



**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	
Thursday, September 10, 2026 9:45 a.m. CT	Tennessee State University Main Campus The Barn Agricultural Building 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd. Nashville, TN 37209

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Opening Remarks by the Committee Chair
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Approval of Committee Minutes
 - A. Approval of May 7, 2026, Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting (Action)
 - B. Approval of May 13, 2026, Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting (Action)
 - C. Approval of June 30, 2026, Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting (Action)
- VI. Enrollment Report
- VII. Student Affairs Report
 - A. Housing Update
- VIII. Academic Affairs Report
 - A. Accreditation Update
 - B. Faculty and Student Updates

- C. Tenure Policy Update
- D. Global Education Initiatives Update
- IX. Research and Sponsored Programs Update
- X. Adjournment

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: September 10, 2026

ITEM: Approval of Student & Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Trustee Jeffery Norfleet, Committee Chair

Background Information

The committee conducted the meeting(s) referenced below. The document reflecting the minutes from the meeting(s) are included in the Board materials:

May 7, 2026, Student & Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2026, Student & Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2026, Student & Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Proposed Committee Action

The Committee Chair will call for a motion recommending the approval of the meeting minutes.

MOTION: I move to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the Student & Academic Affairs Committee meeting minutes, as presented in the Board materials.

Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
May 7, 2026
Tennessee State University – Virtual

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Jeffery Norfleet, Terica Smith, and Dakasha Winton. Other Board members present: Dimeta Smith Knight and Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi

University Staff Present: President Dwayne Tucker; Ginette Brown, Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Sterlin Sanders, Interim Chief Information Officer; Dr. Eric Stokes, Vice President of Enrollment Management; Dr. Bridgett Golman, Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Erica Lewis, Director of Student Conduct; Dr. Dorsha James, Director of Student Health Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Norfleet called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Committee Chair Norfleet requested that Secretary Brown conduct the roll call. The following committee members were present: Trustee Jeffery Norfleet, Trustee Terica Smith, and Chair Winton. The committee members participating electronically confirmed that they could hear and speak with the Board and that they were alone in the room. Following the roll call, Secretary Brown determined that a quorum was present.

III. OPENING REMARKS BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

In the opening remarks, Committee Chair Norfleet expressed appreciation to the institution for its work in preparing the documents and information for the meeting. He also recognized Trustee Tiriveedhi as the new faculty trustee and thanked him for joining the meeting.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Smith moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Chair Winton. A roll call vote was taken, with all present committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2026, STUDENT AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the February 20, 2026, meeting minutes of the Student and Academic Affairs Committee were approved with a correction to the spelling of Provost Melton's name. Trustee

Smith made the motion, and Chair Winton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. PROPOSED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND ACADEMIC UNITS ACTIONS

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the next agenda item concerning proposed academic programs and academic unit actions and invited Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to present. Provost Schmeller noted that the two proposed academic actions were no-cost enhancements and had completed the University's curricular approval process.

Provost Schmeller first presented the establishment of a new concentration in the 4+1 accelerated BBA-MBA pathway. He explained that the pathway would provide high-achieving undergraduate students with an opportunity to begin graduate-level coursework during their senior year. Students with at least 60 credit hours and a minimum 3.0 GPA would be eligible to apply during their junior year and, if accepted, complete four graduate-level courses during their senior year. He noted that the pathway would allow students to reduce the cost and time required to complete an MBA while creating a pipeline into the University's graduate programs.

Provost Schmeller then presented a proposed Artificial Intelligence concentration within the Master of Science in Computer Science program. He explained that the concentration would utilize existing faculty and courses and provide students with additional preparation in areas including artificial intelligence, machine learning, generative AI, and applied deep learning. He noted that the concentration was intended to respond to industry demand and provide students with skills relevant to the current job market.

Committee members engaged in discussion regarding the proposed 4+1 BBA-MBA pathway, including potential faculty workload implications, the curriculum and available areas of study, and the relationship of the pathway to the University's existing MBA and Executive MBA programs. The trustees also asked about the relationship between the proposed Artificial Intelligence concentration and the University's existing master's program in data science. Provost Schmeller indicated that he would provide additional information in response to the questions raised.

