

# THE ISSUES



## HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

Restore formula funding to 2009 levels to best support the universities' academic functions. If funding is not restored to those levels, current funding amounts should be maintained.

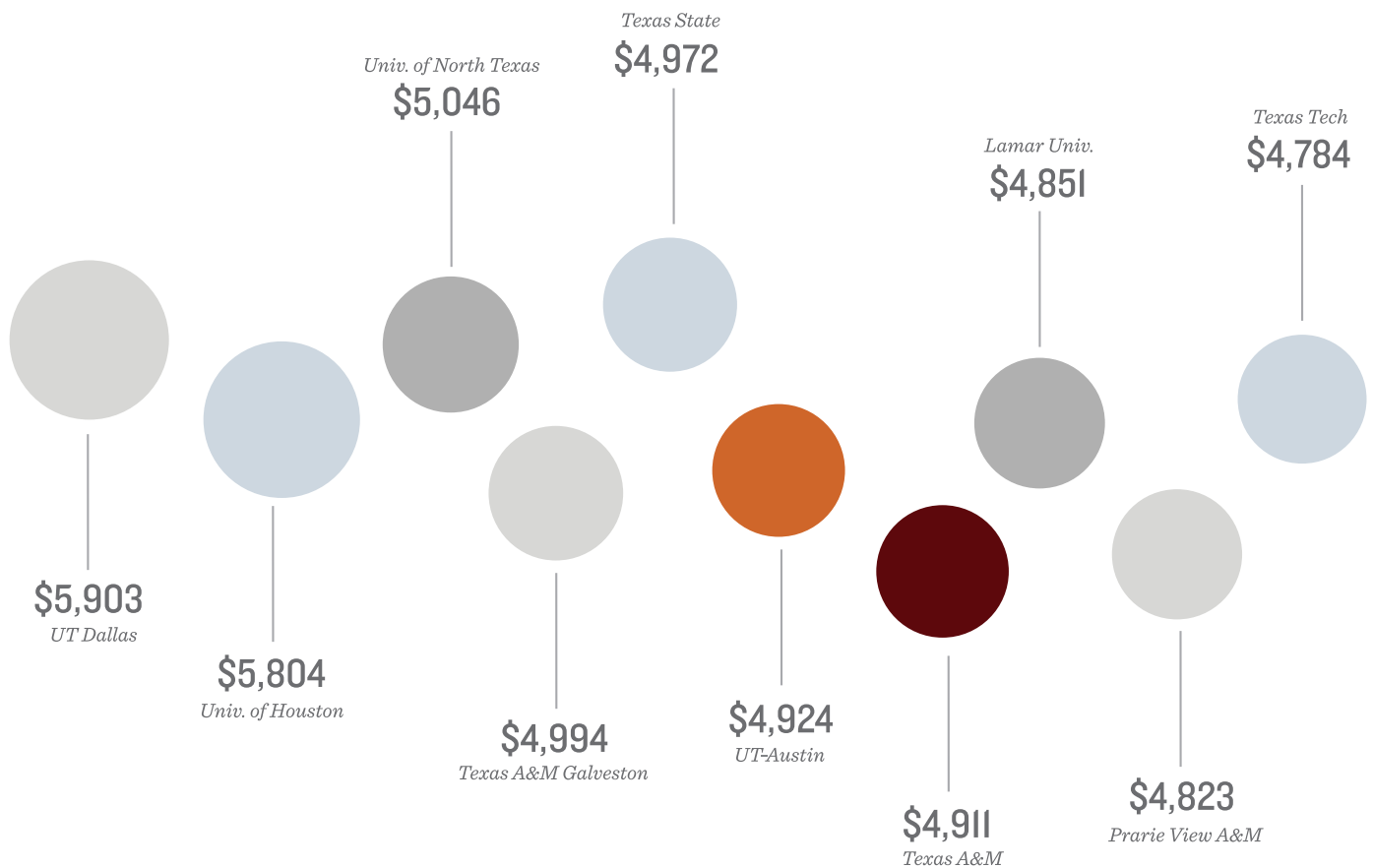
State formula funding directly supports the universities' core academic mission—teaching. Continued cuts to higher education funding places increased pressure on students and families. Stable, predictable state funding promotes efficiency and better planning for students and families.

The biggest drivers of student debt are not graduating at all or in an untimely manner. Without sufficient support from the Legislature, there are fewer class sections which delays accessibility to courses and availability of enriching opportunities for students.

The University of Texas at Austin graduated a higher percentage of students on time in 2016 than ever before, with 60.9 percent earning their degrees in four years or less. Texas A&M University has the fastest average time to undergraduate degree and highest graduation rate for both full-time freshmen students and transfer students.

Any contributor to slowing the time to degree for students hurts all Texans. It is taking the future workforce longer to gain their skills and contribute back to local economies by way of added income.

## TEXAS UNIVERSITY TUITION RATE COMPARISON



Tuition & fees per semester, fall 2015

# THE ISSUES



## TIER-ONE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION: SUPPORTING TEXAS RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Continued support for the Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI) and investment in the Texas Research University Fund (TRUF) is critical to research at UT-Austin and Texas A&M.

Research at Tier-One institutions creates invaluable opportunities for applied learning through hands-on experiences, advanced problem solving, and instruction from world-class faculty.

Basic research is conducted at universities and colleges throughout the nation to contribute to greater knowledge and understanding of fundamental phenomena in physical sciences, engineering, environmental and life sciences, and the humanities.

More than \$2.7 billion in sponsored research over the past two years at UT-Austin and Texas A&M has extended humanity's base of knowledge and brought royalties, tax revenues, and new business to the Lone Star State.

Examples of the innovation that have come from Tier 1 research at UT-Austin and Texas A&M include: robotic search and discovery, PTSD treatment, and autonomous vehicles. Funding that provides resources for faculty, facilities, and equipment to conduct the innovative and groundbreaking research at UT-Austin and Texas A&M, like the Texas Research University Fund, is crucial to the research mission of the state's flagship universities.

This performance-based incentive allows research universities like UT-Austin and Texas A&M to compete nationally in recruiting and retaining the highest-performing faculty for our students.

In the past two years, UT-Austin has generated \$40 million from licensing technology. And during that time, over 40 patents were issued based on Texas A&M-generated technologies. Funding research incentives is an investment in the businesses, patents, and medical advances that keep Texas competitive.

## UT-AUSTIN AND TEXAS A&M: BY THE NUMBERS



**29,000**

DEGREES AWARDED  
EACH YEAR



**117,000**

STUDENTS CURRENTLY  
ENROLLED



**\$1.5+**

BILLION GENERATED ANNUALLY  
IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT