COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

We Change People. They Change the World.

The University of Texas at Austin
THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS is home to highly ranked departments and some of the most respected faculty across the country. With Pulitzer Prize winners, Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellows, members of the distinguished National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences among its ranks, the College of Liberal Arts is quickly becoming one of the best liberal arts colleges at a major research university. With nearly all its departments in the top 20 and a few in the top 10, the college is closing in on one of its goals of moving critical departments into the top tier nationally.

The College of Liberal Arts has a bold vision — to become one of the premier liberal arts colleges in the country in the next 10 years. To reach such an ambitious goal the college must create and strengthen core academic programs and departments. The college is setting an aggressive campaign goal of $225 million to help ensure that its vision becomes a reality.

CAMPAIGN PLAN

Central to the campaign is the college’s strategy to strengthen the pillars of teaching and research. Campaign gifts will be directed toward constructing a new liberal arts building, creating and sustaining undergraduate programs, hiring and retaining the best faculty available, and enhancing graduate fellowship and research support. By effectively pursuing each of these goals, the College of Liberal Arts can become one of the best of its kind in the country.

Liberal Arts Building

A key element in the strategy to elevate the college into the national spotlight is the construction of the new liberal arts building. This 200,000 square-foot home will provide vital space for liberal arts students to study and meet, fostering a sense of community and attachment to the college. The building will be anchored by the Department of Sociology and the Population Research Center, two of the best programs in the nation. In an effort to promote interdisciplinary research and grant-writing, the building will also house Departments of Geography and the Environment, Linguistics, American Studies, and Anthropology. At the moment, the college does not have a building that could house such an array of departments and thus provide the collaborative environment that their proximity would produce.

Multidisciplinary environments that make use of the experience and knowledge of researchers from different fields are essential for achieving increased research funding and more competitive national rankings. Finding ways to create those collaborative environments is critical to the college’s success. The liberal arts building is an important step in that direction.

Undergraduate Students

Our goal for improving undergraduate education is ambitious. Funds will be used to enhance opportunities for undergraduate research, to increase the amount and level of scholarship funding, to expand programs in international
education and study abroad, and to create more opportunities for interdisciplinary studies. Other important undergraduate programs such as Liberal Arts Honors, Plan II, and UTeach will also benefit from the capital campaign, producing key academic opportunities for our most ambitious students and future teachers.

**Faculty**
The heart of any great college is its faculty. Over the next 10 years the college will be supporting the University’s goal of reducing the student-faculty ratio by adding a number of new faculty. It is vital that our departments recruit and retain the best professors; however, this process is extremely challenging because other high-caliber universities seek the same faculty. We must provide levels of faculty support for teaching and research that are equal to or exceed those of other institutions. Funding from the campaign will allow the college to create endowed professorships for its best researchers and teachers while also providing teaching and research support for other excellent faculty. Significant resources will also be devoted to fostering multidisciplinary collaboration.

**Graduate Students**
For the college to implement its overall vision, it must be able to recruit the best graduate students and provide the training necessary to propel them into the best academic jobs available. All universities compete to recruit and produce the highest-quality graduate students; for the college to be a contender in this field, it must improve the funding packages provided to students.

The capital campaign will play a major role in this endeavor through the creation of a $40 million Graduate Merit Fellowship Program. This unique program will fully fund 20 graduate students annually for four years and will provide them with the research and professional development support they need to help them secure faculty positions at the best universities in the United States and abroad. Strong graduate placement is critical in order for the college to attain top national standing; the Graduate Merit Fellowship Program will be a model for moving the college forward. Graduate students not in the fellowship program will see enhanced levels of stipends and tuition support and will receive more funds to support research and conference travel, both of which are essential to the growth of great scholars.

**Benefits of Being One of the Best**
Being one of the best liberal arts colleges in the country provides key benefits to the University and the state. The college will challenge students by exposing them to nationally recognized scholars and academic opportunities that span the globe. It will graduate talented and skilled thinkers ready to embark on a broad range of careers. It will raise the stature of the University to increase research funding, work effectively with the University of Texas System and other universities in the state, and secure the best academic talent. The state of Texas will also benefit: As the quality of the college increases, the University strengthens its role as one of the most important social and economic incubators in the state. A great College of Liberal Arts is essential to the mission of the University and a great asset to the people of Texas.
A DISCIPLINED CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

The campaign for the College of Liberal Arts is part of the University-wide campaign to increase resources across the campus and to create the “disciplined culture of excellence” called for by the Commission of 125, which established goals for the University for the coming 25 years. Gifts to the college will support the following areas:

**Faculty** .............................................................................................................................................................. $35,000,000
- Senior faculty recruitment and retention
- Associate chairs

**Students** ........................................................................................................................................................... $98,000,000
- Undergraduate scholarships
- Graduate recruitment and retention
- Graduate Merit Fellowship Program

**Research and Academic Programs** .............................................................................................................. $52,000,000
- Undergraduate research
- UTeach
- Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies
- Dean's Fund for Excellence

**Facilities** ........................................................................................................................................................... $40,000,000
- Liberal Arts Building

**Total** ................................................................................................................................................................ $225,000,000