Following discussion, Committee Chair Norfleet recommended holding the proposed academic actions for further consideration until the requested information could be provided. The Committee agreed to defer action and reconvene prior to the full Board meeting to consider the recommendations.

VII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the next agenda item concerning the Academic Affairs informational report and invited Interim Provost Schmeller to present. Provost Schmeller noted that the report provided an overview of recent accomplishments and activities within the University's academic units, including student and faculty achievements, grant activity, program reviews, student success initiatives, and efforts to strengthen enrollment pipelines.

Provost Schmeller highlighted several student and faculty accomplishments, including a political science student being named a Truman Fellowship finalist, accounting students' community service and financial literacy efforts, and Dr. Andrea Ringer receiving the Ohio Valley Conference Outstanding Faculty Award. He also highlighted recent grant successes and the progress of several academic program reviews, including the College of Education's reaccreditation process. Provost Schmeller encouraged Committee members to review the additional materials available in the Board portal for more detailed information regarding student accomplishments, research, grants, and service activities.

Provost Schmeller also provided an update on preparations for the fall semester. He reported that student success staff were actively advising students to support their return to coursework and noted that the University's spring freshman retention rate was 89 percent, the highest rate to date. He also provided updates on dual enrollment efforts, including continued work with Metro Nashville Public Schools to increase enrollment and revenue, as well as TRIO programs and related renewal efforts designed to strengthen the University's student pipeline.

Committee Chair Norfleet thanked Provost Schmeller for his report and encouraged continued efforts to expand dual enrollment partnerships and establish additional memoranda of understanding with schools and school systems to strengthen the University's student pipeline. He also encouraged Provost Schmeller to continue working with Dr. Johnny Smith and Dr. Stokes on these efforts.

VIII. STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the next agenda item concerning the Student Affairs Report and invited Dr. Bridgett Golman, Vice President, Division of Student Affairs, to present. Dr. Golman noted that the report provided highlights from the broader Student Affairs report available in the Board portal and covered student activities and leadership, student conduct, residence life, athletics and spirit programs, health and wellness services, and career development and support.

Dr. Golman provided an update on student activities and leadership, reporting 87 programs hosted from August through April, 81 active student organizations, and the induction of 35 students into Alpha Lambda Delta. She also highlighted Greek life engagement, with 277 new members across eight of the nine Panhellenic organizations conducting intake during the academic year.

Dr. Erica Lewis, Director of Student Conduct, provided an update on the Office of Student Conduct. She discussed efforts to expand the Student Affairs Disciplinary Committee, improve the efficiency of the student judicial process, and strengthen the Student Court program. She also highlighted training for campus users of the Maxient system, which is used to manage student conduct, residence life, and mental health alert records. Dr. Lewis reported that active conduct cases had decreased from 74 to 53 and that the Office of Student Conduct was developing a discipline awareness campaign and updating standardized Maxient correspondence for the upcoming academic year.

Dr. Golman then provided an update on residence life. She reported a 78 percent occupancy rate during the spring semester and provided current housing application figures for fall 2026. At the

time of the meeting, the University had 1,801 housing applications with deposits. Committee members discussed the housing deposit process and its role in providing a more accurate projection of incoming residential students.

Dr. Golman also highlighted activities and recruitment efforts for the Aristocrat of Bands, Cheer, and Dance programs. She reported performances at University and community events and discussed ongoing recruitment efforts following the graduation of a large student cohort. Committee members asked about the search for a permanent Band Director and projected band enrollment for fall 2026. Dr. Golman reported that efforts were underway to finalize the Band Director search and that approximately 200 students were expected for the band.

Dr. Dorsha James, Director of Student Health Services, provided an update on TimelyCare and the University's health and wellness services. She reported 328 TimelyCare visits from February through April and 1,078 completed virtual visits overall, including both medical and mental health services. She noted that TimelyCare provides on-demand medical and mental health services, scheduled counseling, psychiatric services, and digital health coaching. Dr. James also highlighted services provided through the Student Health Center, including blood pressure monitoring, STI testing, HIV prevention services, and health screenings.

