

## State of the School of Undergraduate Studies January 25, 2010

**The School of Undergraduate Studies serves students by sustaining a dynamic common curriculum and by enriching the undergraduate experience through innovative advising, learning communities, interdisciplinary programs, and undergraduate research.**

**The common curriculum** covers the flag requirements in writing, ethics, quantitative reasoning, independent inquiry, global cultures, and ethnic diversity. It also includes the first-year signature course and UT's unique way of satisfying the state-mandated core curriculum. UGS is charged with managing all this in a way that responds quickly to faculty priorities and the needs of students.

**Innovative advising**, mainly through the Center for Strategic Advising, helps students find four-year paths through the university and forward into careers or graduate school. Undergraduate Studies is the initial home for students who choose not to select a major on applying to UT.

**Students.** In fall 2009, 800 new students enrolled in UGS. With a projected enrollment of 1500-2000 in 2010-11, Undergraduate Studies will become the 6<sup>th</sup> largest undergraduate college. All are students in exploration mode, seeking majors in which they can graduate in four years and move on to graduate schools or careers. No student remains in UGS after the fourth semester. The newly formed UGS Student Council will be represented on the Senate of College Councils.

### **Faculty governance**

UGS Advisory Committee, 6 faculty members plus 6 associate deans.  
Bridging Disciplines Programs Committees, 125 faculty members  
Flag Committees, 41 faculty members

## **Summary of programs**

### **First-Year Experience**

**First-year interest groups (FIGs)** are cohorts of up to 25 first-year students who develop community by taking two to four classes together.  
2,923 students in 158 cohorts in fall 2009.

**Signature Courses** begin UT students' academic experience with top faculty teaching a wide range of intellectually rigorous classes, and are required for all students graduating under the 2010-12 catalog.  
5621 students have enrolled in 145 classes during fall 2009 and spring 2010.

### **Bridging Disciplines Programs**

Undergraduates earn an interdisciplinary certificate through study integrating classroom, research, and internship experiences. Ten concentrations offered in fall 2009, with an 11<sup>th</sup> starting in spring 2010. All will be recognized on transcripts starting with the 2010 catalog. As of fall 2009, 468 students in 9 BDPs; an additional 115 were admitted during the semester, for a total of 583. 253 graduates with certificates since inception in 2002.

### **Center for Core Curriculum**

Oversees flag approvals as well as faculty development in newly emphasized curricular areas such as writing. Coordinates with colleges and departments in implementing core and flag requirements. 1,029 course flags approved to date.

### **Office of Undergraduate Research**

Informs undergraduates of research opportunities; serves as university-wide resource. Host of annual Research Week, along with the Senate of College Councils. 238 students attended information sessions in fall 2009. 357 information requests made through Eureka website (fall 09 through present).

### **Archer Fellows Program**

Supports competitive student internships in Washington, D.C. 32 students from the UT system each semester; 14 from UT Austin in the fall of 2009, 16 in the spring of 2010.

### **Freshman Reading Round-Up**

Faculty who are prizewinning teachers are asked to sponsor books for summer reading and lead a discussion with incoming students. 853 students participated in 50 book sessions in 2009, up from 735 students in 2008 and 709 in 2007 (44 sessions both years).

### **Honors Center**

Provides administrative support for six nationally recognized academic honors societies, inducting over 2000 students in 08-09. Works with the six first-year honors programs at UT. Organizes **Honors Colloquium** each summer for over 500 rising high school seniors whom the university especially wants to recruit. Over 60 faculty members participated in the 2009 Colloquium.

### **Longhorn Scholars Program**

Recruits, advises, and maintains curriculum for students from certain underrepresented high schools. 309 first-year students entered the program in 2009-10, bringing the total population to 1300.

### **Center for Strategic Advising**

Works closely with other advising centers across campus to provide academic advising, including major exploration assistance, to undecided and transitional students at the university. About 800 students in fall 2009, of which over 85 have transferred to the colleges in which they will graduate.

Projected enrollment in 2010-11 is 1500 to 2000 students.

### **Texas Success Initiative**

Required by legislation for students not meeting state college-readiness standards. 118 students identified as needing TSI services for the fall of 2009, of which 77 students were enrolled in Developmental Studies courses.

### **Wayfinder**

A website under development to assist students in choosing a major, especially before they apply to UT. Funded by a grant from the AT&T Foundation and housed in the Center for Strategic Advising.