



**WT**

**WEST TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY™

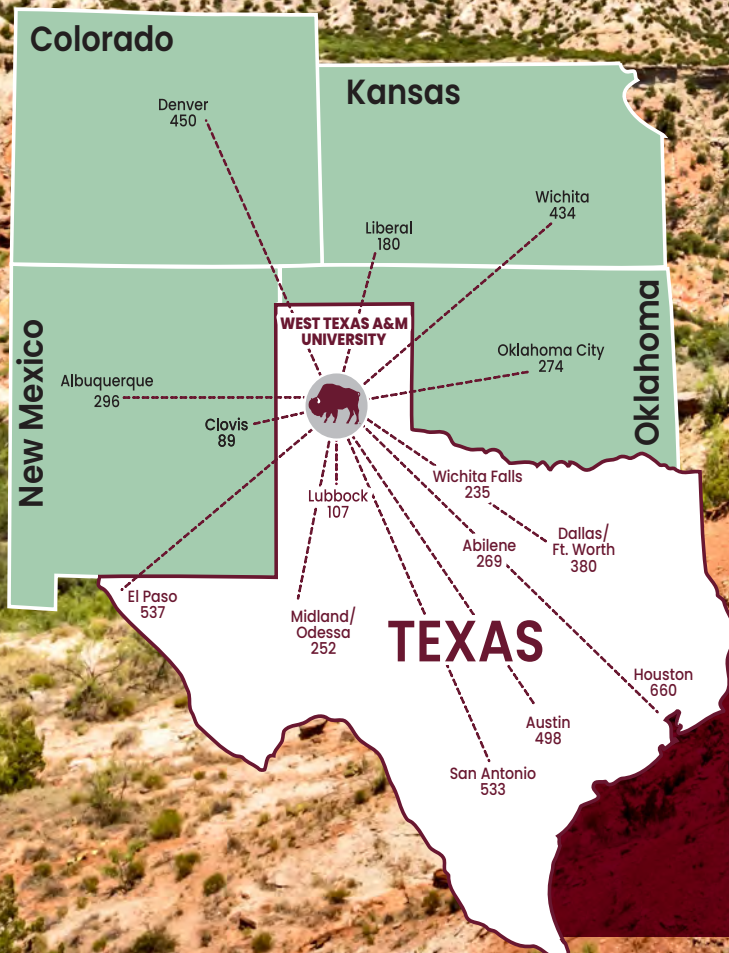
# PRESIDENT POSITION PROFILE

# Welcome to Canyon!

West Texas A&M University is located in Canyon—just 12 miles from Palo Duro Canyon, the second-largest canyon in the United States—and is conveniently located near Amarillo, a growing metropolis that's the largest city on Interstate 40 between Oklahoma City and Albuquerque.

This region is renowned for its historical significance, vibrant arts and entertainment options, unique shopping, delicious food and the friendliest people in the state.

Texas Highways magazine has named Canyon a small town worth visiting, thanks in large part to what WT offers: a full range of on-campus events for students and the public alike, from rousing athletics competitions to stirring arts performances and exhibitions to insightful educational opportunities.



- 15 miles from Amarillo, TX
- 12 miles from beautiful Palo Duro Canyon
- One-hour plane ride to/from Dallas/Ft. Worth
- A half-day's drive to New Mexico and Colorado slopes

An aerial photograph of the West Texas A&M University campus and the surrounding Amarillo area. The image shows a mix of modern university buildings, older structures, and green spaces. In the background, the flat landscape of the Texas Panhandle stretches to the horizon under a dramatic, sunset-colored sky with orange and yellow hues. The foreground and middle ground are filled with various campus buildings, some with large windows reflecting the light. A prominent building with a clock tower is visible on the right side. The overall scene conveys a sense of a large, established institution in a vast, open region.

# About WT

West Texas A&M University is a Regional Research University in Canyon, Texas, on a 342-acre residential campus, as well as the Harrington Academic Hall WTAMU Amarillo Center in downtown Amarillo.

WT enters its next chapter from a position of significant institutional momentum. The University has earned recognition as a Research College and University, invests approximately \$10 million annual in research, and continues to expand opportunities for applied research and regional partnerships. WT also recently completed the historic One West comprehensive campaign, raising more than \$208 million and substantially increasing endowed faculty positions and scholarship support. Together, these accomplishments reflect a University building upon its regional mission while expanding its capacity for research, student success, philanthropy and impact.