Dr. James also discussed student health outreach initiatives, including the "Your Health Matters" campaign and the Club TSU event, which provided students with education regarding alcohol and drug use, peer influence, and personal risk awareness. She further reported on activities at the Health and Wellness Center, which recorded more than 21,000 visits during the year, and noted that the swimming pool received a 98 out of 100 rating from the Tennessee Health Inspector.

An update was also provided on the University Counseling Center. Dr. James reported that in-person counseling sessions resumed February 9 following the hiring of Dr. Kim Dale as Executive Director. Students have access to in-person counseling as well as additional virtual counseling through TimelyCare, with exceptions for students requiring a higher level of care. The University is also in the process of hiring an additional counselor.

Dr. Golman concluded the report with an update on career development and student support services. She reported more than 25 career-related events during the spring semester, including a career fair attended by more than 85 employers. She highlighted several students who received employment offers through the University's career development efforts. Additional updates included services provided through One-Stop Navigation, Veteran Affairs, Disability Services, International Student Services, and the Floyd Payne Campus Center.

Committee members thanked Dr. Golman and the Student Affairs team for the report and the services provided to students.

IX. ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the next agenda item, the enrollment management update, and invited Dr. Eric Stokes, Vice President for Enrollment Management, to present. Dr. Stokes provided an overview of spring recruitment activities, enrollment initiatives, technology

enhancements, and fall 2026 enrollment progress, emphasizing the collaborative efforts of admissions, recruitment, operations, the registrar, financial aid, academic affairs, student affairs, athletics, alumni, and other University partners.

Dr. Stokes reported extensive spring recruitment through Tigers on Tour, school visits, counselor and student influencer events, and on-campus programs throughout Tennessee and regional markets. He highlighted strong engagement from Memphis-Shelby County Schools, the success of Spring Preview Day, continued promotion of the Trailblazer Scholarship, and efforts to reengage students who had stopped out. He also recognized the contributions of the University's Tiger Ambassadors in supporting recruitment activities.

Dr. Stokes discussed enhancements to the University's applicant portal, which allows students to access admission letters, scholarships, enrollment confirmation, application checklists, financial aid information, events, and campus resources. He also reviewed a new enrollment management dashboard developed with Alvarez & Marsal that integrates with Slate and provides data to monitor applications, admissions, confirmations, academic indicators, and scholarships. He noted that the dashboard has helped the enrollment team identify areas requiring additional outreach and support.

Regarding fall 2026, Dr. Stokes reported 1,610 confirmed first-time freshmen who had paid the \$100 enrollment deposit, along with 174 confirmed transfer students. He noted that 1,110 students had registered for new student orientation and emphasized that enrollment growth had occurred without sacrificing academic quality. Most confirmed freshmen are expected to enroll in at least 15 credit hours, particularly because many scholarship and tuition-discount programs require full-time enrollment.

Dr. Stokes also reported that approximately 85 percent of confirmed students registered for orientation had submitted a FAFSA. He outlined continued efforts with financial aid staff, schools, counselors, students, and families to increase FAFSA completion. Comparative data showed increases in applications, admissions, and confirmations over the prior year, while GPA and ACT indicators remained generally consistent with or above the previous year. Transfer applications and academic performance also remained strong.

He provided updates on new student orientation and yield initiatives, including high school signing days, social media engagement, direct communications, and a new digital financial aid resource within the applicant portal. The resource is intended to help students and families understand their awards, estimated costs, remaining balances, and payment options and reduce enrollment losses related to nonpayment. He also discussed a postcard initiative allowing academic deans, faculty, and advisors to personally connect with admitted students during the summer, as well as the continued Cultivate campaign targeting high school sophomores and juniors.

Following the presentation, Committee Chair Norfleet and Trustee Smith Knight commended Dr. Stokes and his team and discussed opportunities to strengthen recruitment and financial support through alumni associations, churches, community organizations, NPHC organizations, and other partners. Dr. Stokes noted that alumni had become an important extension of the University's

recruitment efforts and highlighted ongoing partnerships with community organizations, summer camps, and other groups.

