Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Founded by the Texas Legislature in 1969 to be a “university of the first class,” The University of Texas at San Antonio has exceeded all expectations, becoming one of the largest, most diverse public universities in Texas and the second-largest university in The University of Texas System. This Campus Master Plan will guide the development of the University’s campuses as they evolve in support of its Strategic Plan.
MISSION AND STRATEGIC PLAN

THE UNIVERSITY’S MISSION

UTSA’s mission, vision, and core values statements reflect the purpose of our institution ( mission), what we aspire to be (vision), and the guiding principles that we will use to reach our goals (core values).

Mission Statement

The University of Texas at San Antonio is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through research and discovery, teaching and learning, community engagement, and public service. As an institution of access and excellence, UTSA embraces multicultural traditions, serving as a center for intellectual and creative resources as well as a catalyst for socioeconomic development for Texas, the nation, and the world.

Vision Statement

To be a premier public research university, providing access to educational excellence and preparing citizen leaders for the global environment.

Core Values

We encourage an environment of dialogue and discovery, where integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, respect, collaboration, and innovation are fostered.

UTSA’s core values reflect how we have pursued our plan as well as how we will fulfill our mission and realize our vision. Each value reflects rich, shared meaning:

- **Integrity**: adhering to a standard of core values at UTSA and ensuring that one acts in a fair and ethical fashion.
- **Excellence**: commitment to delivering consistently high-quality service, teaching, and research through superior performance.
- **Inclusiveness**: fostering diversity and providing access to educational and socioeconomic opportunities for all—regardless of individual backgrounds and philosophies.
- **Respect**: treating others with civility and openness, recognizing the dignity inherent in each individual.
- **Collaboration**: working with others toward common goals while valuing teamwork, participation, and commitment to public service.
- **Innovation**: encouraging ingenuity, creativity, and discovery.

THE CAMPUS PLAN IN SUPPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

A University’s strategic plan is essential to maintaining a focus on the mission of the institution and should directly impact all aspects of the University. For a Campus Master Plan to be effective, it should reflect the strategic plan.

The University of Texas at San Antonio’s Strategic Plan—A Shared Vision UTSA 2016—is intended to guide UTSA through the next several years along a path to becoming a premier public research university. The Five Strategic Initiatives in UTSA 2016 provide opportunities for the Campus Master Plan to support the Strategic Plan. The Initiatives are:

- **Strategic Initiative I**: Enriching Educational Experience to Enable Student Success
- **Strategic Initiative II**: Serving Society through Creativity, Expanded Research, and Innovation
- **Strategic Initiative III**: Promoting Access and Affordability
- **Strategic Initiative IV**: Serving the Public Through Community Engagement
- **Strategic Initiative V**: Expanding Resources and Infrastructure

Of the Five Strategic Initiatives, Initiatives I, IV, and V have the most direct relationship to the Campus Master Plan. Summarizing those relationships:

- **Strategic Initiative I**: Throughout the course of the master planning process, students expressed a desire for a more traditional campus—one with high-quality buildings, more and better on-campus housing, more formally defined public spaces, and a wider variety of outdoor spaces. The Campus Master Plan provides an organizational structure that will give rise to logical growth in academic space as well as housing and an enhanced open space structure. Providing teaching, research, and support space is central to enabling student success. More and better housing coupled with other student amenities and an extended open space structure offer the opportunity to enhance the educational experience.

- **Strategic Initiative IV**: Community engagement is essential not only to serve the public through exposure to UTSA’s programs, but also to garner local support to further those programs. To engage the community, each campus must be perceived as identifiable, welcoming, and accessible, as well as communicating a clear sense of mission. The Campus Master Plan seeks to foster community engagement by clarifying campus entrances, by strengthening the organization and interconnectedness of campus open spaces, and by placing functions dependent on public engagement in more visible and accessible locations.

- **Strategic Initiative V**: Due to UTSA’s recent and rapid growth in enrollment, its space utilization rate is among the highest of any public institution of higher learning in the state. Focus must be on relieving the space shortage by expanding the campus’s educational infrastructure. New buildings, classrooms, laboratories, studios, and libraries are essential for the University to meet its strategic goals. The Campus Master Plan establishes a framework to guide this development in a logical, organized manner over time, and to utilize growth to improve the quality of life on the campus. The fundamental component of the proposed campus plan, the civic structure of the campus—its interconnected system of open spaces—provides the armature about which the campus will grow.