Position Profile: Dean of the School of Social Work

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The Opportunity

The University of Texas at Arlington seeks applications and nominations for a visionary and strategic leader with a proven commitment to academic excellence and shared decision-making as dean of the School of Social Work (SSW). The dean fosters excellence in teaching, research, service and administration.

Reporting to the provost, the dean is responsible for providing visionary leadership, strategic direction and administrative oversight for the SSW. The dean ensures the academic, research and community engagement missions of the school are achieved and that the school is well-positioned to address contemporary and emerging issues facing the field of social work.

Responsibilities and Commitment

The dean serves as chief academic, administrative and budget officer for the school and:

- Ensures the SSW maintains accreditation and meets other regulatory requirements.
- Oversees academic personnel matters involving hiring, development, promotion, tenure and evaluation of faculty.
- Manages the SSW's budget and financial resources, including allocating funds for research, scholarships and other initiatives.
- Manages the personnel functions of the school with a commitment to collegial governance, diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Supports the faculty in teaching, research, service and professional development.
- Provides leadership in academic program reviews, program changes and program development within the school.
- Calls and conducts faculty, staff, student and other meetings in order to remain visible, collegial and transparent.
- Serves as the liaison for the school within the University (to the president, provost, deans and other administration).
- Develops and implements strategic plans for the SSW, including academic program development, student recruitment and fundraising.
- Builds relationships with external stakeholders, including alumni, community organizations and other academic institutions.
- Advocates for the SSW and promotes its mission and values to internal and external audiences.
- Promotes research and scholarly activities that address critical social issues and fosters an environment that encourages collaboration and innovation.
Required Qualifications:

- Doctorate in Social Work or related discipline awarded by a regionally accredited higher education institution.
- A minimum of five (5) years of significant and progressive academic administration experience in higher education at the level of associate dean, department chair, program director, or equivalent role.
- Academic record sufficient to qualify as a tenured full professor.

Attributes

A successful candidate:

- Is a servant-leader. Inspirational.
- Demonstrates candor and authenticity.
- Nurtures the successes of colleagues and students.
- Possesses an energetic, well-grounded, success-oriented personality.
- Shows initiative and self-discipline, with confidence and charisma to lead, encourage and empower.
- Is creative, innovative, marketing-minded and entrepreneurial.
- Builds consensus and is a team leader who seeks collective wisdom and input.
- Is flexible and able to facilitate multiple competing priorities and divergent viewpoints.
- Is an effective change agent.
- Possesses leadership and courage to make the tough decisions.
- Models a strong moral compass with unquestionable integrity and high professional standards.
- Possesses effective social skills.
- Is politically astute, yet not political.
- Possesses excellent written and oral communication skills with the ability to communicate complex or technical information clearly to a range of audiences.
- Values diversity and actively looks for opportunities to engage with and elevate marginalized voices.

The School of Social Work

The UTA School of Social Work (SSW) is a nationally recognized leader in social work education. For more than 50 years, the school has been dedicated to educating and developing leaders and scholars committed to social justice. The school has more than 12,000 alumni, with many leading government agencies and organizations; creating and leading nonprofits; working in the military and in private practice; and serving as deans, professors, and directors in social work programs worldwide.

As one of the most diverse schools or colleges on campus, social work students represent the best and brightest. As a top-research university, UTA has award-winning social work faculty who are nationally and internationally recognized as leading research scholars and evidenced-based clinical practitioners in many areas of social work and social welfare. Integrated throughout the curriculum are a variety of courses taught by professors committed to education, social justice, social welfare, research, scholarship, advocacy and the advancement of the social work profession.

The SSW is committed to life-long learning and provides an atmosphere supporting reflection, personal development and professional growth. Faculty are practitioner-scholars dedicated to teaching excellence while maintaining a high level of academic and professional involvement including research, professional development activities, practice and consultation. Many faculty serve on agency boards or are otherwise involved with local, state or national agencies and professional associations.
Offerings

The SSW offers four main academic programs: Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), Bachelor of Science in Substance Use and Treatment (BSSUT), Master of Social Work (MSW), and the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work (PhD).

