



## Assistant Vice President of Planning, Design and Construction

The [University of Texas at Austin](#) seeks a results driven leader with exceptional strategic, operational, and interpersonal skills and deep domain expertise to join the Campus Operations leadership team as Assistant Vice President of Planning, Design and Construction (AVP).

The AVP will foster relationships across the university, manage complex construction projects, ensure contract and regulatory compliance, and promote sustainable practices while maintaining financial oversight and quality standards.

### Planning, Design, and Construction Department

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The [Planning, Design and Construction](#) (PDC) team works within the [Campus Operations](#) unit and is responsible for managing all design, construction, and renovation projects for The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin). The team of 200 members is charged with supporting the University's education, research, and service mission while enhancing the physical environment and upholding UT design and construction standards.

Campus Operations consists of 1,300 team members across Facilities Services, Operational Safety and Compliance, Operations Support, Planning, Design and Construction, Sustainability, and Utilities and Energy Management. Together, the teams build, maintain, renovate, and revive the University, and keep safe the spaces and infrastructure where students, faculty, and staff learn, teach, conduct research, and work.

Campus Operations has an annual operating budget of \$250 million, a capital construction program of \$3.2 billion over the next 5 years, and oversight of 29 million square feet across 700 buildings and multiple campuses.

Significant projects are on the horizon and underway and a few of those are highlighted below:

#### [The University of Texas at Austin Medical Center](#)

UT Austin announced plans to launch a monumental healthcare initiative to accelerate and expand UT Austin's burgeoning medical district into a world-class academic medical center for education, research and patient care. Working in partnership with UT System, the University of Texas at Austin Medical Center is a joint effort between UT Austin and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. It is anticipated that groundbreaking for the hospitals should begin in 2026 and an estimated investment around \$3 billion.

#### [Mulva Hall at the McCombs School of Business](#)

James J. and Miriam B. Mulva Hall is the future home for undergraduate education, academic departments, research centers, and faculty offices. When it opens it will offer teaching and convening spaces to help McCombs continue to attract world-class faculty and the best and

brightest students. The 17-story building and tower will offer views of the Capitol, UT Tower, and the University's original Forty Acres and is expected to be completed in summer 2028.

#### [Main Tower Restoration](#)

The University of Texas will begin a multiyear effort to restore, revitalize and reimagine its historic Tower, an iconic, enduring symbol of the University. This marks the first meaningful investment in the Tower since its completion in 1937. The project, titled "Our Tower: The Next 100 Years," will begin its exterior restoration in November 2024, following the University of Texas System Board of Regents' approval of the \$70 million budget in August. The exterior restoration is estimated to last through the summer of 2027.

#### [Engineering Discovery Building](#)

This project involves designing and constructing a new approximately 212,205 GSF Engineering Discovery Building (EDB) for critically needed research, teaching, and collaboration space for the Cockrell School of Engineering. Upon completion, it will replace the existing and aging Chemical & Petroleum Engineering (CPE) building. The EDB will support research for two departments: the Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering and the McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering. Incorporating flexible and reconfigurable research labs, integrated teaching labs and classrooms, and collaborative areas for students and faculty, this project will further support student and faculty recruitment, development and retention.

#### [Football Training Facility](#)

Texas Athletics recently announced construction of the new Football Indoor Training Facility Project, which is slated to begin in 2024. The facility will feature an indoor and outdoor field, a three-lane sprint track, an offensive and defensive lineman drill space, a hospitality area and parking. Chris Del Conte, Vice President/Director of Athletics shared that "Texas Athletics plans to continue transforming and reimagining the spaces that serve as training grounds and second homes for our student-athletes, coaches and staff into highly functional, world-class facilities. Ongoing facility investments will help us further align our physical resources with the world-class expectations that exists for one of the nation's best departments."

Highlights of completed projects from 2019 to 2022 include the [University of Texas Welcome Center at Perry-Castañeda Library](#), [MAI Texas One Stop Center](#), [THN Law School Courtyard Renovation](#) and [UNB Student Union](#). More highlights of recently completed projects can be viewed [here](#), along with a list of [2024 summer projects](#).

### **Position Summary**

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Reporting to [Brent Stringfellow](#), the Associate Vice President for Campus Operations and University Architect, the AVP will provide leadership and direction for the Planning, Design and Construction department within Campus Operations. They will oversee the program development, planning, design, and construction management efforts for all campus construction projects.

