

**2024  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
TO THE  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**





The University of Tennessee is a statewide system of higher education with campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Pulaski, Martin and Memphis; the UT Institute of Agriculture with a presence in every Tennessee county; and the statewide Institute for Public Service. The UT System manages Oak Ridge National Laboratory through its UT-Battelle partnership; enrolls about 62,000 students statewide; produces about 14,000 new graduates every year; and represents more than 454,000 alumni around the world.

The 2024 Annual Report was prepared by the Division of Marketing and Communications on behalf of Randy Boyd, president of the University of Tennessee System.

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## **ENROLLMENT**

Fall Enrollment Headcount **26**



**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**



## National Championship

The UT Knoxville Vols defeated the Texas A&M University Aggies in game three of the College World Series Finals by a score of 6-5 to capture the Vol's first national championship in any sport since 2009.

CHAMPION



# From the President





As we move into the second half of the greatest decade in University of Tennessee history, we continue to accelerate in assisting Tennessee and the world. With a record number of students enrolling across our campuses (again) and more graduating each year ready to take their places as dentists, teachers, business leaders and farmers, UT aligns students' passions with the state and country's needs.

We have long known that there's something special happening across the University of Tennessee System. Now, even more Tennesseans do too. Students want to study here and increasing numbers stay to complete their educations. This is the fifth consecutive year that we've set a new enrollment record across our campuses and institutes, underscoring our commitment to delivering an exceptional education that attracts students from all over. This enrollment surge across the UT System reflects the institution's growing reputation and emphasizes the effectiveness of strategic initiatives aimed at increasing access and affordability. This includes initiatives such as guaranteed admissions for top-performing Tennessee high school students, so students and their families can plan their college experience with greater certainty.

As a system of campuses, we are working together to make applying to and attending UT easier than ever for Tennessee high school graduates through our participation in the national Common Application. We've also made it affordable with resources like the UT Promise scholarship, for which 66.7% of Tennessee families qualify based on income. We want Tennesseans to know the dream of higher education doesn't have to remain a dream. At the University of Tennessee, our students find their futures and leave ready to impact Tennessee and the world.

By relentlessly pursuing our mission of educating students, serving communities and fostering discoveries, we are creating the greatest decade in UT's history. It's not about making UT history; it's about ensuring Tennessee's prosperity.

UT is Tennessee's competitive edge for the future.

Sincerely,

Randy Boyd  
President  
University of Tennessee System



# Educational Excellence

The University of Tennessee prepares students with college degrees to help Tennessee today and in the future. UT makes a college degree affordable, valuable and attainable.

Tennessee jobs requiring a high school diploma decreased by 90,000 between 2008 and 2021. In the same time frame jobs requiring a bachelor's degree increased by **361,000**, according to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

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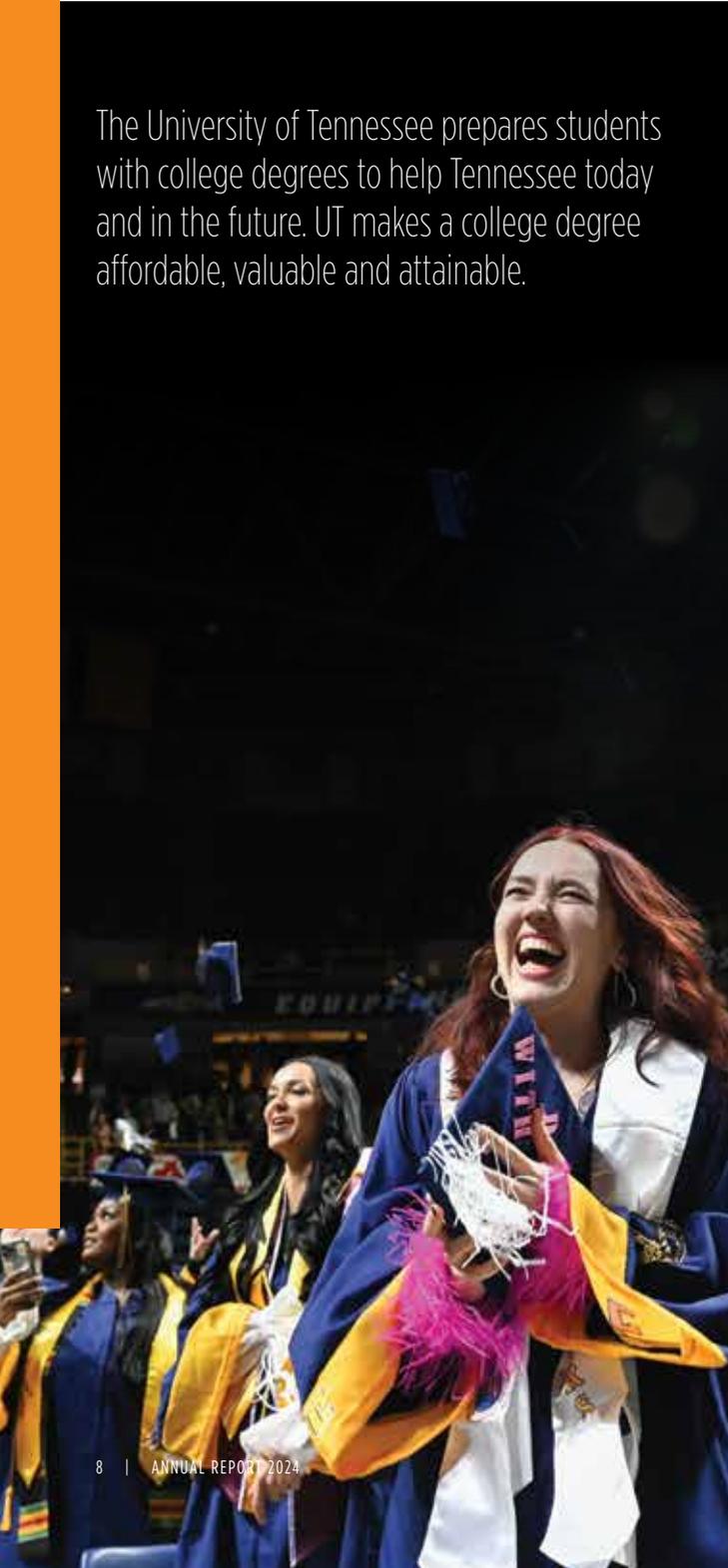
Individuals with a bachelor's degree earn **\$1.5 million** more over their lifetimes compared to those with only a high school diploma.