Established in 1910, the University has been part of The Texas A&M University System since 1990.

WT boasts an enrollment of about 9,000 and offers multiple options for students to graduate and succeed: 65 undergraduate degree programs, including eight associate degrees; and 41 graduate degrees, including an integrated bachelor's and master's degree, a specialist degree and three doctoral degrees.

The Buffaloes are a member of the NCAA Division II Lone Star Conference; WT offers 16 men's and women's athletics programs.

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset. The sun is a large, bright orange orb in the upper right, casting a warm glow over the scene. In the foreground, a large, modern university building with a flat roof and several wings is visible. Beyond the building, a parking lot filled with cars is situated. The city extends into the background, with various buildings, trees, and a prominent water tower. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

# About The Texas A&M University System

The Texas A&M University System is one of the largest and most impactful higher education systems in the country, with an annual budget of \$9.1 billion. Its statewide network includes 12 universities, a comprehensive health science center, eight state agencies, Texas A&M–Fort Worth and the Texas A&M–RELLIS Campus.

The A&M System also plays a direct role in U.S. national security as a member of the teams that manage and operate Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Pantex Plant for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

The A&M System serves more than 184,000 students and reaches millions more through research, service and outreach programs each year. With nearly \$1.6 billion in annual research expenditures, the A&M System fuels innovation, supports communities and drives Texas' economy forward.

THE  

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TEXAS A&M  

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UNIVERSITY  

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SYSTEM

# OUR mission

The mission of West Texas A&M University is to provide intellectually challenging, reflective, regionally responsive, and comprehensive academic programs that discover, interpret, apply, and disseminate knowledge for preparing the next generation of citizens in Texas, the nation, and the world.



# OUR vision

Guided by its pioneering spirit, West Texas A&M University is recognized for its excellence in teaching and learning, and a strong focus on engaging students in experiences that aid in the development of skills, capabilities, and insights. Our vision is to become a Regional Research University responsive to the forces that shape who we are. Our distinctive focus on the people and places of the Panhandle region will be acknowledged throughout Texas, across the country, and around the world.



# CORE values

The core values of West Texas A&M University are reflective of, inspired by, responsive to the people we serve, regardless of background, family history, personal beliefs, or aspirations. The people of the plains, in towns and communities, on ranches and farms spend every day living out their commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service to neighbors—locally, regionally, and globally. From these same Panhandle values, grow WT's core values:

- **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**
  - We champion the free exchange of ideas.
- **SERVICE**
  - We put the needs of others first.
- **PRAGMATISM**
  - We seek to apply what we learn for the betterment of our community.
- **INNOVATION**
  - We embrace better ways to shape the future.
- **RESPECT**
  - We treat others with dignity which flows from the humanity of each individual.
- **ENGAGEMENT**
  - We promote citizenship and being part of something larger than oneself.



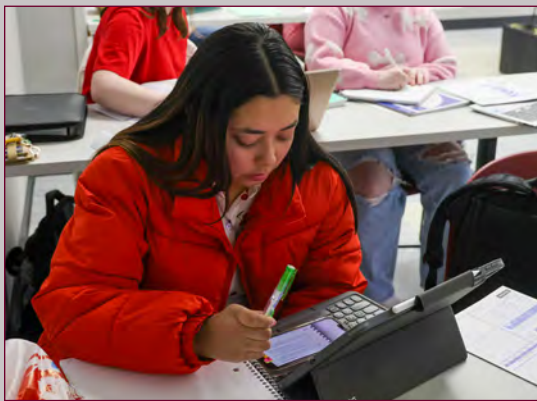
A photograph of a campus scene featuring a prominent clock tower in the background, surrounded by trees with autumn foliage. The image is partially obscured by a dark red banner at the bottom.

# COLLEGES AND departments



## **Paul Engler College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences**

- Department of Agricultural Sciences
- Department of Natural Sciences



## **Paul and Virginia Engler College of Business**

- Amarillo National Bank School of Accounting, Economics and Finance
- Department of Computer Information and Decision Management
- Department of Marketing, Management and General Business



## **Terry B. Rogers College of Education and Social Sciences**

- Department of Education
- Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
- Department of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work



## College of Engineering

- Department of Engineering and Computer Sciences
- Department of Mathematics



## Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities

- Department of Art, Theatre and Dance
- Department of Communication
- Department of English,
- Philosophy and Modern Languages
- Department of History
- School of Music
- Office of General Majors



## College of Nursing and Health Sciences

- Laura and Joe Street School of Nursing
- Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences
- Department of Sports and Exercise Sciences



## Graduate School

The Graduate School empowers working professionals, career advancers and education seekers with flexible online master's and doctoral programs, expert faculty and personalized support.