Essential functions include:

- Provide executive leadership and management to PDC, providing supervision, engagement, and operational support, while creating a positive workplace that is highly proficient in the delivery of world class facilities solutions. Monitor and evaluate the performance of assigned project managers of various specialties and experience levels, construction administrators, in-house construction staff, program analysts, and administrative staff.
- Work with senior University officials, including vice presidents, executives, associate vice presidents, deans, and other directors across the campus community to ensure that all campus construction and renovation needs are met. Develop long term goals and strategies that allocate financial resources and plan for service delivery systems and staffing to meet these needs. Promote open, frequent communication and engagement within the organization and with the campus community.
- Provide executive leadership and management for a program of multiple complex capital and construction projects by providing program and project staffing, resource coordination, communication, conflict resolution, and oversight/quality monitoring.
- Lead, monitor, and manage all capital and construction project budgets and schedules to assure compliance with approved budget and project goals. Approve, monitor, and develop detailed budget formats to track expenditures in collaboration with other University units. Review and approve project expenditures for consultant services, service contracts, construction pay applications, and owner-provided technical services within authority limits.
- Monitor and manage the relationship between assigned construction staff, project architects and engineers, consultants, contractors, UT Austin administration, faculty, students, and staff as well as UT System staff when needed. Creatively resolve conflicts between project stakeholders to ensure project goals are met.
- Ensure compliance with Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, State statutes, Federal regulations and laws on all projects under management by PDC. Ensure that operations are efficient and cost effective, that assets are safeguarded, and that financial information is reliable. Serve as primary liaison with UT Austin executive management for project activities, from program development through scoping, budget and schedule definition, execution, and reporting.
- Maintain fluency in Codes and Regulations applicable to design and construction, and serve as a leader in enforcing all life, health, and safety requirements while understanding any special requirements of the building type (e.g., healthcare, research labs, special campus project types, etc.) or the local jurisdictions. Maintain and improve quality through the development and use of sustainable construction practices for both new buildings and existing building renovation projects.
- Coordinate PDC activities and support work with Campus Operations partners in Facilities Services, Utilities & Energy Management, Operations Safety and Compliance, Operations Support, and Sustainability.

## Qualifications

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### Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution; preferred fields: Engineering, Architecture, or Construction Management.
- 8–10 years of progressive experience in facilities design, construction management, and resource allocation within a complex organization.
- Proven expertise in planning, budgeting, and management in large institutions.
- Strong leadership and supervisory skills, with the ability to mentor, engage, and foster an inclusive workplace.
- Excellent communication skills, including conflict resolution and adaptability to diverse audiences.
- Effective relationship-building and problem-solving with multiple stakeholders.
- Sound decision-making, incorporating input as needed.
- Commitment to diversity, workplace civility, and collaborative success.
- Resilience and adaptability, maintaining focus and optimism under pressure.
- Balance of short-term problem-solving with long-term strategic vision.

### Preferred Qualifications

- Master's degree from an accredited college or university. Engineering, Architecture, or Construction
- Management preferred.
- Professional registrations, licenses, or certificates in supporting competencies.
- More than 15 years of demonstrated progressive experience in the management of programs and allocation of resources of similar or larger scope and nature in a complex organization
- Similar professional experience in large public institutions of higher ed

## **The University of Texas at Austin**

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By virtue of its public mission, culture of innovation, location, size, and rich history, The University of Texas at Austin (UT) is one of the highest-impact universities in the world. As the top public university in Texas and the flagship of The University of Texas System, UT is an influential catalyst for scientific, economic, and societal progress throughout the state. Change Starts Here UT's 10-year strategic plan aims to align the university's mission with its unique opportunity to further impact society and change the world.

Established in 1883, the university's main campus now spans 431 acres and has a community of 52,000 students, 3,500 faculty members, and more than 15,000 staff members. In addition to its main campus near downtown Austin, UT extends to the J.J. Pickle Research Campus in north Austin, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in south Austin, the McDonald Observatory in west Texas, the Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas, and several cultural and historic sites across the state.

The university is a leader in the fields of energy, computer science, entrepreneurship, and national security, and its graduate programs in accounting, petroleum engineering, geology, Latin American history and the sociology of population rank No. 1 in the United States. UT has been designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution and is among the top producers of doctoral degrees in the nation.

