



**Dean of Honors College  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga**

## **The University**

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) is an emerging research institution (ERI) and a national model for metropolitan universities. Located in downtown Chattanooga, a renaissance city of 500,000 residents in Southeast Tennessee, the main footprint of campus offers the beauty of a campus located in a college town with the amenities of a metropolitan location. UTC serves a vibrant and diverse student body, metropolitan area, and region. The university has an enrollment of over 11,000 students, 58% of whom identify as female. Approximately 23% of the student body self-identify as members of a minority group and 20% are first generation students.

UTC is the second largest institution in the [University of Tennessee System](#). Founded in 1886 as a private college, it became part of the UT system in 1969. The four degree-granting colleges (College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Computer Science, Gary W. Rollins College of Business, and College of Health, Education and Professional Studies) offer 47 undergraduate [degree programs](#) with 98 concentrations. Together they offer 29 graduate programs including 6 doctoral programs. The Honors College and the Library, both led by Deans, further enrich the academic culture on campus; the Honors College and the College of Engineering and Computer Science collaboratively offer the new UTC Grand Challenges in Engineering Program. UTC has ten Chairs of Excellence and an array of endowed professorships. The University's Division 1 athletic program has been strengthened measurably over the past several years, lifting the profile of the university regionally and nationally.

The Chattanooga metropolitan area is often used as an extension of the classroom, with partnerships and collaborations across the city that provide various forms of community engagement and experiential learning opportunities for UTC students that include immersive, hands-on research, internships and practicum experiences, and service-learning. Through these experiences, our students are better prepared to contribute to the regional and state economy and workforce. Indeed, the university's [strategic plan](#) has an ambitious goal to embed high impact practices within all degree programs.

## **The City of Chattanooga**

UTC is part of the fabric of Chattanooga and plays an important role in the intellectual, cultural, and economic vitality of the city, Tennessee, and nearby bordering areas in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and North Carolina. It is within a day's drive of the best beaches in the Gulf and on the Eastern US Seaboard, and a short drive away from either the beautiful Appalachian Mountains or metropolitan areas such as Atlanta or Nashville. The city provides natural beauty, a revitalized riverfront, outdoor adventure areas, and a thriving environment for arts and culture. The metropolitan area is enhanced by the diversity of its population and economy, and by a strong spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. The community offers an excellent quality of life and an affordable cost of living. Chattanooga is included on "must visit" destination lists of several media outlets including the [New York Times](#), [Travel and Leisure](#), [Outside Magazine](#), and [Southern Living](#).



Chattanooga is internationally recognized as an innovative smart US city and was among the first US cities to be designated a Smart Gigabit Community by [US Ignite](#). This designation indicates a commitment by the community to leverage advanced science, mathematics, engineering, computing, and networking technologies to improve city processes and quality of life for all citizens. The city's ongoing dedication to advancing technology has attracted dozens of startups to join companies already here such as [Volkswagen](#), Amazon, [Novonix](#), Unum, McKee Foods, U.S. Xpress, and Coca-Cola Bottling Company United. Economic development includes successful innovation in areas such as advanced manufacturing, resilient and secure electric grid, decarbonizing transportation and mobility, and healthcare. UTC plays a significant role in these efforts through R&D, entrepreneurship, and workforce development, as well as through growing the number of public-private partnerships. UTC signed a 10-year partnership agreement with Chattanooga's Electric Power Board in 2023. This renewable agreement provides UTC access to the [EPB Quantum Network powered by Qubitekk](#) via a node within a quantum technology laboratory on campus. In addition, a memorandum of understanding between UTC and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) regarding collaborative activities in Quantum Information Science and Engineering (QISE) was signed in June 2024. The partners agree to invest in joint activities that include capturing extramural funding for collaborative R&D and providing opportunities for student internships at ORNL.

## **The Honors College**

UTC's Honors College offers a rich, immersive educational experience that fosters intellectual curiosity, scholarly excellence, and personal growth, with a strong foundation in the arts and humanities and opportunities to collaborate across disciplines. Serving roughly 400 high-achieving students across multiple honors pathways, the College provides a flexible interdisciplinary model that welcomes students from any major at the university. Students benefit from individualized academic advising, priority registration, and a supportive learning community connected to the Chattanooga region.