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The UT Promise scholarship program allows students from families with a household income of \$75,000 or less to attend any UT campus free of tuition and fees; **66.7% of all Tennesseans** qualify based on income. With increased minimum awards from \$100 to \$500 per semester, students have additional support for other college expenses like housing and books.

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**47%** of UT students graduate debt free, a 12% improvement since 2018.



## UT Celebrates Five Years of Record Enrollment

For the fifth consecutive year, the University of Tennessee System has set a record enrollment with 62,149 students for fall 2024, a 5.8% increase from 2023.

“As we continue building the greatest decade in UT history, our enrollment growth, despite the challenges facing higher education nationwide, reflects our strong commitment to making a difference in the lives of our students and the communities we serve,” Boyd said.

The flagship campus at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville reported a 6.7% increase in enrollment with 38,728 students enrolled. UT Southern, the newest campus in the university system, achieved a 7% increase in enrollment with 1,046 enrolled. Since joining the UT System in 2021, UT Southern enrollment has grown 19.4%. UT Martin saw an 8% increase with 7,499 students enrolled, while UT Chattanooga saw growth of 3.5% with 11,775 students enrolled.

Retention rates are also on the rise, with UT Knoxville leading the way with a record-breaking 91.9%. UT Southern reported a retention rate of 77.2%, while UT Martin is at 77%. UT Chattanooga’s retention rate stands at 71.9%.

Additionally, UT produces an increasing number of graduates with 13,630 in the 2024 academic year, a 4.0% increase from the year before.

# Capital Matters

The University of Tennessee, the state's oldest higher education institution, produces the most bachelor, master and doctoral graduates as well as most medical professionals in the state each year. Its building footprint and needs reflect that. The most significant challenge UT faces is adequate capital infrastructure to deliver on its statewide mission, especially considering a period of sustained record growth. While UT is very thankful for past state investments, this success has highlighted a need for increased state partnership in addressing capital infrastructure needs.

The University of Tennessee System has:

- **The largest infrastructure of any state higher education entity.**
- **298 (29%) of 1,012 buildings more than 60 years old.**
- **Sixty buildings more than 100 years old.**

Along with new capital outlay for academic buildings, UT also faces a challenge with capital maintenance.

- **UT's buildings account for 44% of all higher education buildings in Tennessee.**
- **From 2012 to 2023, UT received 21% of appropriated higher education capital outlay funding.**
- **Since FY21 capital maintenance appropriations for the UT System have decreased by 60%.**



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## World-Class Athletes

During the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, 34 former and current athletes from UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and UT Southern competed. Those who brought home medals are:

### Gold

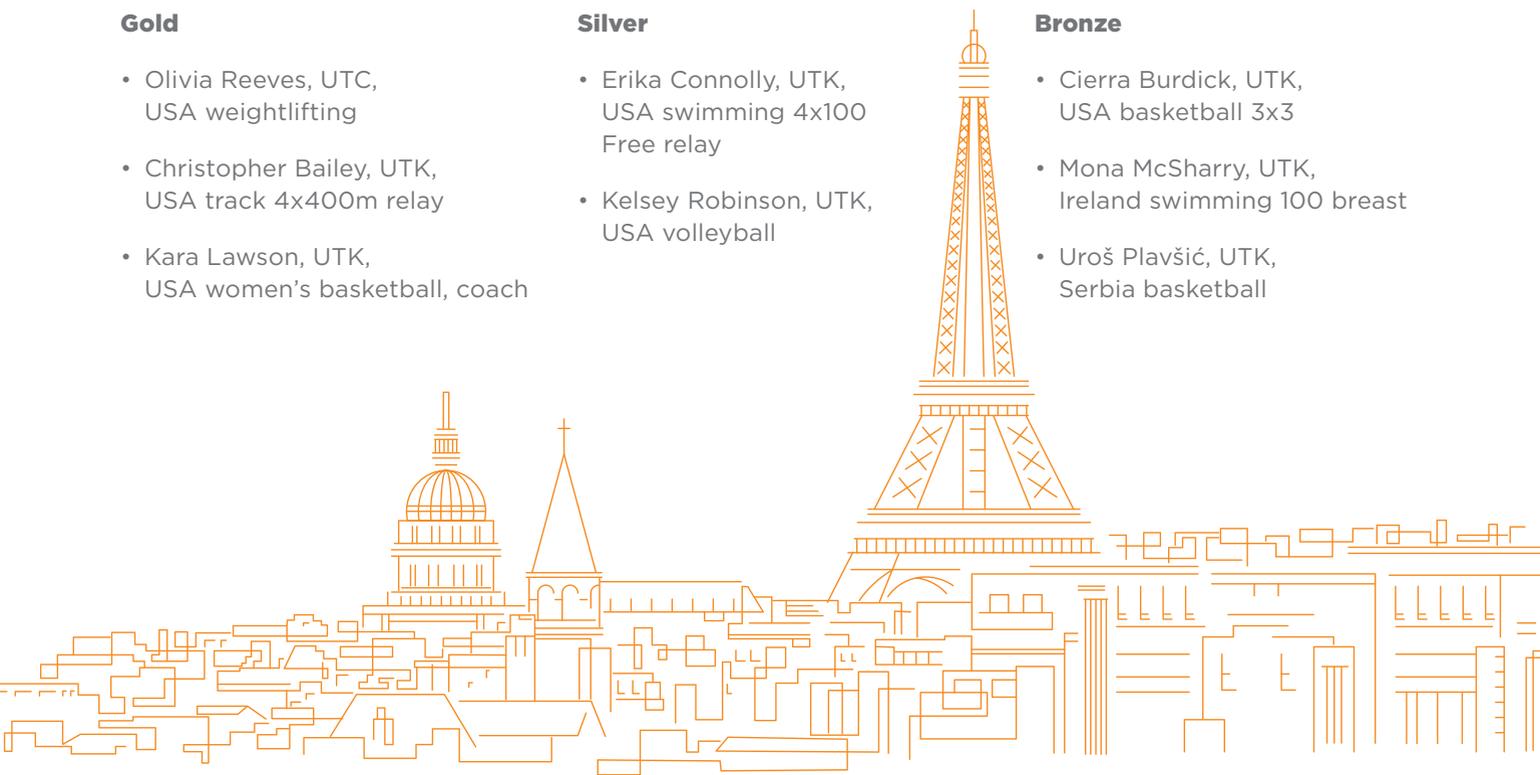
- Olivia Reeves, UTC, USA weightlifting
- Christopher Bailey, UTK, USA track 4x400m relay
- Kara Lawson, UTK, USA women's basketball, coach

### Silver

- Erika Connolly, UTK, USA swimming 4x100 Free relay
- Kelsey Robinson, UTK, USA volleyball

### Bronze

- Cierra Burdick, UTK, USA basketball 3x3
- Mona McSharry, UTK, Ireland swimming 100 breast
- Uroš Plavšić, UTK, Serbia basketball





# Making College More Affordable and Accessible



From a Common Application for all campuses to guaranteed admissions, the University of Tennessee is working to make it easier than ever for Tennesseans to attend college.

All UT undergraduate campuses guarantee first-year admission to all Tennessee high school students who meet specified eligibility criteria. This initiative takes the guesswork out of the process for prospective students.

“We want Tennessee high school students and their families to know how they can be guaranteed admission to the UT campus of their choice,” UT System President Randy Boyd said. “This allows us to make earlier admission offers for more Tennessee students, and it allows them to start planning for their college experience with more certainty.”

To further simplify the process and expand access to higher education, all undergraduate campuses within the University of Tennessee System have joined the national Common Application (Common App). This widely used platform allows students to apply to multiple colleges and universities with a single application. By participating in the Common App, the application process has been significantly simplified, making it easier for students and their families to consider the full spectrum of opportunities within all UT campuses with just one application.

# Expanding Research

## Equipping Tennessee Farmers: Saving Tennessee Farms

For decades, the UT Institute of Agriculture has led the way in precision agriculture, making sure farmers can continue to provide food, fuel and fiber for Tennessee and the world.

The need continues to grow.

The state lost 1.1 million acres of farmland to development from 1997 to 2017. Since 2017, the state has lost 432,941 more acres, according to University of Tennessee Center of Farm Management. Over the next three years, the state is expected to lose an additional 2 million acres. The American Farmland Trust recently ranked Tennessee third among states most threatened to lose farmland.

