

Texas Tech Sets Sights on Tier One National Research University Status

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is a Tier One University?

Tier One is a term intended to describe institutions having academic excellence, world-class research and an exceptional student body. There is not a formal definition for what constitutes a National Research University or Tier One University but the generally accepted criteria consist of total research expenditures, federal research expenditures, endowment assets, doctorates awarded, post-doctoral appointees, National Academy members and faculty awards.

National research universities have annual research expenditures of at least \$100 million. They offer more than 50 doctoral degree programs and have more than 1,000 tenure-track faculty. They also usually have large undergraduate populations and offer a wide-range of undergraduate degrees.

Texas Tech had research expenditures of more than \$88 million last year. The university offers more than 50 doctoral degrees and has 1,013 tenured or tenure-track faculty. The fall 2009 undergraduate enrollment included 24,236 students who have the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in 150 programs ranging from art to zoology.

What is the benefit of being a Tier One National Research University and why do we need more in Texas?

These top institutions stand out in their field for their noted faculty, students and academic programs; their commitment to teaching, research and service; and generally are recognized as having annual research expenditures of at least \$100 million. The money they generate makes them substantial economic engines within their respective communities and states and often they serve as centerpieces of our country's most vibrant cities.

To put that in perspective, consider the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whose alumni have founded more than 4,000 companies. Collectively, those businesses employ 1.1 million people and generate \$232 billion in sales, an amount roughly equal to the economic output of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Not having more Tier One institutions hurts Texas, too. Texas has 8 percent of the U.S. population but only receives 5 percent of federal research and development (R&D) funding and 5 percent of the nation's venture capital investment. If Texas received just its population-based share of 8 percent, that would mean an incremental \$3.7 billion in R&D funding to the state. We leave that \$3.7 billion on the table annually in federal research dollars and venture capital because our existing Tier One institutions don't have sufficient capacity to conduct the additional research those dollars would produce. Each year more than 10,000 Texas high school graduates

attend doctoral-granting institutions in other states because Texas doesn't have enough Tier One choices. This "brain drain" has increased 54 percent in the last six years.

Who are the current Tier One Universities in Texas?

The University of Texas, Texas A&M University and Rice University are the three Texas institutions recognized as having achieved National Research University status.

Texas is the second highest populated state in the country but has only three Tier One institutions, which puts us far behind California with nine and New York with seven. Pennsylvania, with a population of 12.5 million people – about half that of Texas – has four.

Why is it important for Texas Tech to become a National Research University?

By achieving Tier One status, Texas Tech University will strengthen its position as we compete for the brightest minds and world-class faculty. The Texas Tech University academic brand will now be mentioned in the same breath with the University of Texas and Texas A&M University when describing Texas' top research universities. We will enhance our research efforts and continue to make a difference in all of our communities.

What are the state funding opportunities for Texas Tech University?

Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP)

Each of the seven emerging research institutions was given the opportunity to receive matching grants for private gifts given after Sept. 1, 2009. The gifts may go toward endowed chairs, professorships, facilities, equipment, program costs or graduate stipends or fellowships. Gifts for undergraduate scholarships or grants do not qualify. Of the \$50 million available for matching grants, Texas Tech qualified for \$21.5 million.

National Research University Fund (NRUF)

Approved by 56.7 percent of voters on Nov. 3, 2009, NRUF repurposes what was known as the Permanent Higher Education Fund (HEF) and creates a permanent endowment available to an institution that meets the criteria for NRUF. This fund is similar to the PUF, or Permanent University Fund, available to the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University and Prairie View A&M University.

Who is eligible to receive awards from the NRUF?

The seven institutions designated as emerging research universities are: Texas Tech University, University of Houston, University of North Texas, University of Texas at Arlington, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Texas at El Paso and University of Texas at San Antonio.

What does Texas Tech need to do to qualify for National Research University Funding?

The Texas Legislature has set in place a framework and funding sources for Texas Tech University and six other institutions to earn the designation of national research university.

No one university has a better chance of achieving the designation than the others. Rather the Tier One legislation sets criteria and leaves it to the seven emerging research universities to meet the standards.

First, a university must have the designation as an emerging research university – which Texas Tech has received.

Second, a university must have at least two years of annual restricted research expenditures of more than \$45 million. Texas Tech reported more than \$35 million in 2009.

Then a university must meet four of the following six criteria:

- An endowment greater than \$400 million; Texas Tech's endowment is projected to exceed \$400 million in 2010
- Doctoral degrees awarded must top 200 in each of the previous two years; Texas Tech awarded just less than 200 in each of the past two years
- Membership in the Association of Research Libraries or housing a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; Texas Tech meets both requirements
- High achievement of the freshman class for two years, to be determined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)
- High-quality faculty for two years, to be determined by the THECB
- High-quality graduate-level programs, to be determined by the THECB

What does this mean for Lubbock?

A recent analysis estimates the economic impacts of Texas Tech University obtaining \$10 million per year from the National Research University Fund (NRUF). Impacts are estimated for Lubbock County.

Total Economic Impacts from Annual Infusion of \$10 million from NRUF**

Note: These economic impacts are ongoing (i.e., they represent annual impacts).

- NRUF funds would generate a total economic impact of **\$19.8 million** per year for Lubbock county.
- NRUF funds would create and/or sustain **228 jobs** in Lubbock County annually.
- The economic impact of the NRUF funds includes annual household earnings impact of nearly **\$10.4 million** in Lubbock County.

*Details of the economic impact model and methodology used to obtain these estimates are provided in "The Economic Impacts of Texas Tech University on Lubbock County: Today and in the Year 2020," July 2008, prepared by B. T. Ewing, Rawls Professor of Operations Management, support provided by the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

**Economic impacts from NRUF dollars assume student enrollment increases in proportion to Texas Tech University dollars of total expenditure per FTE student.