Programs include the Brock Scholars Program, a four-year interdisciplinary honors track; Innovations in Honors, a problem-based pathway for transfer and current students; and Departmental Honors, culminating in a senior thesis and academic distinction at graduation. Students engage in experiential learning, including study abroad, internships, service learning, and undergraduate research, and collaborate closely with the Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships to pursue nationally competitive awards and transformative post-graduate opportunities.

Housed in the Guerry Center, the College provides spaces that promote collaboration and community. Honors students also live and learn in the Honors Residential College, where academic and social experiences converge to foster leadership, engagement, and personal growth. The College's mission emphasizes creating a welcoming community of inquiry and support while cultivating innovation, research engagement, and transformative leadership through a globally informed curriculum.

## **The Dean Position**

Reporting to the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Dean provides academic and administrative leadership for the Honors College, shaping its strategic direction and ensuring the success of its programs, faculty, staff, and students. The Dean advances the College's mission by promoting rigorous honors education, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, enhancing student success, and stewarding resources effectively.



The Dean will have the opportunity to strengthen the College's national profile, deepen relationships with alumni, and expand partnerships across the university and the Chattanooga community. A key priority will be sustaining innovative programs like Grand Challenge Scholars, which bridges engineering and honors coursework and engages students across disciplines. The Dean will also guide strategies for student recruitment, retention, and graduation, identifying resources and teaching infrastructure to support program growth and innovation.

The Dean will:

- Build goodwill across the broader campus and serve as a persuasive advocate for honors education
- Work closely with students in a hands-on, mentoring capacity
- Understand the uniqueness of honors education, including curricular design, peer-reviewed scholarship, and national honors standards
- Promote the arts and humanities as foundational to the honors curriculum
- Serve as a connector and negotiator, fostering collaboration among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners
- Lead strategic planning and identify innovative approaches to program growth, student engagement, and experiential learning
- Support recruitment, mentorship, and retention of outstanding faculty and staff
- Oversee daily operations, budgeting, and long-term resource planning
- Partner with the Office of Advancement to cultivate alumni relations and philanthropic support
- Advocate for honors students and champion high-impact learning opportunities

## **Qualifications**

The successful candidate should possess the following preferred qualifications:

- An earned doctorate or terminal degree from an accredited institution and academic credentials appropriate for appointment as a tenured full professor at UTC
- A strong understanding of honors curriculum, pedagogy, and the arts and humanities foundation
- The ability to engage the entire campus community in maintaining the highest standards of academic excellence
- A vision for the growth and continued success of the Honors College
- Experience developing and implementing a strategic plan
- Demonstrated success in academic leadership, collaborative decision making, and program innovation
- Experience with interdisciplinary academic initiatives and honors educational models
- Proven ability to manage complex academic operations, including budgeting, personnel development, and assessment
- Evidence of successful advocacy to garner support for a robust four-year Honors curriculum across all disciplines
- A track record of working closely with students and advocating for their academic and professional success
- Commitment to student success, experiential learning, and community-embedded education



- The ability to engage and leverage alumni networks to advance programming, partnership development, and fundraising initiatives
- A collaborative spirit to strengthen goodwill across a variety of campus and community stakeholders
- Experience fostering innovative programs and cross-disciplinary partnerships
- A forward-looking vision for honors education aligned with UTC's mission
- An appreciation for Honors education and the distinctive qualities it brings to the university at large
- Experience developing and administering interdisciplinary courses and curricular programs
- Effective oral and written communication skills and strong interpersonal capabilities

### Application Process

The Search Committee invites applications, inquiries, and nominations for this position. Applications should be accompanied by a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information of at least five professional references to the search firm assisting the University. Review of applications will begin immediately; however, it is preferred that all nominations and applications be received by **March 5, 2026**. The desired start date is July 1, 2026. All inquiries, applications, and nominations in confidence should be directed to:

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Jacob Anderson, Senior Principal  
Scott Gaffney, Associate  
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*Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), ADA (disability), ADEA (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the (EEO). Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the EEO office.*