The BSW and MSW programs are fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. In addition, SSW offers three minors: Substance Use Treatment (SUT), Social Welfare and Social Justice (SWSJ), and Diversity Studies.

The SSW also offers six graduate certificates: Administrative Leadership, Policy Leadership, Community Leadership, Organizational Leadership, Military Social Work, and Military, Veteran, and Family Care.

In the BSW program, students learn the knowledge, skills and values of the growing social work profession and gain both classroom and community-based experiences preparing them for a wide range of entry-level generalist practice social work and social service positions.

The BSSUT program offers a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the biological, psychological and social aspects of substance use disorders (SUD) and related behaviors. Students learn how to treat SUD in individuals, families, groups, and communities and prepare for licensure as Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors.

Both the BSW and BSSUT programs offer in-person and fully online options.

In the MSW program, students prepare for advanced level and supervisory positions in micro, mezzo and macro practice. Students learn evidence-based assessment, diagnosis and intervention with children, adults and families. Students select a concentration (Direct Practice or Community and Administrative Practice). Students selecting the Direct Practice concentration also select one of four specialty areas for their advanced curriculum focus: Mental Health and Substance Misuse, Children and Families, Health or Aging.

The MSW program is offered in-person and fully online with traditional and cohort programs.

In the PhD program, students learn the application of research methods and procedures to issues of importance to social work and social welfare. Our doctoral program is designed to produce high-ranking scholars who will make significant contributions to the knowledge base of the profession in social work academia.

Rankings

Overall

- #4 Most Popular Social Work School by College Factual
- #5 Best Social Work School for Veterans by College Factual
- #12 Best Social Work College for Non-Traditional Students by College Factual
- #19 Best – Top Overall Social Work School by College Factual

Bachelor of Social Work Rankings

- #1 Best College for Social Work Majors in Texas by Zippa.com
- #3 Most Popular Bachelor of Social Work Program by College Factual
- #15 BSW Online Program by BestMSWPrograms.com
Master of Social Work Rankings
- #1 Most Affordable CSWE – Accredited MSW Program
- #1 Best MSW Online Program by BestMSWPrograms.com
- #2 Accelerated Online MSW Degree Program Best MSW Online Program by CollegeValuesOnline.com
- #4 Top Affordable MSW Online Program by SocialWorkDegree.com
- #5 Most Popular Master of Social Work Program by College Factual
- #5 Most Affordable Online Master’s in Social Work by College Choice
- #6 Best CSWE – Accredited Online MSW Programs in Texas by OnlineMSWDegrees.com
- #7 Best Online Master’s in Social Work Program by Best College Reviews
- #16 All-Star MSW Program and Rankings by MSWGuide.com
- #17 Best online MSW Program – Listed as Most Flexible by Intelligent.com
- #22 Online Master of Social Work by OnlineSchoolsReport.com
- #31 Best Residential MSW Program by BestMSWPrograms.com
- #40 Best Master of Social Work Program by TFE
- #51 Best Graduate Social Work Program by U.S. News & World Report

PhD in Social Work Rankings
- Listed Among the Best PhD in Social Work Programs by College Choice
- #23 Most Popular PhD in Social Work Degree Program by College Factual
- #25 in the Nation for The Best PhD in Social Work Program by BestMSWPrograms.com

Guiding Principles
1. Student Access and Success
2. Research and Creative Works
3. Inclusive Excellence
4. Engagement and Community Outreach

Enrollment
Today the SSW has more than 2,000 BSW, BSSUT, MSW and PhD in social work students.

As one of the largest schools of social work in the country, enrollment this year is at a historic high with 670 undergraduate, 1,307 masters, and 37 PhD students totaling 2,014.

Research
UTA’s School of Social Work has a diverse and robust research portfolio reflecting the varied interests and expertise of faculty members. One will find scholarly contributions in many forms, including peer-reviewed journal articles, policy papers, books and research reports aimed at reaching not only academic audiences, but also community partners and consumers.