# CAMPUS highlights

Bain-Schaeffer  
Buffalo Stadium

Center for the Study  
of the American West

Charles K. and Barbara Kerr  
Vaughan Pedestrian Mall

Cornette Library

Dord Fitz Formal Art Gallery

First United Bank Center

Harrington Academic Hall  
WTAMU Amarillo Center

Jack B. Kelley Student Center

Joseph A. Hill Memorial Chapel

Panhandle-Plains  
Historical Museum

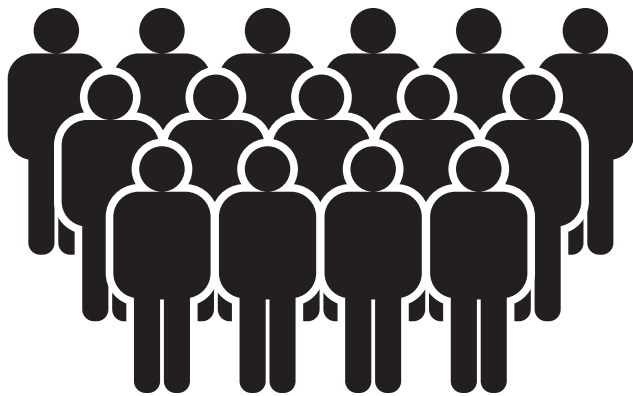
Sybil B. Harrington  
Fine Arts Complex

Veterans Memorial



# STUDENT stats

Student population\*



**6,865** undergraduate students

**2,001** graduate students

\*according to Fall 2026 census numbers



Where our  
students  
come from

**53%**

from the  
Texas Panhandle

**87%**

from the  
tri-state region

**13%**

from the other  
states and  
foreign countries



## Credentials

Average ACT: 21.5

Average SAT: 1048

Average HS GPA: 3.84

## Who our students are

**44%** of undergraduates  
are Pell Grant-eligible

**38%** of new freshmen  
are first-generation college students

**7%** are veterans or military-affiliated

**44%** identify as students of color

**4%** are students with disabilities

**2%** are international students



## Special Programs

Rogers LEAD WT

Attebury Honors

McNair Scholars

Campus Activities  
Board

Ag Ambassadors

Engler Edge

Office of Student  
Engagement and  
Leadership

# 127

## Student Organizations



## Most Popular Majors

Animal Science

General Business

Nursing

Accounting

Biology

Education  
(early childhood to sixth grade)

Mechanical Engineering

Finance

Electrical Engineering

Psychology

# POINTS OF pride

## Buffalo Vision

This immersive virtual reality lab adjacent to the newly refurbished Geneva Schaeffer Education Building won the Best Collaboration Space Project at the Higher Ed AV Awards. The room contains nine high-definition projectors with 4K enhancement that wrap the interior walls, with a floor projection unit completing the surround experience.

## Caviness Meat Science and Innovation Center

This teaching and research facility is an excellent example of collaboration between WT and local beef processing businesses. It educates students in the grading of feeder cattle, fed cattle and beef carcasses. The Meat Laboratory consists of 4,550 square feet housing a harvest floor, a hot carcass cooler, an aging cooler, a fabrication floor, a test kitchen, a smokehouse, and a retail sales area.

## Nance Ranch

The Nance Ranch consists of 2,393 acres including the headquarters. Given to WT in 1971, it is used as a working laboratory for WT's animal science program as well as the Semi-Arid Agricultural Systems Institute and the plant and soil science program, providing numerous research and teaching opportunities for faculty and students. Nearby, ground was broken in 2025 on the WTAMU Foundation Research Feedlot and the Paul F. and Virginia J. Engler Foundation Feedlot Education Facility.

## Industry Partnerships

One of the largest testing facilities in the world, the UL Advanced Wind Turbine Test Facility is a product of the collaboration between WT and Underwriters Laboratories, allowing WT students and technicians can find solutions together reducing time-to-market and lower costs for manufacturers of large and small wind turbines. The new Palo Duro Research Facility provides space for 15 members of Pantex's research and development group to expand the Pantex Plant's exploratory research portfolio and offers students internship learning opportunities.





