UTA | Office of Research and Innovation

DISCOVERY DIGEST

A CAMPUS RESEARCH RESOURCE

NOVEMBER 2025

Featured Stories

Do more with less strain: UTA's robotic arm

Engineers at The University of Texas at Arlington have developed a soft robotic exoskeleton that lightens the load—literally—by reducing strain on the arm and elbow. Called the Pneumatically Actuated Soft Elbow Exoskeleton (PASE), the device uses a lightweight silicone "pneumatic actuator"—a soft, air-filled mechanism that helps move the arm—to assist movement during everyday industrial tasks such as lifting, assembling and drilling. Its flexible design aims to lower the risk of developing work-related musculoskeletal disorders, which account for about 30% of all workplace injuries in the U.S. and cost an estimated $45–54 billion annually in workers' comp and recovery. MSN.com, Wonderful Engineering, World News, and Tech Explore reshared the UTA news release.

READ MORE

UTA McNair Scholars Program
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

APPLICATION OPEN!

MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Gain valuable skills and assistance with:

- Graduate school application preparation
- Paid Faculty Mentored Research during the summer
- Waived graduate school application fees
- Free Conference Travel and Presentation opportunities
- Building a competitive CV, personal statement, and more!
- Fellowship applications
- FREE GRE preparation

Priority Deadline November 3

Application Closes December 1

SCAN OUR QR CODE TO LEARN MORE!

APPLY TODAY

McNair Scholars Program ---- $4,000 Summer Research

Are you an undergraduate interested in pursuing a Ph.D. and advancing your research career? The McNair Scholars program at UTA is now accepting applications until **December 1, 2025**!

LEARN MORE

UTA☆
Office of Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program
Undergraduate Research Assistant Program

UROP/UGRAP

Applications

Open October 1st

for Spring 2026

Deadline for submission is November 30, 2025

Offers students hands-on experience working with faculty and research mentors on meaningful projects.

$1,500 Stipend for Participants

OPEN TO ALL MAJORS!

APPLY TODAY!

Scan to apply or visit:
https://shorturl.at/Kua0p

ELIGIBITY REQUIREMENTS

- Full-time UTA student
- 2.75 CGPA
- UROP: U.S. Citizenship/Permanent Resident & International
  UGRAP: U.S. Citizenship/Permanent Resident required (Work-study eligibility form required)

CONTACT US!

📞 817-272-1272

✉ ugresearch@uta.edu

📷 uta_ugresearch

Apply Now: 2026 Spring UROP and UGRAP! --- $1,500 Stipend

The application for the Spring 2026 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) and Undergraduate Research Assistant Program (UGRAP) is now open! These programs, open to all majors, offer undergraduate students the opportunity to engage in hands-on research alongside UTA faculty members across various disciplines for a semester. Deadline to Apply: **November 30, 2025**

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LEARN MORE

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Information Items

Call for Proposals: Core Facilities Funding Program

The Office of Research and Innovation is pleased to announce the upcoming cycle of the Core Facilities Funding Program, which aims to support UTA Core Facilities and strengthen the university's research infrastructure in alignment with the goals outlined in the UTA 2030 strategic plan. Researchers and users of UTA Core Facilities are strongly encouraged to collaborate with the leadership of the relevant Core Facility to suggest additions that provide essential capabilities. All proposals will undergo review and evaluation by the Core Facilities Steering Committee, a faculty-led

body responsible for governance and strategic oversight of UTA's Core Facilities. **The deadline for submission is Friday, January 2, 2026.** For further questions or additional guidance, please contact: corefacilities@uta.edu.

[**Learn more**](#)

Nominate Your Colleagues for UTA Faculty Research Honors

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation is pleased to announce the opening of the prestigious UTA Faculty Research Honors nomination season. This is the highest recognition the university bestows upon researchers to celebrate impactful scholarly and creative achievements. Nominating a colleague highlights groundbreaking research and supports their professional advancement.

All academic units and faculty are strongly encouraged to submit nominations. The nomination window is open Monday, Nov. 3 through Friday, Dec. 12. Review the [official Faculty Research Honors Overview and Nomination Guidelines](#) for details.

CFSC Survey: Coordinating Major Research Instrumentation

The Core Facilities Steering Committee (CFSC) seeks to coordinate efforts related to major research instrumentation acquisitions at UTA by connecting potential users and fostering collaboration across departments. The goal is to:

- Identify faculty interested in acquiring major instrumentation through grant funding mechanisms (e.g., NSF MRI, NIH S10, DOD DURIP)
- Help align these efforts with appropriate core facilities
- Facilitate connections among faculty who may share interests in specific instrumentation capabilities and thus provide project ideas to enhance grant applications
- Support development of strong, collaborative instrumentation proposals

Take the survey

Important Changes to Proposal Submission Deadlines

To uphold the University of Texas at Arlington's commitment to research excellence and operational accountability, new procedural deadlines for proposal preparation and submission will take effect **January 1, 2026**. These deadlines are a necessary step toward ensuring a more consistent, efficient, and well-supported process for the entire institution. **Learn more about what's changing**

Upcoming Career Awards

Applications are open for the AABB Early Career Scientific Research Grants Program. The Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies awards grants for investigator-initiated original research in all aspects of blood banking, transfusion medicine and biotherapies. **Submission deadline is December 1, 2025.** Please contact UTA's Center for Proposal Development by submitting a Request for Grant Proposal Assistance to start your journey toward excellence.

Please see attachment for additional current career awards.

