

Division of Academic Affairs

Service Statement 2021-2022

Introduction

The Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (VPAA) is the member of the Provost's senior leadership team with primary responsibility for central oversight of undergraduate academic policies, programs, and curricula. The VPAA serves as the Provost's primary liaison between UTK Central Administration and the Undergraduate Council and its committees, including the Academic Policy Committee, the Curriculum Committee (and its subcommittees), and the General Education Committee (and its subcommittees), and as the Provost's primary liaison between UTK Central Administration and the UT System Office on matters related to undergraduate education.

Curriculum

The office of the VPAA supports colleges and departments in both the routine maintenance of undergraduate academic programs and curricula and the development of new academic programs (majors and certificates). The VPAA also provides advice and support to the Undergraduate Council, colleges, and departments in the development of new undergraduate academic policies and curricula and in the development and maintenance of the university's General Education curriculum (Volunteer Core). To support UTK's colleges in these matters, the VPAA meets two times per month with the colleges' associate deans who have responsibility for undergraduate academic programs, and holds a weekly drop-in office hour for those associate deans.

Online learning

The VPAA oversees the university's Division of Online Learning and Academic Programs (OLAP), which provides central support for colleges and departments as they develop new fully-online academic programs. OLAP is UTK's primary point of contact for third-party online program management firms. OLAP also supports colleges and departments in the maintenance, assessment, and improvement of existing fully-online academic programs and in the development of new online courses. OLAP and the VPAA provide advice and support related to the development of policies and procedures that support the delivery of high-quality, Federally-compliant online courses and programs. The VPAA supervises the Assistant Vice Provost for Online Learning and Academic Programs, who in turn oversees OLAP staff.

Program review and accreditation

The VPAA coordinates state-mandated periodic academic program reviews for all nonaccredited academic programs that are not associated with units traditionally linked to UTIA. (Units traditionally linked to UTIA oversee their own academic program reviews.) The VPAA also supervises the Assistant Vice Provost for Accreditation, who is the university's primary liaison with both the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and a variety of programmatic accreditation agencies.

NAGPRA

The VPAA chairs the UTK NAGPRA committee, which monitors UTK's compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The VPAA supervises UTK's Director of Repatriation, who serves as UTK's primary point of contact with Native American tribes on matters related to the repatriation of Native American human remains and funerary objects located at UTK.

Space Committee

The VPAA co-chairs the University Space Committee and serves as a liaison to colleges, departments, and Academic Affairs units on matters regarding space allocation and utilization. The VPAA also works closely with the Office of the University Registrar on topics related to classroom space utilization and the development of academic calendars and timetables, and serves as a liaison between the Office of the University Registrar and colleges and departments on space- and timetable-related matters.

The VPAA is a member of UTK's Emergency Operations Center and coordinates academic recovery efforts in the event of an emergency.