Dr. Stokes also discussed enhancements to the dual enrollment application process and the University's partnership with Nashville State Community College, noting that additional community colleges had expressed interest in similar partnerships. In response to a question from President Tucker, Dr. Stokes clarified that the 1,610 confirmed freshmen, combined with 174 confirmed transfer students, represented approximately 1,780 students in the enrollment pipeline.

President Tucker commended Dr. Stokes and the Enrollment Management team for rebuilding the division's infrastructure and resources and achieving substantial progress toward the University's enrollment goals. Provost Schmeller also noted Academic Affairs' collaboration with Enrollment Management on Tigers on Tour recruitment activities and reported that dual enrollment revenue had exceeded \$185,000 for the year.

Dr. Stokes concluded his presentation, and the trustees thanked him and his team for the report.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Winton moved to adjourn, with the motion seconded by Trustee Smith. A roll call vote was taken, with all committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

COMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- **Artificial Intelligence Concentration and Data Science Program Alignment** – Committee members requested additional information regarding the relationship between the proposed Artificial Intelligence concentration and the University's existing master's program in data science. *Assigned to: Provost Schmeller & Dr. Robbie Melton*

Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
May 13, 2026
Tennessee State University – Virtual

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Jeffery Norfleet, Terica Smith, and Dakasha Winton.
Other Board members present: Marquita Qualls

University Staff Present: President Dwayne Tucker; Ginette Garza Brown, Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Sterlin Sanders, Interim Chief Information Officer; Dr. Eric Stokes, Vice President of Enrollment Management

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Norfleet called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Committee Chair Norfleet requested that Secretary Brown conduct the roll call. The following committee members were present: Trustee Jeffery Norfleet, Trustee Terica Smith, and Chair Winton. The committee members participating electronically confirmed that they could hear and speak with the Board and that they were alone in the room. Following the roll call, Secretary Brown determined that a quorum was present.

III. OPENING REMARKS BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

In the opening remarks, Committee Chair Norfleet noted that the meeting was a continuation of the previous week's discussion regarding proposed academic programs. He explained that the committee had reconvened to receive additional information and invited Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to lead the committee through the discussion.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Winton moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Smith. A roll call vote was taken, with all present Committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PROPOSED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND ACADEMIC UNITS ACTIONS

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the continued agenda item concerning proposed academic programs and academic unit actions and invited Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost and Vice

President for Academic Affairs, to provide additional information requested by the Committee prior to consideration of the proposed actions.

Provost Schmeller clarified that the proposed actions involved concentrations rather than new academic programs and would not require additional costs or faculty. He noted that the courses associated with the concentrations were already part of the University's existing course inventory and that the proposed changes represented the lowest level of program modification requiring only notification. He also noted that the proposals had completed the University's curricular approval process.

Provost Schmeller provided additional information regarding the proposed 4+1 BBA-MBA concentration, explaining that the pathway would provide high-performing undergraduate students with an opportunity to complete four graduate-level courses during their undergraduate program. He noted that the pathway would allow students to take graduate coursework at the undergraduate tuition rate and was intended to encourage students to continue into the MBA program.

Provost Schmeller also clarified the proposed Artificial Intelligence concentration within the Master of Science in Computer Science program. He explained that the concentration is designed for students with a computer science background, while the University's existing data science concentration is more broadly accessible to students from different academic majors. He noted that the two offerings therefore serve different student populations and are not duplicative.

Committee members discussed the proposed academic actions, including questions regarding student persistence and the potential financial impact for students transitioning from undergraduate financial aid to graduate financial aid in the fifth year of the 4+1 pathway. Provost Schmeller indicated that this issue was not specifically addressed in the proposal and agreed to provide additional information.

Following discussion, Committee Chair Norfleet called for a motion to recommend approval of the proposed academic programs and academic unit actions to the full Board. Chair Winton made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Smith. A roll call vote was taken, with all present Committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Smith moved to adjourn, with the motion seconded by Chair Winton. A roll call vote was taken, with all committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

COMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- **4+1 Pathway Student Persistence and Financial Aid Impact** – Committee members requested additional information regarding student persistence and the potential financial impact on students transitioning from undergraduate financial aid to graduate financial aid during the fifth year of the proposed 4+1 pathway. *Assigned to: Provost Schmeller*

Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees
Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
June 30, 2026
Tennessee State University – Virtual

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Trustees Jeffery Norfleet, Terica Smith, and Dakasha Winton.

