

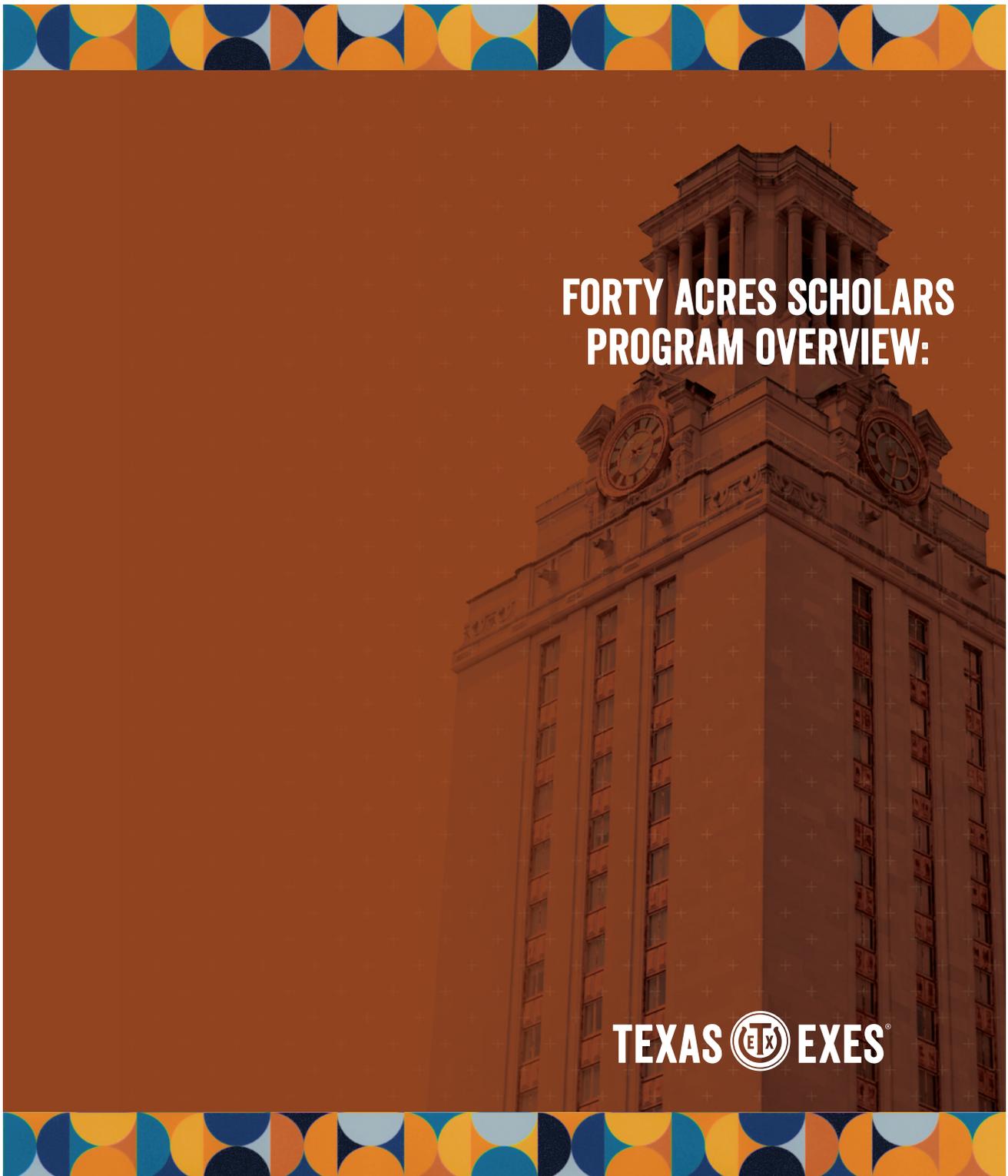
Program Pillars and Experience

Founded in 2011 and built on three pillars—community, connection, and discovery—the Forty Acres Scholars Program offers an unparalleled support system, a global network, and opportunities for growth beyond the classroom.