## Copper Clean

Researchers from West Texas A&M University developed this antimicrobial copper sticker, which is applied to door handles, push plates and other high-touch surfaces to kill surface-born bacteria.

## Campus beautification

The WT grounds crew was named one of top in the nation by the Professional Grounds Management Society. The campus is home to about 350 acres, including eight synthetic turf fields and a 70-acre cross-country course.

## Arts

Not only do the WT Department of Art, Theatre and Dance and its School of Music offer acclaimed performances and exhibitions throughout the year, but their faculty and students are key figures in the thriving Amarillo-area arts scene. WT graduates work in arts education and arts organizations, and they volunteer as performers and crew for countless productions.

## The Caf

Recent renovations of the University Dining Hall, or "The Caf," won a gold award for Renovation of the Year in the 2026 Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards, alongside schools like Princeton University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. WT's renovation was recognized for menu expansion, station flow and adding modern equipment.



# WT BY THE numbers

**15:1**

Student-to-Faculty  
Ratio

**95%**

of recent graduates are  
employed or continuing  
their education

**\$53,340**

average reported  
full-time salary

**\$77,281**

average reported  
graduate student salary

**53%**

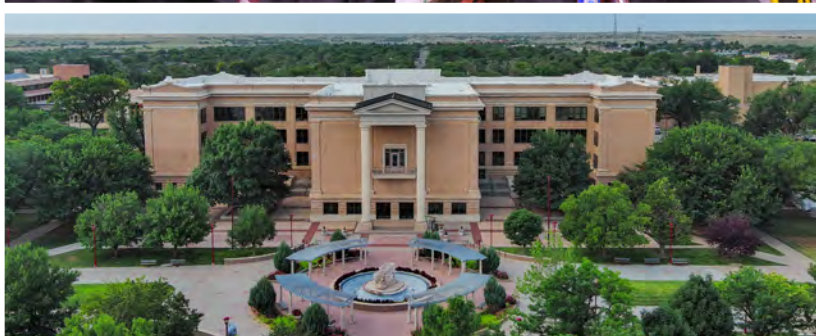
First-generation  
bachelor's graduates  
(May 2026)

**52**

countries represented  
by international  
students

**TOP 10**

in Texas in U.S. News &  
World Report's Regional  
Universities (West)



# RESEARCH highlights

The new Panhandle Institute for Engineering Research focuses on opportunities and issues in the Panhandle region, including mobile desalinization units that can access and convert brackish water into usable water sources for farming and livestock operations.

The new High Plains Christian Ministries Foundation Health Institute focuses on Community and Research, through rural health partnerships, community outreach and seed grants; Nutrition Integration, through curriculum, partnerships, and nutrition and wellness initiatives; an Emergency Nurse Practitioner certification, offering post-graduate training; and a Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

WT has been classified by the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a Research College and University, or RCU. The new designation identifies research happening at colleges and universities that historically have not been recognized for their research activity.

WT spends approximately \$10 million per year on research activities and currently offers three doctoral degrees in agriculture, educational leadership and nursing practice.



# PHILANTHROPY highlights

WT raised more than \$208 million in its historic One West comprehensive fundraising campaign, which publicly launched in September 2021 and officially wrapped in April 2026.

The groundwork was laid for the campaign in 2017, when Paul Engler and the Engler Foundation made an \$80 million gift to WT, \$24 million of which was counted in the campaign. The public launch was held in September 2021, with an original goal of \$125 million, which was reached just 18 months later. A second goal of \$175 million was reached in September 2025.

In all, 13,377 different donors made a contribution to the campaign.

Through the One West Campaign, WT grew from 26 to 109 endowed professorships and chairs. Endowed scholarships increased by 31.3 percent during the campaign.

When combined with other scholarships, more than \$8 million is available annually to help WT students to graduate and succeed with reduced educational debt.





West Texas A&M University is home to one of the top athletic programs in all of NCAA Division II. The Buffs and Lady Buffs are perennial championship contenders both regionally and nationally. WT is home to 10 NCAA Division II national championships. Since 2020 West Texas A&M has produced 44 Lone Star Conference championships and 43 NCAA Division II individual national champions.

### **Bain-Schaeffer Buffalo Stadium**

WT is home to the premier NCAA Division II College Football facility in the country. Bain-Schaeffer Buffalo Stadium holds 8,500 fans and can handle up to 12,000 people when utilizing standing room areas and berms beyond the end zones.

