



Senior Director of Campus Planning and Design

The [University of Texas at Austin](#) seeks a Senior Director of Campus Planning and Design.

The Senior Director of Campus Planning & Design, reporting to the Assistant Vice President of Planning, Design, and Construction at UT Austin is responsible for establishing and sustaining a safe, inspiring and cohesive built environment that advances the institution's goals while honoring UT's rich history. As a trusted advisor to campus leadership, this role balances broad stakeholder interests and delivers practical solutions to challenges and opportunities in the physical environment.

Campus Planning & Design advances UT Austin's mission through implementation of the Campus Master Plan, a commitment to design excellence, and disciplined stewardship of university resources.

Campus Operations and Planning, Design and Construction

The [Planning, Design and Construction](#) (PDC) team works within the [Campus Operations & Planning](#) 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 & Planning consists of 1,300 team members across Facilities Services, Grounds and Landscape, 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 the spaces and infrastructure safe where students, faculty, and staff learn, teach, conduct research, and work.

Campus Operations has an annual operating budget of \$250 million.

The capital construction program has oversight of \$5+ billion in construction over the next 5 years, 29 million square feet across 700 buildings and multiple campuses. The PDC team is currently overseeing 30 major projects valued at \$5.0 billion and 1,000 minor projects totaling \$650 million, with a \$10 million threshold distinguishing between the two categories.

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.

[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 has begun 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," began 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 announced construction of the new Football Indoor Training Facility Project, which began 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."

[FAC 21- Classroom Renovation](#)

The FAC 21 project aims to enhance accessibility and refresh the classroom in a centrally located, high-visibility, tiered room with a unique shape. This distinctive design posed challenges for egress, accessibility, and seating capacity. Additionally, the interior required modernization and technological upgrades. The renovation, which addresses these issues and the materials involved in the ramps, is estimated at approximately \$3.5M TPC. Once completed, the room is expected to

function as both a classroom and a presentation or meeting space for executive leadership due to its strategic location.

Highlights of completed projects from 2019 to 2024 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](#).

Essential Duties for the Senior Director of Campus Planning and Design include:

Strategy and Planning

Land Use Planning and Development

- Lead the development, maintenance, and implementation of the campus master plan.
- Ensure all land use, new construction, and renovation projects align with the university's mission and master plan.
- Lead site analysis, space utilization studies, and feasibility assessments to guide campus growth.
- Coordinate issues related to land acquisition, zoning, and community relationships for projects near campus

Integrated Campus Planning

- Historic/Cultural Preservation
- Utilities and Infrastructure
- Landscape
- Passive and Active Transportation
- Site Accessibility
- Stewardship, Conservation and Resiliency
- Wayfinding and Signage
- Building site selection and orientation
- New, repurposed and expanded buildings

Campus Master Plans & Functional Plans

- Lead and own all campus master and functional plans
- Ensure compliance with all plans

Project Intake, Space Planning and Project Definition

Project Intake

- Oversee capital project intake into PDC and associated governance
- In partnership with the Director of Projects & Programs, co-own project intake and initiation, working to continuously improve the intake and initiation processes

Space Planning, Utilization, and Standards

- Establish and maintain campus space inventory and governance
- Manage space assignments
- Lead workplace strategy innovations where appropriate

- Evaluate existing space utilization and develop space use standards

Project Definition & Approvals

- Lead development of project business cases and options analyses, including articulation of anticipated benefits, key metrics for success, and alignment with institutional priorities
- Partner with Project Management to lead project definition: scope alignment, test-fits and concept plans, rough-order-of-magnitude project budgets and schedules, and communication/change-management strategies
- Ensure plans and initiatives are aligned Ensure plans and initiatives are aligned with campus and functional plans
- Shepherd projects from idea inception through project approval

Design Governance and Standards

Architect Selection

- Lead architect/engineer selection for high profile and/or projects impacting the exterior environment
- Guide and monitor architect/engineer selection for all projects

Architectural Standards and Stewardship

- Establish and ensure that campus design standards and technical criteria support durable, maintainable, and high quality constructed facilities and that these expectations are clearly communicated to Construction Delivery and external partners
- Advance awareness of industry innovations and integrate best practices into campus and facilities planning
- Serve as the guardian of campus architectural character and appearance
- Provide leadership on preservation of historic campus resources
- Champion design principles that promote resource stewardship and resiliency

Design Review & Services

- Participate in design to ensure alignment with campus standards
- Ensure maintainability and life-cycle costs are balanced and informed
- Guide internal, project design teams including but not limited to small project design services (<\$100k), FF&E, and MAC Services

Capital Planning

- Support portfolio strategies and capital Planning informing long-term capital needs and maintain 5-year and 10-year capital plans
- Guide capital investments to ensure they align with institutional priorities
- Identify project needs and develop scope, budget, schedule, and funding approach for inclusion in the Capital Plan

UT System Reporting & Coordination

- Coordinate board reporting, including project approvals
- Oversee capital project tracking and funding requests

Stakeholder Collaboration and Communication

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- Act as a liaison and technical advisor to senior administration, faculty, students, and other campus constituencies
- Facilitate stakeholder and community engagement meetings
- Act as a liaison and to incorporate feedback into planning initiatives
- Lead or support coordination with city, regional, and neighborhood stakeholders and regulatory agencies for major campus projects
- Participate and/or lead campus review committees

Post-Occupancy Surveys

- Assess completed projects to determine success based on building performance and satisfaction of program needs.

Qualifications, Skills and Experiences:

Required

- Bachelor's degree in design related field such as architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, etc. from an accredited university is required. A master's degree in architecture or urban planning is preferred.

Preferred

- Professional Licensure Desired
- Minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience in design related field, with extensive experience in higher education, institutional, or campus planning preferred.

Technical and Analytical Skills

- Expertise in higher education master planning, space planning, and facilities assessment.
- Strong knowledge of architectural design, building codes, and construction processes.
- Proficiency with design software such as AutoCAD and Revit, project management tools, and Microsoft tools such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Demonstrated experience driving leadership to decision making while balancing campus experience, design, data, resources, and other factors.

Leadership and interpersonal skills

- Proven leadership ability to mentor staff and guide multi-disciplinary teams.
- Exceptional verbal, written, and presentation skills to effectively communicate with diverse stakeholders, from university leaders to contractors.
- Strong problem-solving, decision-making, and organizational skills.
- Ability to work collegially and build relationships with a wide variety of constituents.

The University of Texas at Austin

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:

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 City of Austin

Located beside the picturesque Hill Country of Central Texas, Austin is the state capital and the 4th-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](#).

Application Instructions

University of Texas at Austin has retained [Opus Partners](#) to support this recruitment. [Kenna Boyd](#), 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. 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.

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.