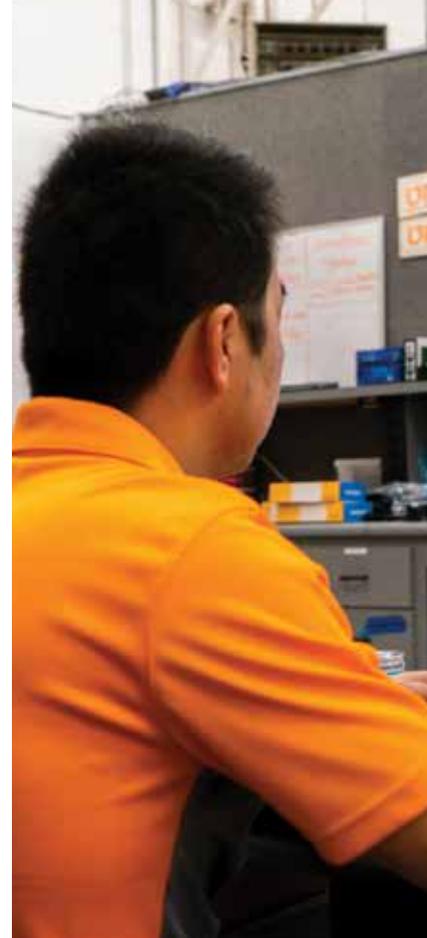
To combat the farmland loss, institute researchers are focusing on technology and mechanics to improve row crop production—planting and harvesting, pest control, no-till, irrigation, even plant genetics. This work includes using precise GPS maps of fields to determine where pest control measures or irrigation should be specifically applied to increase grain quality and yield.

Now, researchers are turning to more efficient poultry, beef and dairy production.

Precision livestock techniques involve improving an individual animal's health and well-being through real-time monitoring of the animal's condition. Behavior as well as biological and physiological changes are monitored, and environmental conditions are measured on an individual animal basis, allowing producers to make better animal-, herd-, or flock-management decisions.

Facilities are needed to support these studies, and UT AgResearch is responding. The Little River Animal Unit of the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center near Knoxville has installed robotic milkers for monitoring its dairy herd, and the Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at Spring Hill supports precision beef production and genetics research. Middle Tennessee is also constructing four state-of-the-art, commercial-sized broiler production houses along with a poultry research laboratory.

*Precision livestock research allows producers to make better animal-, herd-, or flock-management decisions. Automated real-time welfare monitoring systems (upper left), specialized feeding and weight recording systems (upper right and lower left), and robotic milkers that measure animal output are all examples of tools that UTIA researchers are using to evaluate and improve production efficiencies for farmers and ultimately product quality and consumer prices.*





## UT Drives Mobility Research

The mobility innovation economy represents a \$2 trillion global opportunity as the ways in which people, cargo, cars and trucks move across the world continues to evolve. Whether consumers purchase electric vehicles or goods are dropped off via drones, UT is leading the way in this great mobility transition.

UT Knoxville is leading a consortium of more than 250 public and private partners to advance work in the mobility sector through workforce development, use-inspired research and development, and entrepreneurship. With a \$1 million planning grant from the National Science Foundation, the Technology-Enhanced Advanced Mobility in Tennessee (TEAM TN) Engine is committed to building and leading in the advanced mobility innovation ecosystem that increases opportunities in the innovation economy, provides sustainable solutions for the planet and enhances the quality of life for Tennesseans. Partners include state agencies such as the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development; industry partners such as Volkswagen and Denso; and faculty and consultants from UT Chattanooga and the UT Center for Industrial Services.

UT Chattanooga recently launched a new research institute to enhance educational opportunities connected to research and development. Key focus areas are mobility and transportation, quantum technologies, and computational science and engineering. These pillars leverage key campus assets such as the Smart City Corridor real-life test bed, the test track and the quantum network node on campus.

Also, the state launched a new initiative, the Transportation Network Growth Opportunity or TNGO, to drive collaborative applied research and development mobility projects across Tennessee. UT Knoxville, UT Space Institute and UT Chattanooga received inaugural TNGO awards to innovate on automotive cybersecurity, lithium-ion battery technology and wireless charging.



## UT Leads Nuclear Energy

The strong legacy of advanced energy and innovation in Tennessee continues to grow and strengthen as the world demands sustainable, clean energy from resilient sources.

Tennessee always has been a leader in nuclear energy thanks to science and technologists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Y-12 and other federal installations along with a top-ranked program at UT Knoxville. But with in-demand sectors such as artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing and battery/energy storage, the need for more energy from diverse sources such as nuclear has increased. Tennessee has invested an initial \$50 million into the Nuclear Energy Fund to grow the state's nuclear development and manufacturing ecosystem by providing grants and assistance to support nuclear power-related businesses and workforce

development initiatives. Gov. Bill Lee appointed J. Wesley Hines and Lang Wiseman to serve on the state's advisory council. Hines is the UT Knoxville Postelle Professor and Chancellor's Professor and retired head of the Department of Nuclear Engineering. Wiseman is a former deputy governor and chief counsel to Gov. Bill Lee and currently serves on the UT Board of Trustees. UT Knoxville established the country's first nuclear engineering program in 1957.

With the great resurgence and excitement for nuclear energy thanks to the state's fund, the demand for a diverse and skilled talent pipeline has expanded. The state awarded UT Knoxville funds to start a nuclear minor to help engineering students gain experience in the sector that can open more jobs in a nuclear energy career across the globe and in the Volunteer State.



# Fostering Outreach and Engagement

## Meeting the Challenges

The University of Tennessee is dedicated to partnering with the state to address some of its most pressing challenges. In 2023, UT leaders launched the Grand Challenges project to tackle complex, interconnected issues that pose uncertain futures for Tennesseans, with a focus on advancing K-12 education, strengthening rural communities and combating addiction. In February 2025, UT will convene about 500 professionals from across the state who are working in these areas to foster collaboration, share best practices and drive meaningful improvements for Tennessee's future.



