



UTEP RESEARCH



Heather Wilson
President

The University of Texas at El Paso
915-747-5555
hwilson@utep.edu



Ahmad Itani
**Vice President for
Research & Innovation**

The University of Texas at El Paso
915-747-7954
aitani@utep.edu

Research & Innovation

915-747-5680
research@utep.edu
research.utep.edu



UTEP is a comprehensive public research university that is increasing access to excellent higher education. We advance discovery of public value and positively impact the health, culture, education, and economy of the community we serve.

As one of the nation's few open-access R1 institutions, UTEP fulfills this mission through research that responds to real needs. Our work improves health outcomes, supports local and regional economies, informs education and public policy, and strengthens the cultural life of the border region and beyond.



National Research Strength

Since receiving **R1 designation** from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education in 2018, UTEP has been recognized among the **top 5%** of research universities nationwide. Faculty-led research activity resulted in **\$158 million in annual expenditures** in fiscal year 2024, reflecting strong institutional capacity and sustained impact on regional and national priorities.

Faculty Leading with Purpose

More than **550 tenure and tenure-track faculty lead research** that addresses critical national and regional challenges. UTEP's research strengths include **Hispanic health and health disparities, aerospace engineering, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, materials science, neuroscience, water and soil science, transportation, and Hispanic student success.**

Faculty often participate in interdisciplinary research, fostering cross-training and collaborative projects. Many are recipients of prestigious awards and recognized among the **world's most cited researchers**, having high citation counts in their respective fields.

Student Engagement in Discovery

As **one of the largest Hispanic-serving research universities** in the nation, UTEP plays a critical role in developing a competitive workforce. The University creates pathways to opportunity through **research and mentorship**.

In 2023–2024, **43% of graduates engaged in faculty-guided research**, gaining real-world skills that prepare them to lead and contribute across sectors. Through rigorous academic programs and hands-on learning, UTEP prepares a skilled workforce.

Research Infrastructure for Impact

UTEP supports hands-on discovery through **cutting-edge laboratories, specialized research centers, and shared facilities**. Research spans classrooms, clinics, field stations, and community sites. The University’s location in the Paso del Norte region strengthens **partnerships with government, industry, and international collaborators**. This environment accelerates work on national priorities, including **defense innovation, public health, sustainable infrastructure, and workforce development**.

Research Strengths and Signature Areas

UTEP advances scholarship, discovery, innovation, and creative expression across all disciplines. Areas of research strength include:

National Defense and Technology

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Hypersonics
- Aerospace and Space Technologies
- Quantum Computing
- Cybersecurity
- Microelectronics and Semiconductors

Public Health and Biomedical Innovation

- Hispanic Health and Health Disparities
- Public and Mental Health
- Neuroscience
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

Education and Student Success

- K–12 and Higher Education
- Bilingual Education
- Hispanic Student Success

Sustainability and Infrastructure

- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Soil Science and Water
- Transportation Engineering
- Advanced Manufacturing and Materials
- Energy Systems and Climate

Culture, Community, and Regional Development

- Border and Migration Studies
- Economic Development on the Border
- Communication and Culture
- Fine Arts and Humanities