the university’s strategy and core missions of education and research, while optimizing administrative operations and services. The CIO will work across all functional areas of the university, partnering with university leaders, departmental management, faculty, and staff to shape and implement transformational changes.

UT Arlington is seeking an energetic and confident leader who is comfortable maintaining high visibility. The ideal candidate is an inclusive leader, adept at influencing through relationships and has excellent communication skills including listening, speaking, and writing.

Applicants should have significant leadership experience working in a complex organization, ideally a research university, with the ability to lead the development of an IT strategic plan and its implementation. Successful candidates will also have a demonstrated ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, especially the ability to communicate complex technical information.

Applicants must have extensive knowledge of technology business operations, infrastructure, and cybersecurity as well as broad knowledge of current and emerging technologies and strategic application to business needs.

About the University

Located on a 420-acre campus in the heart of the thriving Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metro Area (population 7.6 million), The University of Texas at Arlington is a comprehensive teaching, research, and public service institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through scholarship and creative work.

As one of the largest and most diverse universities in Texas, UT Arlington is committed to providing access and ensuring student success, and to a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization of discoveries by our community of scholars. The University promotes lifelong learning through its academic, continuing education, and experiential learning programs. The faculty, staff, and student community share diverse cultural values that foster inclusivity and cultivate mutual respect.

Founded in 1895 as a private liberal arts institution, UT Arlington today enrolls over 48,000 students and employs nearly 5,000 faculty and staff. The University has the third most ethnically diverse undergraduate population in the United States (U.S. News & World Report, 2022) and is a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (U.S. Department of Education). UTA graduates more African American students at the undergraduate and master’s degree levels than any other Texas university (Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, 2021).

In addition to nurturing student success, UTA is focused on making an impact through innovative research. Anchored by its five strategic pillars—health and the human condition, sustainable communities, global environmental impact, data-driven discovery, and culture and societal transformations—the University’s research portfolio has seen significant growth over the past decade, with expenditures reaching $125 million in 2021. Faculty work in state-of-the-art facilities to make...
important breakthroughs in areas such as sustainable infrastructure, healthy aging, high-energy physics, cardiovascular disease, machine-learning systems, and more.

In 2021, UTA’s combination of outstanding academics and innovative research contributed to the University once again receiving Carnegie R-1 “Very High Research Activity” designation and becoming just the fourth university in the state to achieve Texas Tier One status, a milestone of excellence that brings with it access to the state’s National Research University Fund. By providing exceptional educational opportunities and addressing important societal challenges, UT Arlington enhances the quality of life in Texas and beyond.

The government of the University is vested in a nine-member Board of Regents of the UT System, nominated by the governor, and approved by the Texas Senate. In addition to its main campus in Arlington, UTA has two facilities in neighboring Fort Worth: a downtown campus called UTA Fort Worth that is tailored for working professionals and a research institute on the banks of the Trinity River that is focused on bridging the gap between academic research and product development.

Notables

- UTA is ranked No. 1 for veterans and their families among four-year institutions (Military Times, 2020 and 2021).
- UTA alumni occupy leadership positions at many of the 22 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in North Texas.
- UTA has one of the nation’s most successful adaptive sports programs. The Movin’ Mavs wheelchair basketball team has won nine national championships, while the Lady Movin’ Mavs have won two national titles.
- UTA’s College of Nursing and Health Innovation is the No. 1 producer of baccalaureate-degreed nurses in Texas.
- UTA and its alumni contribute $22.2 billion and 216,544 jobs annually to Texas.
- UTA was one of 150 colleges and universities recognized on the Phi Theta Kappa 2021 Transfer Honor Roll.
- UTA baccalaureate graduates working in Texas earn the highest first-year median wage of all UT System non-medical institutions (UT System Smartbook, 2021).

Office of Information Technology

The office of the Office of Technology has a total budget of $38M, including 230 staff and 160 student employees within 6 departments. The rapidly changing path of information technology is expanding the borders of how we learn, discover, and communicate. IT provides the advanced infrastructure to help UT Arlington improve the quality of education and research, prepare our students for work in the twenty-first century, expand its role in the community and around the world, and act as good stewards of the environment and university resources.

OIT Mission

- Provide leadership for Information Technology and Resources planning.
• Provide the infrastructure enabling development and delivery of technology services to help UT Arlington students, faculty, and staff work effectively as a student-centered community.
• Provide cost-effective Information Technology resources required to support continuous improvement in the University's ability to fulfill its diverse mission.

OIT Vision Statement

Provide a resilient infrastructure, deliver remarkable service, and empower a dynamic organization culture that supports UT Arlington’s vision of being the premier state institution in offering student-centered, research-focused, innovative solutions to the issues facing our region, state, country, and world.

About the CIO

Internal to the IT organization, the CIO is responsible for developing technology strategies, recruiting, and retaining talent, and cultivating an effective organization capable of delivering exceptional service to faculty, researchers, staff, and students. The CIO is also responsible for maintaining relationships with key external business partners and coordinating the use of UT System resources to optimize costs and services.

Responsibilities

• Serve as institutional officer responsible for enterprise technology resources, planning and service delivery
• Work with executive leadership to provide technology vision and direction
• Collaborate with IT leadership at UT System and UT institutions to provide technology vision and direction on system-wide initiatives
• Ensure security of information assets based on federal, state and system mandates
• Ensure IT system operations and activities adhere to applicable laws, regulations, and national standards as well as institutional and system policies
• Develop a diverse workforce and a culture that supports the university’s goals for an inclusive work environment
• Develop plans, policies, and standards for acquiring, implementing, securing, and operating IT systems and other technology assets
• Maintain thorough knowledge of trends and issues in the IT industry
• Oversee the IT team with a focus on recruitment, development, and retention
• Focus on high-quality customer service to all campus constituents
• Deliver robust technology infrastructure services through on-premises, cloud, and sourced services

Opportunities
The University of Texas at Arlington stands on the leading edge of higher education institutions and as such, its CIO will have exceptional opportunities to build a strong leadership foundation and create a legacy by pursuing transformational initiatives. The scope of this position will deal with complexities that extend beyond the day-to-day leadership of the Office of Information Technology. Some initiatives that the CIO will initially be asked to undertake are listed in the following section:

Creating a culture of transparent, cohesive, and solution-based leadership that dynamically enhances, grows and builds both the IT organization and the infrastructure it supports.

The CIO will work collaboratively and direct the strategy of the Office of Information Technology through its leadership team to ensure the highest levels of professionalism, compliance, effectiveness, and efficiency from the organization through metrics, financial goals, technology and industry-wide best practices. In addition, the CIO will support the goal of making UTA a well-managed university that supports its academic, research and student success missions while ensuring proper controls are maintained.

Establishing and executing a university-wide IT strategy and its integration with the strategic plan and business strategy.

The CIO will bring a fresh perspective to align the use of technology in building the university brand, research capabilities, student recruitment, student success, the student experience and learning environments. The CIO will also develop an IT governance structure that increases transparency and expands communication across the campus. By providing a resilient infrastructure, delivering remarkable service, and empowering a dynamic organizational culture, the CIO will support UTA’s vision of being one of the most impactful and inclusive research universities in the country.

In support of the strategic plan, the CIO will collaborate with university constituents to set a vision of leveraging information and technology in business model design, business capability performance re-engineering, product and service development, optimization of services, and support for developing competitive advantage. The CIO will also continue development in the areas of project and change management, continuous improvement, innovation and learning technologies.

Serving as a Key Strategic Advisor

The President, CFO, and other senior leaders welcome a strong and collaborative partner and adviser to guide the institution’s technology strategy. The next CIO will be an individual who is energized by the future possibilities at UTA and who thrives in a dynamic organizational environment characterized by efficiency and effectiveness. The CIO will be a highly valued university leader and an active participant in strategy discussions, decision-making and direction-setting, and will have significant experience managing and presenting to the senior leadership team on organizational technology endeavors.