## Healthy Tennesseans: Thriving Communities

Across the state of Tennessee, UT Health Science Center faculty and students can be found helping others. For some, that has meant taking to the road.

In 2023, a mobile health unit expanded health care access in rural Lake and Lauderdale counties thanks to a \$3.9 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Lake and Lauderdale counties have the second- and 13th-highest poverty rates among the 95 Tennessee counties, respectively. Lake County has the highest incidence of low birth weight and smoking. Lauderdale County has the second-highest rates of diabetes and adult obesity and the fourth-highest adult smoking rate. Life expectancy in both counties is below state and national averages.

The 24-foot-long mobile health unit, which has a check-in area and exam room, is staffed by a family nurse practitioner and medical assistant or licensed practical nurse. It offers appointments two days each week in Lake County and two days each week in Lauderdale County. Undergraduate and graduate nursing students learn alongside professionals while helping to provide care.

“This is what we do in nursing,” said College of Nursing Dean Wendy Likes. “We go where we are needed and to those who need us. This is an opportunity for us to partner with the communities in these two counties to improve the health of its residents and to educate students in a rural setting in the hope that they will choose to practice where access is limited and their expertise is so greatly needed.”

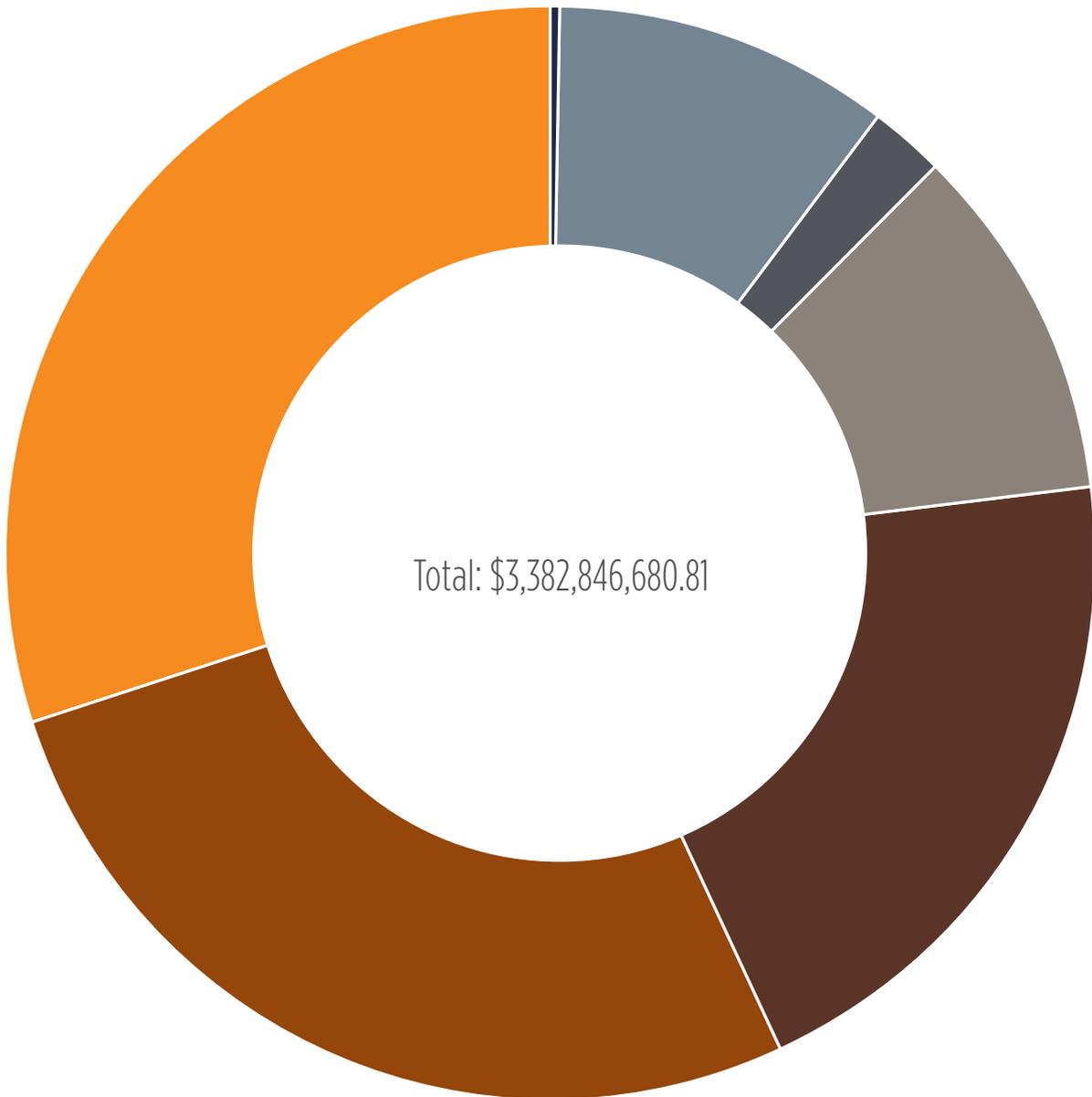
*UTHSC students and faculty provide health care in rural Lake and Lauderdale counties with the help of a mobile health unit.*



