

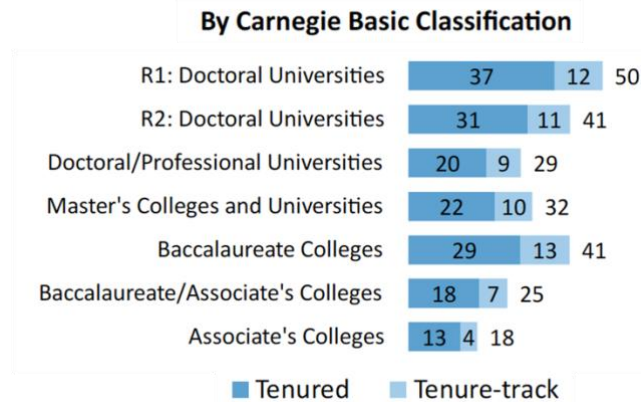
Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty in the United States, Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin

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I am speaking for myself as a private citizen and not representing any group.

In the United States, the percentage of tenured and tenure-track faculty varies with the type of the higher education institution, as shown below. [Ref] The Fall 2021 data is for nonmedical instructional staff, and higher education institutions are grouped by their Carnegie Basic Classification. The Carnegie Basic Classification does not include medical schools. Data shows the number of tenured, tenure-track, and tenured plus tenure-track faculty. Counts are rounded:



In the Carnegie Basic Classification for Doctoral Universities,

- [Tier 1 Classification](#) is R1: Doctoral University – Very high research activity
- [Tier 2 Classification](#) is R2: Doctoral University – High research activity
- Other Doctoral/Professional Universities

Among the three categories, the percentage of tenured and tenure-track faculty increases with increasing research activity in the above figure. R2 designation requires \$5M/year in research expenditures and conferral of at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees per year (or 30 professional practice doctoral degrees per year in at least 2 programs). R1 designation requires exceeding the R2 requirements by having significant research expenditures in science, engineering, and other fields as well as conferral of doctoral degrees in humanities, social science, STEM, and other fields (e.g., business, education, public policy, social work). Tenure-track and tenured faculty play the primary role in obtaining research funding and conferring doctoral degrees. In the United States, there are 146 R1 and 133 R2 universities. [Ref] Among the seven categories, R1 has the largest number of tenured + tenured faculty members.

It happened only a little more than a year ago that [Texas rose to have more Tier 1 as well as more Tier 2 public research universities than any other state](#). At that time, Gov. Abbott congratulated UT San Antonio for earning Tier 1 status and Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Tarleton State University, and UT Tyler for earning Tier 2 status. Of the 37 four-year public universities, 9 are in Tier 1 and 9 are in Tier 2. Among private universities, Baylor University achieved Tier 1 status. See "[Governor Abbott Congratulates Texas Universities On Earning Prestigious National Research Rankings](#)", Feb. 16, 2022.

In Texas, the public R1 universities are Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, University of Houston, University of North Texas, UT Arlington, UT Austin, UT Dallas, UT El Paso, and UT San Antonio. The public R2 universities are Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Tarleton State University, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University – Kingsville, Texas Southern University, Texas State University, UT Tyler, and UT Rio Grande Valley. [\[Ref\]](#)

According to the 60x30TX report "[Research Funding in Texas Overview](#)", "At public universities and health-related institutions, research expenditures reached \$5.44 billion in FY 2020, an increase of \$681 million (14.3%) from \$4.76 billion in FY 2019." In fiscal year 2020, UT Austin had the [highest National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Funding of any university in the United States](#) and the UT System hit a [record \\$3.4B in research expenditures](#). In the same fiscal year, [UT Austin had \\$797M](#) and [Texas A&M University had \\$1.13B](#) in research expenditures. This month, teams of tenure-track/tenured faculty members at UT Austin, Texas A&M, and other public institutions are leading proposals to the NSF Future of Semiconductors Program [\[Ref\]](#) as well as many other federal research programs.

UT Austin publishes faculty demographics in [Trends in Faculty Data](#). When excluding the Dell Medical School, UT Austin had 402 tenure-track, 1542 tenured, and 1975 non-tenure track faculty in Fall 2021. This is approximately 50% tenured/tenure-track and 50% non-tenure-track faculty, which is at the national average for a Tier 1 university. When including the Dell Medical School, UT Austin had 435 tenure-track, 1580 tenured, and 2533 non-tenure track faculty in Fall 2021, which is approximately 44% tenured/tenure-track and 56% non-tenure-track faculty. The Dell Medical School had 33 tenure-track and 38 tenured faculty in fall 2021 and Dell Medical School faculty collaborate with other faculty at UT Austin. At Dell Medical School, the first tenured faculty joined in 2014, the first tenure-track faculty in 2017, and the first non-tenure track faculty in 2018; the first students enrolled fall 2016. [\[Ref\]](#) From 2013 to 2021, the number of tenured faculty increased from 1555 to 1580, when including the Medical School. Over the years, faculty at UT Austin taught the 500,000+ alumni living today. [\[Ref\]](#)

In Fall 2021, Texas A&M University had 671 tenure-track, 2039 tenured, and 753 non-tenure track faculty, per the [Faculty Profile Report](#) on PDF page 5. This is approximately 78% tenured/tenure-track and 22% non-tenure-track faculty. To help interpret the data in the [Faculty Profile Report](#), only Associate Professors and Professors can be tenured. [\[Ref\]](#) Over the years, faculty at Texas A&M University taught the 500,000+ former students living today. [\[Ref\]](#)

In summary, the national percentages of tenured and tenure-track faculty vary with the type of the higher education institution. For doctoral granting institutions, the percentage of tenured and tenure-track faculty increases with increasing research activity of the institution as measured by the Carnegie Basic Classification categories. A little over a year ago, five public universities in Texas increased their Carnegie tiers of research activity measured in PhDs granted and research expenditures per year to give Texas the most Tier 1 as well as the most Tier 2 public research universities of any state. Tenure-track and tenured faculty play the primary role in both research measures. Texas public colleges and universities obtain billions of dollars in external research funding each year and have over 1M living former students.