



No./Title: Establishing a Research Institute or Center	Resp. Office: Vice Chancellor for Research	Effective Date: 8/22/2016
Category: Research	Last Review: NEW	Next Review: 8/21/2021
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Related Policies: None		

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Research Institutes and Centers are critical to the development of interdisciplinary research at UTHSC. Research Centers will be comprised of faculty from within a Department or across multiple Departments within a College. In contrast, Research Institutes will be comprised of faculty from multiple Colleges, and often multiple campuses within UTHSC, and may include other institutions and industry partners. These Research Institutes and Centers are catalysts for interdisciplinary team research leading to large Center and Program Project grant applications and awards.

ESTABLISHING A CENTER

A Research Center may be formed by the Dean with the consent of the Chancellor, in consultation with the Research Council, to: address needs within a Department or College; take advantage of opportunities stemming from a key recruitment or new funding stream; or implement elements of the UTHSC Operational Strategic Plan for Research.

Alternatively, a group of faculty with shared research interests may bring a Research Center concept forward and advance it through the hierarchy to the Dean for consideration. In this latter respect, the faculty group will need to prepare a proposal that includes a plan encompassing academic, financial, and operational strategies, including the sustainability of the funding stream for the Research Center. The initiation of this plan should include short- and long-term objectives and measurable outcomes. The plan will be reviewed by the Research Council, after approval by the Dean of that College. With either approach, the Research Center Director will be appointed by the responsible Dean.

ESTABLISHING AN INSTITUTE

A Research Institute may be formed by the Chancellor, with appropriate vetting with the Research Council, to: address needs within the Health Science Center; take advantage of opportunities stemming from a key set of recruitments or new funding stream; or implement elements of the UTHSC Operational Strategic Plan for Research. An operational plan and sustainable funding stream for operations and growth, through UTHSC or an outside entity, must be identified, prior to the formation of an Institute. The Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Research in coordination with the Research Council, and the Development Office, will set aside a budget for the purpose of providing seed money and partial initial operational funds for Research Institutes. Additional allocations will be based on an annual performance review.

An alternate way a Research Institute may be formed is through a group of faculty, with shared research interests, bringing a Research Institute proposal forward and advancing it to the Vice Chancellor for Research for consideration. This faculty group will need to prepare a proposal much like the one needed for the formation of a Research Center. The plan will be reviewed by the Research Council and requires approval of the Chancellor. As part of this plan, the person who is to act as the Director of the Research Institute may be recommended by the group of faculty. With either mechanism, the Research Institute Director will be appointed by the Chancellor and report to the appropriate Vice Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, or Chancellor designated board. The default reporting position being to the Vice Chancellor for Research.