

DECEMBER 2024

UPCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

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FRIDAY, DEC. 13 | 12:00 P.M.

LEARN TO ENGAGE WITH DOD

Join [Erik Wolf](#) of The Conafay Group [online](#) or in person in Engineering Research Building room 228 for a workshop on how to obtain Department of Defense (DoD) medical research and development funding. Attendees will learn tools to improve competitiveness for research dollars and win grants from the Defense Health Agency and other related entities. Speakers will discuss how to engage the DoD, what kinds of research DoD funds, and how its system works. **Lunch will be provided for in-person staff, faculty, or student attendees. Please complete this [RSVP form](#) by Tuesday, Dec. 10**, for additional meeting information and to be included in the lunch order. If you need accommodations, please contact [Elissa Williams](#).

FRIDAY, JAN. 10 | 12 P.M.

AGREEMENTS AND WORKING WITH INDUSTRY

Join Dan Vincenzo with UTA's Office of Grants and Contract Services on Friday, Jan. 10, [online](#) or in person in Trinity 104 to discuss how to contract with industry and the various agreement options UTA has developed to expedite agreements. The seminar will review the steps researchers should take internally before meeting with industry partners and how to fast-track industry connections that can lead to funding for your projects. **Lunch will be provided for all staff, faculty, and student in-person attendees. Please complete this [RSVP form](#) by Wednesday Jan. 8**, for additional meeting information and to be included in the lunch order. If you need accommodations, please contact [Elissa Williams](#).

TUESDAY, JAN. 14 | 1 P.M.

JANUARY DRA MEETING

At the January Departmental Research Administrator (DRA) Meeting, Rondine Perry in UTA's Grant Accounting will discuss financial grant closeout in UTShare after the award has expired. Contact [Elissa Williams](#) to be added to the DRA meeting.

Capitalization Threshold Update

The State Comptroller and the federal government have increased the capitalization threshold for certain assets at UTA to \$10,000. This change affects furniture, equipment, vehicles, boats, and aircraft. Additionally, UTA's controlled asset thresholds will be updated as follows:

- Firearms and computing devices: \$0–\$9,999.99
- Other controlled assets: \$500–\$9,999.99

Cost Centers and Plant Fund Projects

For transactions recorded on cost centers and plant fund projects, use the new \$10,000 threshold. Assets purchased or placed into service before Sept. 1, 2024, will follow the old cost threshold requirements.

Sponsored Projects

Due to indirect cost (IDC) implications, there is an additional level of complexity for sponsored projects. The current federally negotiated IDC rate agreement specifies that UTA cannot charge IDC on equipment costing more than \$5,000. This will not change until on or about Sept. 1, 2025. To avoid burdening budgets that did not account for IDC on items between \$5,000 and \$9,999.99:

- Active Grant Projects: Continue using capital equipment expense codes for equipment \$5,000 and over. Accounting Services will adjust entries for equipment costing between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to ensure accurate financial reporting as non-capitalized.
- Proposal Budgeting:
 - *Non-Federal Projects*: Use the \$10,000 threshold for budgeting effective immediately. Items below \$10,000 will be included in the supply line.
 - *Federal Projects*: Continue using the \$5,000 threshold until the new facilities and administrative rates are finalized. Items between \$5,000 and \$9,999.99 will be listed as equipment but not capitalized.

New projects will be set up according to the awarded budget, using either the \$5,000 or \$10,000 threshold as budgeted.

For more details, visit [Business Affairs online](#) or contact:

- Asset tagging questions: Distribution_services@uta.edu, 817-272-2191
- Controlled assets questions: Inventory@uta.edu, 817-272-9684

- Capitalization questions: Aprell.feagin@uta.edu, 817-272-6180
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Faculty Honor Nominations Due Jan. 12

Through Jan. 12, 2025, each college is accepting applications for the [Faculty Research Honors](#) that recognize faculty members who have made significant contributions to their fields. The “Distinguished Record of Research or Creative Activity Award” recognizes a faculty member for achieving a distinguished record of research and scholarship or creative activity over an extended period. The “Outstanding Research Achievement or Creative Accomplishment Award” recognizes a faculty member for achieving a particularly important research or creative accomplishment during the past three years.

OGCS Hours and Proposal Submission

The Office of Grant and Contract Services’ (OGCS) hours of operation remain Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If an investigator requires assistance after hours, prior approval is required from the [assistant vice president for research](#). **Requests must include sufficient detail to justify an afterhours submission, including the reason the proposal cannot be submitted during business hours.** To guarantee a successful submission, proposals should be submitted to OGCS PreAward as early as possible, but at least three business days prior to submission. OGCS will accept, review, and submit proposals within three days of the deadline, but the level of review may be limited. The University reserves the right to withdraw, attempt to modify, or decline awards that were not given to OGCS prior to the three-day deadline and as a result do not conform to policy, procedures or guidelines. Proposals submitted with sufficient lead time benefit by receiving a thorough review of the proposal, including completion or review of administrative components, development or review of budget and budget justification, review and comment on the proposal taking into consideration responsiveness to sponsor requirements and guidelines, review of biosketch, and other requests. Questions should be directed to [Sarah Panepinto](#) and notification of upcoming submissions should be directed to preaward@uta.edu.

Join DRA Teams Channel

Join the Teams channel for Departmental Research Administrators (DRAs) and get the latest information from each other and Pre- and PostAward staff in the Office of Grants and Contract Services. The group meets virtually every other month to discuss best practices and bring in UTA subject matter experts to answer your questions. Contact [Elissa Williams](#) to be added to the Teams channel for DRAs.

Free headshots available for researchers

UTA provides free headshots to faculty and staff. Visit the Marketing, Messaging, and Engagement [website to schedule a studio portrait](#). If you schedule an appointment, please show up at your allotted time to prevent delays for your colleagues.

UTA biologist discovers new species of gecko

UT Arlington biologist Walter Schargel and colleagues [have published](#) their description of a new species of gecko found in Venezuela. The story of the 2.5-inch “grumpy gecko” was reported by [The Dallas Morning News](#), [Miami Herald](#), [Penn Live](#), [NBC DFW](#), [Los Angeles Daily News](#), [Orange County Register](#), [MSN News](#), and [The Kansas City Star](#).

Study links dating apps to increased risk of STIs

A [study](#) by UTA’s Jaquetta Reeves and Erick Jones Jr. found an association between the use of dating apps and risk of sexually transmitted infections. The story was covered by [U.S. News and World Report](#), [UPI](#), [La Sexta News Spain](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [News Medical](#), [Fox 28 Spokane](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [KULR 8 Montana](#), and [Global Dating Insights](#).

Researchers begin quest for rare lizard

UTA biologists Corey Roelke and Matt Fujita have a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife to travel to the Chinati Mountains of far west Texas to determine if the Dixon’s Whiptail is a new species of lizard—one so rare, it may be an endangered species. [Houston Chronicle](#), [WFAA](#), [SciTech Daily](#), [MSN News](#), [Reptiles Magazine](#), and [Marfa Public Radio](#) all covered the story.

Do you have research news that should be promoted to the media? Contact [Katherine Egan Bennett](#), assistant director of research communications, to see how Media Relations can help [raise awareness of your research](#). Some grant funders may like to see these stories as signs of the impact of your research on the community.



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AT ARLINGTON

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