University Staff Present: President Dwayne Tucker; Ginette Garza Brown, Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Leah Louallen, Strategic Advisor to the President; Sterlin Sanders, Interim Chief Information Officer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Norfleet called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Committee Chair Norfleet requested that Secretary Brown conduct the roll call. The following committee members were present: Trustee Jeffery Norfleet, Trustee Terica Smith, and Chair Winton. The committee members participating electronically confirmed that they could hear and speak with the Board and that they were alone in the room. Following the roll call, Secretary Brown determined that a quorum was present.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Trustee Norfleet recommended to amend the agenda by removing Item Number 4, the approval of revisions to the academic tenure policy regarding tenure-track appointments and tenure criteria, from consideration at the meeting. He further requested that the administration engage in a comprehensive shared governance process with appropriate faculty, staff, and other institutional stakeholders to review, refine, and develop revisions before bringing the matter back to the Board for consideration at a future meeting. Chair Winton moved to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Trustee Smith. A roll call vote was taken, with all present committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Winton moved to adopt the agenda as modified and contained in the materials for the June 30, 2026, committee meeting. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all present committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO ACADEMIC TENURE POLICY REGARDING TENURE-TRACK APPOINTMENTS AND TENURE CRITERIA

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the agenda item concerning the proposed revisions to the academic tenure policy regarding faculty discipline and invited Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to provide an overview of the proposed revisions prior to consideration of the action by the committee.

Provost Schmeller explained that the proposed revisions address recent state legislation providing university administration with additional flexibility in addressing faculty misconduct. He stated that the proposed policy establishes procedures for disciplining faculty members for adequate cause, including misconduct and unsatisfactory performance. Provost Schmeller noted that the proposed revisions were developed after reviewing policies at multiple institutions and largely incorporated elements of Middle Tennessee State University's policy.

Attorney Brown provided an overview of the legal requirements underlying the proposed revisions. She explained that the proposed policy provides separate processes for faculty discipline based on misconduct and unsatisfactory performance. The misconduct process would provide for notice and a hearing and would proceed through the Provost and President for a final determination, without faculty committee input, consistent with the requirements of state law. The unsatisfactory performance process would allow for faculty engagement, committee review, and department-level feedback concerning performance expectations.

Provost Schmeller further explained that documentation, annual evaluations of instruction, student evaluations, and other existing documentation would continue to be considered as part of the disciplinary process. He noted that the proposed revisions were being incorporated into the tenure policy, although further consideration through the shared governance process would be appropriate to determine how the provisions best fit within the overall policy.

Trustees discussed the proposed revisions and the need for additional work to ensure that the policy is comprehensive, sustainable, and appropriate for the institution. Committee Chair Norfleet expressed appreciation for the administration's work and due diligence in developing the proposed revisions and acknowledged the requirement to move forward in accordance with state law.

Following discussion, Committee Chair Norfleet called for a motion that the Student Academic Affairs Committee recommend to the full Board of Trustees approval of the revisions to the academic tenure policy regarding faculty discipline, with the express understanding that the administration immediately engage in a shared governance process and work collaboratively with appropriate institutional stakeholders to develop a comprehensive and sustainable policy. Committee Chair Norfleet further requested that the administration provide a final draft to the Student Academic Affairs Committee by September 15, 2026, for review and action at the Committee's November 5, 2026, meeting. Trustee Smith moved to approve the recommendation. Chair Winton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all present committee members voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Norfleet moved to adjourn, with the motion seconded by Chair Winton. A roll call vote was taken, with all committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

COMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- **Academic Tenure Policy Revisions and Shared Governance Process** – Committee Chair Norfleet requested that the administration immediately engage in a shared governance process and work collaboratively with appropriate institutional stakeholders to develop a comprehensive and sustainable faculty discipline policy. Committee Chair Norfleet further requested that a final draft be provided to the Student Academic Affairs Committee by September 15, 2026, for review and action at the committee's November 5, 2026, meeting. *Assigned to: Provost Schmeller*

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: September 10, 2026

ITEM: Enrollment Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Eric Stokes, Vice President of Enrollment Management

Background Information

Dr. Stokes will present an update on enrollment.



