

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Accountability in Higher Education: Promoting Excellence in Texas Public Universities through Institutional Groupings, Peers, and Benchmarks

BACKGROUND

Texas' Closing the Gaps plan calls for each public higher education institution to engage in an ongoing pursuit of excellence. A strategy for carrying out that goal relies on the selection of institutional peers and benchmarks of performance against which progress can be measured. Because comparisons between institutions are inevitable, institutions have been grouped according to general academic mission and certain key academic indicators such as size and number of graduate programs, research expenditures, and other factors. The groupings are intended to be neither permanent nor prescriptive. Rather, they are to be considered permeable, subject to revision as institutions evolve. The current peer groups for universities include:

- Research
- Emerging Research
- Doctoral
- Comprehensive
- Master's

OVERVIEW

Making accountability more transparent and promoting excellence in Texas universities through institutional groupings, peers, and benchmarks requires:

- Establishing groupings of institutions of similar types and missions
- Determining for each group appropriate measures that reflect institutional performance
- Determining benchmarks against which to measure success
- Assessing progress annually and taking steps to improve performance

DOCTORAL UNIVERSITIES

Doctoral universities are educational and cultural resource institutions committed to the threefold mission of teaching, research and service. With extensive educational programs, academic efforts are directed to both applied and basic research in selected fields, teaching and scholarship, and creative activities. The universities encourage faculty members to be active researchers in their respective disciplines and to involve both undergraduate and graduate students in research and creative pursuits.

Doctoral universities offer a wide range of excellent baccalaureate and master's programs and are committed to graduate education through the doctorate in targeted areas of excellence and/or regional need.

Doctoral Institutions are expected to reach **three of the following four criteria** to be included in this group:

- Award at least 10 PhD degrees annually
- Offer at least 5 doctoral-research/scholarship programs
- Enroll at least 150 doctoral-research/scholarship students
- Generate at least \$2 million annually in restricted research expenditures

Texas universities that are presently in this category are:

Institution	FY 2020 PhD Award Count	FY 2020 Doctoral Research Scholarship Programs	Fall 2020 Doctoral- Research Scholarship Students	FY 2020 Restricted Research Expenditures (current \$)
Sam Houston State University	24	9	350	\$4,546,841
Texas A&M University Commerce	17	6	494	\$1,511,205

THECB, updated March, 2021

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	17	8	263	\$17,615,912
Texas A&M University Kingsville	18	5	179	\$15,128,090
Texas Southern University	15	7	159	\$3,808,055
Texas Woman's University	104	20	797	\$3,062,906
The University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley	13	8	372	\$8,617,328