Work closely with University of Texas System leaders

With understanding of the dynamics of a university system environment and the fact that some IT resources are shared across the system, the CIO will work closely with the University of Texas System to ensure shared services align with UTA initiatives and expectations. The CIO will be an advocate for the effective and efficient use of system-wide resources.
The University of Texas at Arlington stands on the leading edge of higher education institutions and as such, its CIO will have exceptional opportunities to build a strong leadership foundation and create a legacy by pursuing transformational initiatives. The scope of this position will deal with complexities that extend beyond the day-to-day leadership of the Office of Information Technology.

**Qualifications**

- A bachelor’s degree in computer science, information systems, business administration, engineering or a related field;
- 10 years of IT management experience. Preference for experience at an institution of higher education;
- Demonstrated ability as an energetic and confident leader who is comfortable maintaining high visibility. Excellent communications skills including listening, speaking, and writing. Adept at influencing through relationships;
- Collaborative, team-oriented style – team builder. Ability to develop solid collaborative relationships internally and externally;
- Outstanding interpersonal skills and the ability to interact with a broad range of people. Strong presentation skills;
- The ability to develop, mentor and encourage staff to embrace change and improve the organization. The ability to effectively lead and motivate a team to achieve organizational objectives;
- Established value-based leadership skills that emphasize creation of strategic vision and innovation.

**Preferred**

- Master’s degree in computer science, information systems, business administration, engineering or related field;
- Experience in an IT leadership role within higher education.

**Leadership**

**President Jennifer Cowley**

The University of Texas at Arlington is thrilled to welcome Jennifer Cowley, Ph.D. Dr. Cowley is the first female president in the University’s history. Most recently, she served as provost at the University of North Texas (UNT), where she advanced research, fostered student success, and advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Before joining UNT in 2017, Cowley was a member of the faculty at Ohio State University, serving as vice provost for capital planning and regional campuses, associate dean for academic affairs and administration in the College of Engineering, and department chair and professor in city and regional planning.

Cowley grew up in Arlington and is looking forward to returning home to advance UTA as one of the nation’s leading research universities.

**John Davidson – Vice President of Business-Finance and Chief Financial Officer**

John Davidson has served for 20 years in government and higher education finance leadership positions, including the last seven years at UT-Arlington. He recently was elevated to the role of VP
Business-Finance and CFO. As CFO, John is responsible for not only the financial operations of the university, but also for information technology, data analytics, information security and academic resource planning. He earned both an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Louisiana Tech University.

About Arlington

Arlington, Texas is one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation. Located in between Dallas and Fort Worth in North Texas, the city is home to more than 380,000 residents, making it the seventh largest in the state. It’s also the hometown of three professional sports teams: the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Cowboys, and the Dallas Wings, the latter of whom plays its home games at UTA's College Park Center. Residents, athletes, and visitors alike enjoy hot summers and mild winters and fill their days with good food, good company, and good entertainment.

The University of Texas at Arlington is in Tarrant County (population 2.1 million). Arlington is easily accessible, located 30 minutes from the two major airports in the Metroplex—DFW International Airport and Dallas Love Field Airport. Less than two miles from AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Field, where the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers, respectively, play, and less than three miles from Six Flags Over Texas, UTA is just a stone’s throw away from the excitement the city has to offer.

For more information about regional rankings, things to do, and more about the city and the region, please visit this link.

Procedure for Candidacy

The search committee will begin reviewing applications immediately. For best consideration, please apply for this role via our job site: https://uta.peopleadmin.com/postings/20335.

Application materials will include a letter of interest, Resume, and a list of three professional references.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) is committed to providing equal employment and educational opportunities for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disabilities, pregnancy, genetic information, and/or veteran status.

Retaliation against persons who oppose a discriminatory practice, file a charge of discrimination, or testify for, assist in, or participate in an investigative proceeding relating to discrimination is prohibited. See the University of Texas at Arlington’s Notice of Non-Discrimination here which includes contact information.

Campus Safety and Security

The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, containing policy statements, crime, and fire statistics is available online. A hard copy may be obtained by contacting OLA, University Administration Building, 701 S. Nedderman Drive, Arlington, TX 76019, 817-272-2141.