UT offers more than 150 undergraduate degree programs and more than 230 graduate programs across its 19 colleges and schools in the sciences, arts, humanities, and professions:

Each year, UT researchers publish work that focuses on fighting and treating diseases, devising solutions to global problems, addressing critically important social issues, and improving the human condition. As just one recent example, the lab of Jason McLellan, a faculty member in the Department of Molecular Biosciences, was critical to the development of COVID-19 vaccines. UT Austin faculty have won Nobel Prizes, MacArthur “genius” fellowships, Abel Prizes, A.M. Turing Awards, Guggenheim Fellowships, and countless other awards for distinctions in their fields.

A member of the Association of American Universities since 1929, UT attracts over \$800 million annually for research. Through a succession of large grants from the National Science Foundation, UT has built a collection of the fastest supercomputers for open research in the world. The Department of Defense has designated UT’s Applied Research Laboratories as one of five University Affiliated Research Centers for the Navy, and the university is a major collaborator with the Army Futures Command.

UT has many academic programs ranked in the top 25 nationally, and the number continues to rise every year. At the graduate level, 53 programs rank among the top 10, representing more than a dozen of the university’s colleges and schools. Almost 40 other programs rank in the top 25. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2022 lists the university as the 47th best university in the world, while U.S. News & World Report ranks it 7th among American public universities.

The university’s holdings comprise more than 170 million objects including a Gutenberg Bible and other rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and artworks and artifacts from natural history to pop culture in eight museums and 17 libraries. The Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library was the first presidential library to be located on a university campus.

Over the past 15 years, the campus has undergone a significant modernization and expansion of its research, academic, and community spaces. Recent new buildings — like the Gates Computer Science Complex and Dell Computer Science Hall, the G.B. Dealey Center for New Media, the Engineering Education and Research Center, the Health Discovery and Health Transformation Buildings, Robert B. Rowling Hall, and the Gary L. Thomas Energy Engineering Building — have added new state-of-the-art facilities, high-tech labs, and dynamic collaboration spaces that are transforming the student and faculty experience.

The university’s large and highly accomplished student body, storied history, strong and supportive community, and richness of tradition have given rise to a proud alumni base of more than 500,000. These “Texas Exes” include founders or co-founders of Dell Computers, American Airlines, DreamWorks, 7-Eleven, National Instruments, CarMax, and Clear Channel Communications. Among UT’s many well-known alumni are Matthew McConaughey, Kevin Durant, Michael Dell, Laura

Bush, Jenna Bush Hager, Arthel Neville, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Wes Anderson, Robert Rodriguez, Renee Zellweger, Owen Wilson, Marcia Gay Harden, Sanya Richards-Ross, Sam Rayburn, James Baker, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Jim Allison, Rex Tillerson, Bill Moyers and Walter Cronkite, and current Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

## The City of Austin

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Located beside the picturesque Hill Country of Central Texas, Austin is the state capital and the 4<sup>th</sup>-largest city in Texas. As the 11th-largest city in the United States, Austin is a vibrant and rapidly growing economic hub, widely regarded as a friendly, active, and innovative community. It is consistently regarded as a national creative center that attracts talented people from across the world.

Austin serves as the corporate headquarters for Fortune 500 companies such as Oracle, Dell, Whole Foods, Tesla, and many successful tech startups. Austin also hosts research and development offices for major technology-oriented companies such as Amazon, AMD, Apple, and Google, which have established their operations in Austin in large part to draw from the highly skilled talent the university produces. U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks Austin among its [Best Places to Live in America](#), and Expedia recently ranked it No. 1 in its [21 Super-Cool U.S. Cities list](#).

## To Apply

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The University of Texas at Austin has retained [Opus Partners](#) to support this recruitment. [Kenna Boyd](#), Associate Partner, and [Marisea Rivera](#), Senior Associate, are leading the search. Confidential inquiries applications, and nominations should be submitted by email to Marisea Rivera at [marisea.rivera@opuspartners.net](mailto:marisea.rivera@opuspartners.net). To be considered by the University's search committee, candidates must provide a CV/resume and a letter of introduction that addresses the specific responsibilities, expectations, and qualifications described above. Please consult Opus Partners for more information about the application process.

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*The University of Texas at Austin, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The university is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities and admissions.*