### **Bain Athletic Complex**

A state-of-the-art athletics complex and fulfillment of a long-held dream of faithful supporters opened officially on July 23, 2024. The Bain Athletic Complex features 14,000 square feet of meeting spaces, locker rooms and coaches' offices.

### **First United Bank Center**

The First United Bank Center opened on January 26, 2002. Featuring a scoreboard with one of the largest video screens in NCAA Division II basketball, along with zealous fans who love their Buffs & Lady Buffs, the First United Bank Center is the place to be for exciting WT Basketball.





## Men's Sports

Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Football  
Golf  
Soccer  
Track & Field

## Women's Sports

Basketball  
Cross Country  
Golf  
Soccer  
Softball  
Track & Field  
Volleyball

## Championships Since 2020

### 44 LSC Regular Season Championships

Baseball (2021)  
Men's Basketball (2023, 2024)  
Men's Cross Country (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)  
Men's Soccer (Spring 2021)  
Men's Indoor Track & Field (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)  
Men's Outdoor Track & Field (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)  
Women's Basketball (2022)  
Women's Cross Country (2023, 2024, 2025)  
Women's Golf (2023)  
Softball (2024, 2025, 2026)  
Volleyball (2023, 2024)  
Women's Indoor Track & Field (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)  
Women's Outdoor Track & Field (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)

### 4 Team National Championships

Softball (2021)  
Volleyball (2022)  
Women's Outdoor Track & Field (2022, 2026)



# PREFERRED qualifications

- Demonstrated ability to define, implement, and communicate an institutional mission, vision, and strategic goals, including the development of a multi-year strategic plan aligned with the System strategic plan and built through engagement with faculty, staff, students, and the community.
- Experience recommending and implementing an organizational structure necessary to execute the institution's mission, developed in consultation with administrators, faculty, and staff.
- Proven leadership in the planning, development, and operation of all institutional activities and programs, with operational oversight of academic, administrative, and financial functions.
- Experience recruiting, evaluating, and developing senior administrative officers and building a cohesive, accountable leadership team.
- Demonstrated skill in change management, including the ability to build consensus for institutional change and see it through to implementation.
- Experience leading an institution through challenges and critical decisions to safeguard it from reputational or financial harm, with decisiveness and sound judgment under pressure.
- A student-first commitment to academic excellence, affordability, and career preparation.
- An understanding of the role of applied research, graduate education, and faculty scholarship at a regional university.
- An appreciation for the role of intercollegiate athletics, the fine arts, and student life in campus culture, community connection, and institutional visibility.
- Strong financial management experience, including budget preparation and implementation, financial and property accounting, audit oversight, and the good stewardship of funds.
- Experience leading the development of annual operating and construction budgets and legislative budget requests.
- Demonstrated success in establishing and overseeing fundraising and advancement programs, including personal cultivation and solicitation of major gifts.
- A record of effective community engagement as the institution's representative to former student associations, institutionally related development foundations, and other external constituents.
- A national and statewide presence, or the capacity to build one, that raises the institution's visibility and reputation.
- Ability to build effective relationships with the Board of Regents, the Chancellor and System staff, faculty, students, staff, alumni and former students, the private sector and donors, and state and federal officials, including experience in legislative advocacy and government relations.
- Commitment to adherence to System policy and state and federal regulations, with experience establishing and maintaining required compliance programs.
- Ability to communicate System policy to the campus and to advocate effectively for the institution's programmatic needs to the Chancellor and the Board.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills, including the ability to serve as a compelling public voice for the institution with external audiences and the media.
- Honesty and integrity, with personal values consistent with the mission and values of the institution and the Texas A&M University System.
- Teamwork and a team-player orientation within the System's leadership structure and across the campus.
- Initiative and an entrepreneurial approach to identifying and pursuing opportunities for the institution.

## Applications and Nominations

The President Search Advisory Committee invites confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications (letter of interest, resume/CV, and contact information for at least five professional references) to be submitted to the search firm assisting West Texas A&M University. Confidential review of materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment is made. It is preferred, however, that all nominations and applications be submitted prior to January 11, 2027, to:

Laurie C. Wilder, President

Porsha L. Williams, Vice President and Managing Director, Higher Education

Parker Executive Search

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Atlanta, Georgia 30328

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