View additional awards

Research Enhancement Program Announcement

The Office of Research and Innovation is excited to announce the Research Enhancement Program (REP) is now open for [26-27 REP Proposals](#). This investment by UTA builds upon our [Carnegie R1 Classification](#) legacy to harness researcher creativity and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. We encourage proposals that leverage existing UTA research facilities, equipment, and specialized capabilities.

Program Highlights:

- Project Duration: 15 months
- Funding Offered: Up to $16,000 per project
- Submission Deadline: Friday, Dec. 5, 2025

Please take this opportunity to collect valuable data and develop competitive proposals for future extramural funding. We look forward to your innovative ideas!

New IRB Protocol Access Feature in Mentis

Beginning Monday, Nov. 3, 2025, Mentis will have a new feature to manage access to IRB protocols. Join one of our upcoming information sessions to learn how this new function works and how it can support your research activities.

- Thursday, Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. (**Register here**)
- Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 10 a.m. (**Register here**)

IEEE Sensors Journal Celebrates 25 Years

The IEEE Sensors Council is celebrating the 25th year anniversary of *IEEE Sensors Journal*, with activities, awards and recognitions at the 2025 IEEE Sensors Conference in Vancouver. The Journal is the largest topical journal in IEEE in the number of papers published with an impact factor of 4.5, and an acceptance rate of 23% in 2025. It is ranked #4 in paper downloads among 170+ publications in IEEE. **Learn more**

Upcoming Training and Events

Friday, Nov. 7, 1-3 p.m.

UTARI & TMAC Open House

Join us for an exciting opportunity to explore the cutting-edge research and innovations happening at the UT Arlington Research Institute and the TMAC Automation Lab. The event is designed with faculty, staff, and students in mind, but open to anyone interested in research. Feel free to stop in, explore the labs, and talk with our researchers and faculty anytime between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. **Register here**.

Friday, Nov. 14, 12 p.m.

Data Storage Security and Recovery

Join us for lunch and learn about UTA research security and recovery from campus experts: Edward Gonzales, Director OIT Research Support | Garrett Werner, Research Security Manager. Please **RSVP** by Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Friday, Nov. 21, 12-2 p.m.

Research Integrity: Meeting Compliance Requirements for Regulated Research Activities

Join The Center for Proposal Development for a hybrid information session with the Office of Regulatory Services, as they present an overview of federal regulations & UTA procedures for the conduct of regulated research activities, including human subject research, animal research, research involving recombinant DNA, research conflicts of interest, and export control. This workshop is open to any UTA faculty, staff or students interested in learning more about regulatory areas, such as animal & human subject research, biological research, & export control.

Join online or in-person, at SEIR 194. **RSVP required** for in-person attendance.

If you have an event to promote, submit it to the _UTA Events Calendar_ *and tag "Research."*
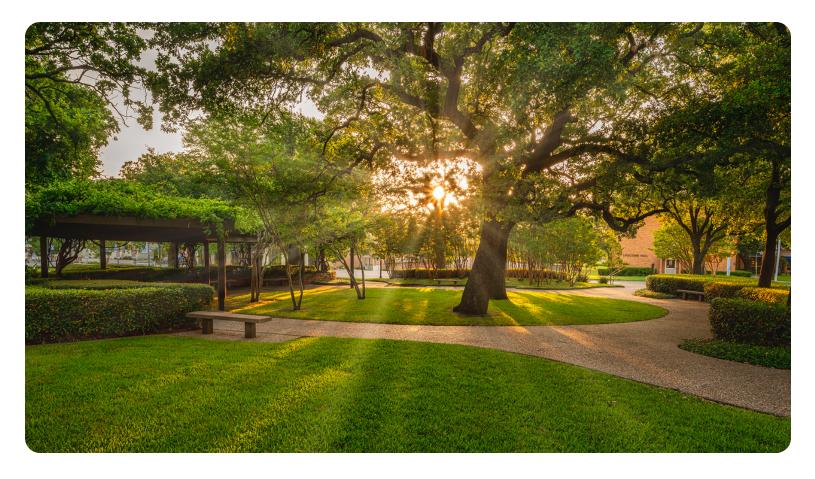

Regulatory Updates

NOT-OD-25-159: Establishes standardized security protocols for controlled-access data repositories

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is implementing consistent and robust protocols to ensure NIH controlled-access data are appropriately safeguarded, consistent with Executive Order 14117 and 28 CFR Part 202, "Preventing Access to U.S. Sensitive Personal Data and Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern or Covered Persons." In addition to further protecting Americans' sensitive personal health-related data from misuse by foreign adversaries, these security and operational standards are intended to enhance the efficacy of controls for protecting the privacy and autonomy of research participants, harmonize NIH controlled-access data repositories' submission and access processes, standardize user terms of access, establish specific security requirements for repositories and users, and set requirements for public transparency.

NOT-OD-25-160: Sets new expectations for securing human biospecimens from foreign threats

NIH is implementing additional policies and standard practices to protect Americans' sensitive and personal health-related data from foreign adversary misuse. This NIH Policy on Enhancing Security Measures for Human Biospecimens (herein referred to as NIH Biospecimens Security Policy) establishes expectations for ensuring the security of human biospecimens whose collection, obtainment, storage, use, or distribution are supported by NIH funds. The policy ensures protections for human participants and vital national security interests, consistent with EO 14117 and 28 CFR Part 202 "Preventing Access to U.S. Sensitive Personal Data and Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern or Covered Persons".

Contact the Office of Regulatory Services at regulatoryservices@uta.edu if you have any questions about these NIH notices.

Research Achievements

UTA study: Just a little movement can lift your mood

UTA earns elite status for cybersecurity research

Do you have research news that should be promoted to the media? See how UTA can help raise awareness of your research.