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## Sources of Current Funds<sup>†</sup>

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024



*\*Unaudited*

*† Actual revenue numbers with net tuition and fees*



Gifts, Grants and Contracts  
\$1.013 billion



State Appropriations  
\$904.1 million



Net Tuition<sup>†</sup>  
\$679.5 million



Auxiliary  
\$360.3 million



Independent Operations  
\$79 million



Other  
\$331.5 million



Federal Appropriations  
\$15.1 million





## Uses of Current Funds

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024†

**TOTAL: 2.74 BILLION**



- Instruction: **\$831.6 million** ■
- Research: **\$379.4 million** ■
- Student Aid: **\$88.3 million** ■
- Public Service: **\$236.1 million** ■
- Auxiliary Enterprises: **\$305.1 million** ■
- Academic Support: **\$296.8 million** ■

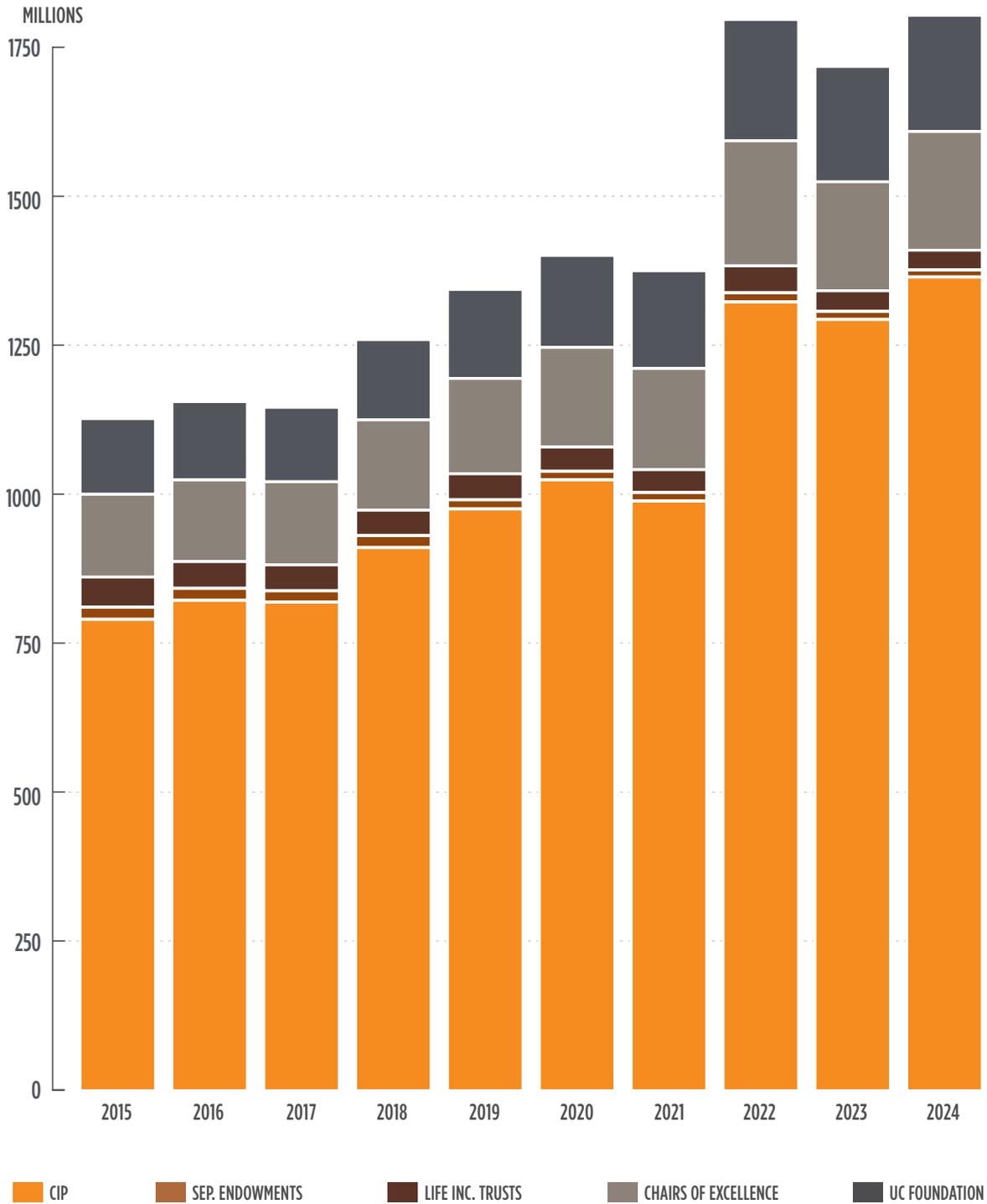


*\*Unaudited*



- Institutional Support: **\$239.2 million**
- Physical Plant: **\$239.0 million**
- Student Services: **\$149.7 million**
- Independent Operations: **\$55.8 million**
- Depreciation: **\$183.8 million**