The experience begins before students arrive on campus with the Freshman Retreat and continues with the Freshman and Senior Dinner Series, Scholar Thanksgiving, one-on-one coaching, community service, résumé and career preparation, networking opportunities, and more.

Enrichment Opportunities

Authentic community is at the heart of FASP. To encourage discovery, each Scholar receives an enrichment stipend for approved activities such as study abroad, research, service, leadership development, internships, and graduate coursework. This support allows Scholars to explore the world, contribute to causes they care about, and gain hands-on experience in their fields. Collectively, Scholars have traveled to more than 115 destinations worldwide.



THE FORTY ACRES SCHOLARS PROGRAM (FASP)—THE ONLY PROGRAM OF ITS KIND ADMINISTERED BY AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION—is a full-ride, merit-

based scholarship dedicated to developing tomorrow's leaders. It is the only full-ride scholarship at The University of Texas at Austin that pairs robust programmatic support with an enrichment stipend. Each class cohort includes nearly 20 Scholars, and our goal is to expand to 40 Scholars per class by 2035, aligning with other top-tier programs nationally.

Donor Spotlight



“Education transforms lives. As the first in my family to attend college, I’ve seen its power—today, all three of my sons hold advanced degrees. Serving as a supporter and mentor of the Program through my own Forty Acres scholarship has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. These students are so amazing it would break my heart to deny any of them a scholarship to UT. Susan and I are excited to sign up for a second Scholar next year!”

Pat and Susan Cook, FASP Donors

Alumni Stories

Forty Acres Scholars come from diverse backgrounds and go on to make an impact across industries—from education and healthcare to finance, media, and law. Alumni include Chessie Lockhart (2019), now at the Strauss Center for International Security and Law; Mike Wolf (2018), CEO of Dent Education; Sophia Guriola (2020), with Rainforest Partnership; Emma Rappold (2020), an executive at Ryder Picture Company; and Olivia Pierce (2024), starting her career at Walt Disney Imagineering.



Jaqueline Gibson, BSA '19, Life Member



Jaqueline Gibson graduated in 2019 as a Dean's Distinguished Graduate with dual degrees in Computer Science and African and African Diaspora Studies, with special honors, and served as the CNS Commencement speaker. She co-founded the Association of Black Computer Scientists, served as co-councilor of the Friar Society, and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She held leadership roles across campus, including in Orange Jackets, the Senate of College Councils, and the UT President's Student Advisory Committee. She is now a Senior Software Engineer at Microsoft and serves on the Forty Acres Society Board.

“The competition for top students is steep, and I'll use myself as an example. I was accepted to 13 institutions and received over \$1.2 million in merit scholarship offers. But my three days as a Forty Acres finalist convinced me this program had the potential to change my life.”

Tiffany Chan, BS / BA '17, Life Member



Tiffany Chan graduated with dual degrees in Textiles and Apparel Design and Plan II Honors. During her time at UT, she was involved in the Friar Society, Spark Magazine, Chi Kappa Phi Service Society, University Fashion Group, School of Human Ecology Ambassadors, and the Texas Polo Team. She began her career at McKinsey & Company, advancing to Senior Business Analyst, and later led the school-wide strategy development and execution for The Pingry School. Tiffany has since focused her career on founding and leading innovative organizations.

Cole Paxson, BS '16, Life Member



After graduation, Cole Paxson began his career as a petroleum engineer with Anadarko Petroleum, later acquired by Occidental Petroleum. His work has taken him to Midland, Denver, and the Gulf of Mexico. Cole now lives in Houston with his wife, Aubrey. Passionate about the Forty Acres Scholars Program, he serves on the Forty Acres Society Board.

“I am incredibly thankful for my time as a Forty Acres Scholar and the life-changing experiences it brought me. The program fostered my growth in all phases of life, and I would not be the person I am today without FASP.”