

Standard Description of UT Knoxville for Programmatic Accreditation

(Created May 2015; revised February 2024)

Purpose

The SACSCOC Policy Statement [Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies](#) states,

SACSCOC requires candidate and member institutions holding accredited or candidacy (pre-accredited) status from more than one U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency (<https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Agencies.aspx>) to keep each agency apprised of any change in its status with one or another agency. Any institution seeking or holding accreditation from more than one USDOE-recognized accrediting agency must represent itself accurately to each agency with regard to purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituents, and must keep each USDE-recognized accrediting body, including SACSCOC, apprised of any change in its status with one or another accrediting agency.

When preparing accreditation reports that require a description of the University, the mission and vision statements (see <https://www.utk.edu/vision>) or other language relating to the items previously listed, departments should contact the SACSCOC Liaison to ensure each uses similar language to maintain compliance with this policy. This document provides recommended text (abbreviated and expanded descriptions) and is maintained by the Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Department and posted to <https://ie.utk.edu/programmatic-accreditation/> for department use.

Abbreviated Description of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT Knoxville) is the flagship, land-grant, comprehensive research university in the University of Tennessee System (UT System). The institution offers more than 300 degree programs to its 36,304 students and is authorized to award bachelor, master, professional and doctoral degrees. UT Knoxville's Carnegie Classification is Research University/very high and holds the Elective Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.

UT Knoxville is one of the nation's oldest institutions of higher education. Established in 1794 as Blount College, it was renamed East Tennessee College (1820) and again as East Tennessee University (1840). The Civil War forced the institution to close, and its buildings were used as a hospital. The University reopened after the war and, in 1869, was chosen as Tennessee's land-grant institution, changing its name to the University of Tennessee (UT) in 1879. The medical campus in Nashville was acquired by the University in 1879 and moved to Memphis in 1911. The UT System was created in 1968, bringing various entities together under one Board of Trustees.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, masters, educational specialist, and doctorate degrees. Degree-granting institutions also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of University of Tennessee, Knoxville may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org). UT Martin (1951), UT Chattanooga (1910), UT Health Science Center (1972), and UT Southern (2021) carry separate regional accreditation by SACSCOC.

Since creation of the state lottery that provides funds for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship, applications to UT have increased, and the quality of incoming freshmen has risen continuously during the past decade. The incoming fall 2023 freshman class has an average ACT composite score of 27.9 and average high school GPA of 4.19 (data from the Office of Institutional Research and Strategic Analysis "[5 Year Trend of First-Time Freshmen By Equivalent ACT and GPA Group Fall 2019-2023.](#)")

Expanded Description of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

NOTE: Delete sections as appropriate depending upon the requirements of each programmatic accreditor's guidelines.

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