## Total Funds Invested for the Benefit of UT

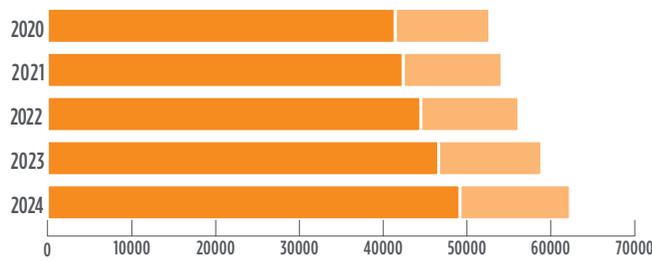




|      | CIP      | SEP. ENDOWMENTS | LIFE INC. TRUSTS | CHAIRS OF EXCELLENCE | UC FOUNDATION | TOTAL ASSETS |
|------|----------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2015 | \$823m   | \$15m           | \$44m            | \$137m               | \$131m        | \$1.151b     |
| 2016 | \$820m   | \$14m           | \$43m            | \$140m               | \$125m        | \$1.141b     |
| 2017 | \$911m   | \$15m           | \$42m            | \$152m               | \$135m        | \$1.255b     |
| 2018 | \$976m   | \$10m           | \$43m            | \$160m               | \$149m        | \$1.339b     |
| 2019 | \$1.025b | \$9m            | \$40m            | \$167m               | \$154m        | \$1.396b     |
| 2020 | \$990m   | \$9m            | \$38m            | \$170m               | \$164m        | \$1.370b     |
| 2021 | \$1.324b | \$10m           | \$45m            | \$210m               | \$204m        | \$1.792b     |
| 2022 | \$1.294b | \$8m            | \$34m            | \$183m               | \$194m        | \$1.713b     |
| 2023 | \$1.366b | \$6m            | \$33m            | \$199m               | \$199m        | \$1.803b     |
| 2024 | \$1.537b | \$8m            | \$28m            | \$223m               | \$221m        | \$2.017b     |

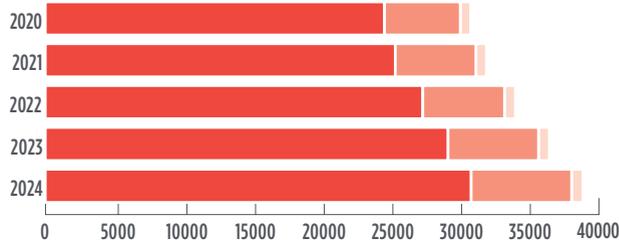
# Fall Student Enrollments

## UT SYSTEM



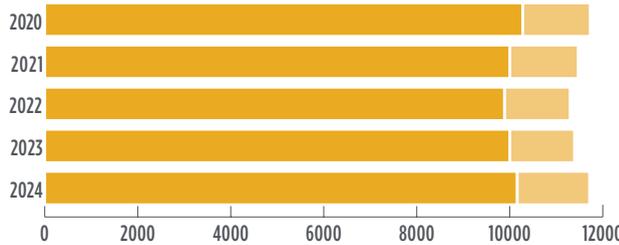
| 2020      | 2021*     |
|-----------|-----------|
| UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD |
| 41,184    | 42,207    |
| GRAD      | GRAD      |
| 11,375    | 11,776    |
| TOTAL     | TOTAL     |
| 52,559    | 53,983    |

## UT KNOXVILLE



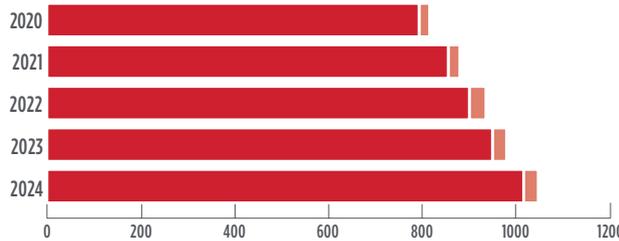
| 2020          | 2021          |
|---------------|---------------|
| UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     |
| 24,254        | 25,067        |
| GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC |
| 5,558         | 5,891         |
| GRAD-PROF     | GRAD-PROF     |
| 747           | 743           |
| TOTAL         | TOTAL         |
| 30,559        | 31,701        |

## UT CHATTANOOGA



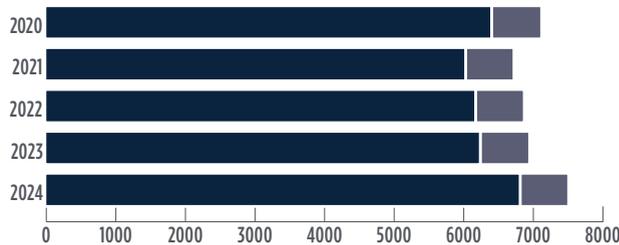
| 2020      | 2021      |
|-----------|-----------|
| UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD |
| 10,311    | 10,016    |
| GRAD      | GRAD      |
| 1,384     | 1,441     |
| TOTAL     | TOTAL     |
| 11,695    | 11,457    |

## UT SOUTHERN



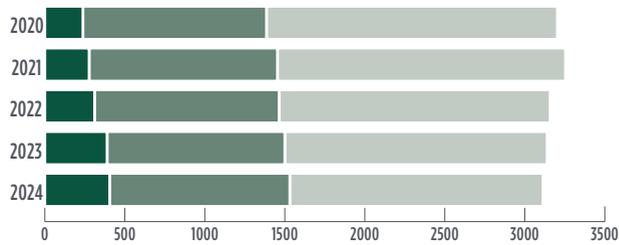
| 2020      | 2021      |
|-----------|-----------|
| UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD |
| 791       | 852       |
| GRAD      | GRAD      |
| 21        | 24        |
| TOTAL     | TOTAL     |
| 812       | 876       |

## UT MARTIN



| 2020      | 2021      |
|-----------|-----------|
| UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD |
| 6,395     | 6,007     |
| GRAD      | GRAD      |
| 722       | 705       |
| TOTAL     | TOTAL     |
| 7,117     | 6,712     |

## UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



| 2020          | 2021          |
|---------------|---------------|
| UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     |
| 224           | 265           |
| GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC |
| 1,159         | 1,188         |
| GRAD-PROF     | GRAD-PROF     |
| 1,805         | 1,784         |
| TOTAL         | TOTAL         |
| 3,188         | 3,237         |

| 2022      | 2023      | 2024      |           | 1-YR CHANGE | % 5-YR CHANGE |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD | N         | %           | %             |
| 44,280    | 46,421    | 48,981    | UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD   | UNDERGRAD     |
| GRAD      | GRAD      | GRAD      | 2,560     | 5.5%        | 18.9%         |
| 11,752    | 12,305    | 13,168    | GRAD/PROF | GRAD/PROF   | GRAD/PROF     |
| TOTAL     | TOTAL     | TOTAL     | 863       | 7.0%        | 15.8%         |
| 56,032    | 58,726    | 62,149    |           |             |               |

\* 2021 UT System numbers include UT Southern; prior years do not include UT Southern.

| 2022          | 2023          | 2024          |               | 1-YR CHANGE   | % 5-YR CHANGE |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     | N             | %             | %             |
| 27,039        | 28,883        | 30,564        | UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     |
| GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC | 1,681         | 5.8%          | 26.0%         |
| 5,988         | 6,617         | 7,352         | GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC |
| GRAD-PROF     | GRAD-PROF     | GRAD-PROF     | 735           | 11.1%         | 32.3%         |
| 778           | 804           | 812           | GRAD-PROF     | GRAD/PROF     | GRAD/PROF     |
| TOTAL         | TOTAL         | TOTAL         | 8             | 1.0%          | 8.7%          |
| 33,805        | 36,304        | 38,728        |               |               |               |

| 2022      | 2023      | 2024      |           | 1-YR CHANGE | % 5-YR CHANGE |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD | N         | %           | %             |
| 9,884     | 9,982     | 10,202    | UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD   | UNDERGRAD     |
| GRAD      | GRAD      | GRAD      | 220       | 2.2%        | -1.1%         |
| 1,399     | 1,398     | 1,573     | GRAD/PROF | GRAD/PROF   | GRAD/PROF     |
| TOTAL     | TOTAL     | TOTAL     | 175       | 12.5%       | 13.7%         |
| 11,283    | 11,380    | 11,775    |           |             |               |

| 2022      | 2023      | 2024      |           | 1-YR CHANGE | % 5-YR CHANGE |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD | N         | %           | %             |
| 896       | 946       | 1,012     | UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD   | UNDERGRAD     |
| GRAD      | GRAD      | GRAD      | 66        | 7.0%        | 27.9%         |
| 38        | 32        | 34        | GRAD/PROF | GRAD/PROF   | GRAD/PROF     |
| TOTAL     | TOTAL     | TOTAL     | 2         | 6.3%        | 61.9%         |
| 934       | 978       | 1,046     |           |             |               |

| 2022      | 2023      | 2024      |           | 1-YR CHANGE | % 5-YR CHANGE |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD | N         | %           | %             |
| 6,165     | 6,234     | 6,809     | UNDERGRAD | UNDERGRAD   | UNDERGRAD     |
| GRAD      | GRAD      | GRAD      | 575       | 9.2%        | 6.5%          |
| 703       | 707       | 690       | GRAD/PROF | GRAD/PROF   | GRAD/PROF     |
| TOTAL     | TOTAL     | TOTAL     | (17)      | -2.4%       | -4.4%         |
| 6,868     | 6,941     | 7,499     |           |             |               |

| 2022          | 2023          | 2024          |               | 1-YR CHANGE   | % 5-YR CHANGE |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     | N             | %             | %             |
| 296           | 376           | 394           | UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     | UNDERGRAD     |
| GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC | 18            | 4.8%          | 75.9%         |
| 1,160         | 1,122         | 1,134         | GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC | GRAD-ACADEMIC |
| GRAD-PROF     | GRAD-PROF     | GRAD-PROF     | 12            | 1.1%          | -2.2%         |
| 1,686         | 1,625         | 1,573         | GRAD/PROF     | GRAD/PROF     | GRAD/PROF     |
| TOTAL         | TOTAL         | TOTAL         | (52)          | -3.2%         | -12.9%        |
| 3,237         | 3,123         | 3,101         |               |               |               |



KNOXVILLE | CHATTANOOGA | PULASKI | MARTIN | MEMPHIS | INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE | INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE  
SYSTEM