# **EXPLORING FACULTY TEACHING** UT System Academic Institutions

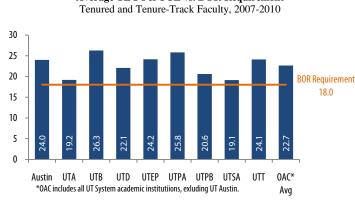
## UT System Faculty: Five Things You Need to Know

- 1) Up to 39 hours of instruction alone. Estimated faculty time spent on instruction and instruction-related activities range from 29 to 39 clock hours per week. This does not include hours spent on scholarship/research.
- 2) Faculty exceed the standards for teaching loads set by the UT System Board of Regents.
- 3) Faculty demonstrate a strong commitment to classroom teaching. T/TT faculty produce a high-and, in many cases, the highest-proportion of undergraduate semester credit hours. Teaching assistants do the smallest share of teaching, ranging from 4% to 11% of undergraduate credit hours taught. These TAs are advanced Ph.D. students.
- 4) Quality instruction at the lower division. T/TT faculty teach freshman/sophomore level courses.

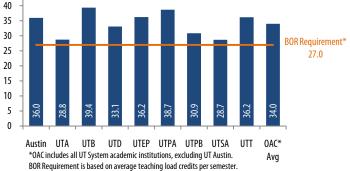
#### 5) Students rate institutions and faculty members highly. Of

UT System seniors responding to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), more than 80% rate their educational experience as good to excellent and three-quarters rate the quality of relationships with faculty members as above average.

- Evaluations of faculty teaching quality involve both student and peer assessment.
- Teaching evaluations are part of faculty annual reviews for promotion and tenure.







## **Characteristics of UT System Faculty and Their Work**

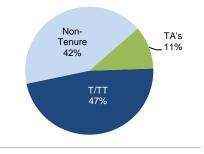
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 Data from UT System institutions clearly demonstrate a strong commitment to classroom teaching with T/TT faculty generating a high proportion of the semester credit hours.

semester credit hours is generated by T/TT faculty, with only 11% generated by teaching

• Findings for UT Austin indicate that the largest proportion (47%) of undergraduate

#### Of All Undergraduate SCH, % Taught By Faculty Status, 2010

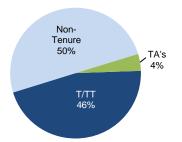


#### **Other Academic Campuses**

**UT Austin: Tier One Research Institution** 

assistants who are advanced Ph.D. students.

• Findings for the other UT System academic campuses indicated that T/TT faculty generate close to half (46%) of the undergraduate semester credit hours.





## **Conclusions**

#### Committed to Teaching.

• There is evidence of a strong commitment to teaching by tenured and tenure-track faculty, including undergraduate classes.

#### **Exceeding Standards.**

• All UT System institutions are exceeding Board of Regents' teaching load requirements of 27 clock hours per week on instruction and related activities alone or 3 organized classes per semester.

#### Demonstrating Quality in the Classroom.

- Highly-qualified tenured/tenure-track faculty members are teaching undergraduates;
- · Faculty are rated positively by their students; and
- Students rate their entire educational experience highly.

### **Useful Definitions**

#### Measures of student effort:

<u>Credit hours</u> - a measure of student effort. The number of credit hours assigned to a course is based on the amount of classroom time per week. For example, a student earns three credit hours for a course that meets for three hours per week for a semester.

#### Measures of faculty effort:

Instruction - Time spent in the classroom, lab, or field educating students. Also includes instruction-related activities such as course preparation, office hours, or grading.

<u>Semester credit hours</u> - The number of semester credit hours is equal to the credit hours of a course multiplied by the total enrollment for that course. For example, a three hour course with 50 students enrolled is equal to 150 semester credit hours.

<u>Teaching load credits</u> - The number of teaching load credits for a faculty member are based primarily on time spent in the classroom. For example, teaching a three hour course would yield three teaching load credits. Other activities may earn teaching load credits, e.g., more credits are assigned for large classes or writing intensive courses; credits may also be assigned for directing graduate students, editing a major journal, or extraordinary involvement in administration, etc.

<u>Clock hours (also "hours")</u> - The estimated number of hours per week that faculty spend on an activity (in the context of this brief, refers to teaching activity). As a conservative estimate, for every hour spent teaching (i.e., teaching load credits), a faculty member would spend an additional 2 hours preparing and/or evaluating (grading). For example, a faculty member teaching a three hour course spends at least nine clock hours per week in preparation, teaching, and evaluation for that course. These are conservative estimates since this analysis does not account for new course preparations.

#### **Data Sources**

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board -

CBM003, CBM004, and CBM008 for academic years 2007-2010.

1) Tenured/tenure-track faculty includes professors, associate professors, assistant professors and instructors. Other professionals include lecturers, visiting teachers and special, adjunct, and emeritus faculty. Graduate teaching assistants are not included. FTE faculty only include faculty with teaching appointments.

2) Semester credit hours (SCH) and teaching load credits (TLC) for all levels (undergraduate and graduate) were selected for academic years 2007 through 2010 by FTE faculty tenure status.

### Common Abbreviations:

NSSE = National Survey of Student Engagement OAC = Other Academic Campuses SCH(s) = Semester Credit Hour(s) T/TT = Tenured and Tenure-Track faculty TA(s) = Teaching Assistants THECB = Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board TLC(s) = Teaching Load Credit(s)

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) 2010 -

Items 1m, 1n, 1p, 1q, 1s, 7d, 8b, and 13 for seniors only from the 2010 survey were used.