The Office of Research and Professional Development serves as a nexus for a variety of services and support to foster the research productivity of our faculty and students while also enhancing the research capacity of our community partners.

The Center for Addiction and Recovery Studies provides researched, evidenced-based, trauma-informed services in prevention, intervention and recovery support services; trains social workers ready to make changes in oppressed populations; and adds to addiction and recovery practice knowledge through collaborative research. This is accomplished through programs offered in Dallas and Tarrant counties, instituting a comprehensive student intern training program for social work interns, and collaborating with researchers from the School of Social Work and the community.

Visit the School of Social Work website for more information.
The University of Texas at Arlington

Located on a 420-acre campus in the heart of the thriving Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metro area (population 8 million), UTA is a comprehensive teaching, research, and public service institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through scholarship and creative work.

Founded in 1895 as a private liberal arts institution, UTA enrolls over 41,000 students and employs nearly 5,000 faculty and staff. The university has the fifth most ethnically diverse undergraduate population in the United States (U.S. News & World Report, 2023) and is a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (U.S. Department of Education). UTA graduates the most African American students at the master’s degree level and the second-most at the undergraduate degree of any Texas university (Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, 2022).

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

In 2021, the combination of outstanding academics and innovative research contributed to the University once again receiving R-1 “Very High Research Activity” designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. By providing exceptional educational opportunities and addressing important societal challenges, UTA 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 has 16 graduate programs ranked as “Best Graduate Schools” by U.S. News & World Report (2023).
- UTA is ranked No. 5 nationally on the U.S. News & World Report’s undergraduate diversity index and is ranked No. 41 as a “Top Performer on Social Mobility” (2023).
- UTA is ranked No. 4 for veterans and their families among four-year institutions (Military Times, 2022).
- UTA alumni occupy leadership positions at many of the 22 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in North Texas.
- 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 171 colleges and universities recognized on the Phi Theta Kappa 2022 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).
Mission

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. The University 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 communities share diverse cultural values that foster inclusivity and cultivate mutual respect.

University Academics

UTA offers more than 180 baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degree programs across nine schools and colleges, including the largest nursing college at a public university in the country. Students hail from coast to coast and over 100 countries worldwide, with around 10,000 living on or near campus. Each year, approximately 14,000 graduates join the ranks of UTA alumni, now numbering more than 250,000.

Academic Colleges

- College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs
- College of Business
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Nursing and Health Innovation
- College of Science
- Honors College
- School of Social Work

Accreditation

The University of Texas at Arlington is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. In addition, many of UTA’s academic departments and schools have received national accreditation from specific agencies. These accreditations are detailed under the individual listings for departments and schools in the University Catalog.
Leadership

President Jennifer Cowley

The University of Texas at Arlington welcomed Dr. Cowley, PhD, on April 28, 2022, as 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, Dr. 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.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Tamara L. Brown

UTA welcomed Dr. Brown, PhD, as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs on Aug. 1, 2022. Dr. Brown came to UTA from UNT, where she served as executive dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the largest college on its campus.

Before joining UNT in 2019, Dr. Brown was interim dean of graduate studies at Prairie View A&M University, with academic roots in psychology and juvenile justice.

Arlington, Texas

Arlington, Texas, is one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation. Located 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 is also the hometown of three professional sports teams: the Texas Rangers, the Dallas Cowboys, and the Dallas Wings, the latter of which 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, company, and 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. The University is also 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.
Nominations and Applications

The Search Committee invites letters of interest and nominations to be submitted directly to the search firm, Anthem Executive. Correspondence should include a curriculum vitae and a letter of interest describing relevant experience and interest in the position, and should be submitted to: UTADeanSSW@AnthemExecutive.com

Letters of interest and nominations will be accepted until the positions are filled; however, they should be submitted as soon as possible in order to assure consideration. Expressing interest is the first step in receiving consideration and does not make one an applicant for the position.

The UTA Employment Commitment

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 which includes contact information.