Meeting of the TSU Board of Trustees

Student and Academic Affairs Committee

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TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AGENDA ITEM

VI. Enrollment Report

2

Division of Enrollment Management

Presentation Topics:

1. Fall 2026 New Student Enrollment Update
2. Data Deep Dive
3. What's New for 2027



3

Fall 2026 New Student Enrollment Update



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Data as of 9/2/26 – 8:57pm

FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT FALL + SUMMER 2026

	Applied	Admitted	Confirmed (Paid \$100 Deposit)	NSO Registration
Freshman	15,674	10,812	2,048	1,960
Fall 26	15,007	10,506	1,977	1,925
Summer 26	667	306	71	35
Avg. GPA	3.31	3.50	3.38	
Avg. ACT	19	19	18	
Avg. SAT	996	1012	978	

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TRANSFER ENROLLMENT FALL 2026

	Applied	Admitted	Confirmed (Paid \$100 Deposit)	NSO Registration
Transfer	1,645	940	476	317
Avg. GPA	2.87	3.03	2.95	

Data as of 9/2/26 – 8:57pm

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New Student Orientation

App Funnel Stage	Registered	Attended	Attendance Rate
Freshman NSO	1,925	1,768	92%
Transfer NSO	317	283	89%
Total NSO	2,242	2,051	92%

Total Attended NSO with Guests = 4,554

Data as of 9/2/26 – 8:57pm

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Fall 2026 Undergraduate Registration by Student Type

Student Type	Count (09.01.2026)
Continuing	2281
New First Time Freshman (includes Summer FTF Returning Fall)	1737
New Special/Non-Degree	26
New Transfer	365
New Transient	27
Readmitted	104
First Time High School (Dual Enrollment)	410
Grand Total	4950

Data as of 9/2/26 – 8:57pm

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Fall 2026 New Student Enrolled ~Drop for Non-Payment~

	Fall 2026	Note
Freshman Purged	55	67% of FTF purged were out-of-state
Transfer Purged	16	

Data as of 9/2/26 – 8:57pm

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Comparative Analysis

Term	Total Headcount*	Undergraduate*	Graduate*
Fall 2026	6134	4950	1184
Fall 2025	5325	4187	1138
Difference	809	763	46
%difference	15%	18%	4%

**Does not include students (2) who are auditing a course.*

Fall 2026 Headcount and FTE

Level	Headcount*	FTE
Graduate	1184	800.5
Undergraduate	4950	4567.4
Total 02-SEP-26 08.33.32	6134	5367.9

**Does not include students (2) who are auditing a course.*

Data as of 9/2/26 – 8:57pm

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Fall 2026 – Deep Dive Into Data



#	State
1	Tennessee
2	Georgia
3	Illinois
4	Alabama
5	Florida
6	Texas
7	Michigan
8	Indiana
9	Ohio
10	California
11	Non-US
12	Missouri
13	Maryland
14	Kentucky
15	Mississippi
16	Louisiana
17	South Carolina
18	Wisconsin
19	New York
20	Virginia
21	Arkansas
22	North Carolina
23	District of Columbia
24	New Jersey
25	Pennsylvania

Top 25 States by Application

Enrollment Dashboard Data as of 8/23/26 – 5:13pm

Data as of 8/23/26 – 5:06pm

Top 20 High Schools by Enrollment

#	Tennessee High School	City
1	Whitehaven High School	Memphis
2	Cane Ridge High School	Antioch
3	Southwind High School	Memphis
4	Whites Creek Comprehensive HS	Whites Creek
5	McGavock High School	Nashville
6	Germantown High School	Germantown
7	KIPP Nashville Collegiate HS	Nashville
8	Antioch High School	Antioch
9	Hunters Lane High School	Nashville
10	La Vergne High School	La Vergne
11	East Literature Magnet School	Nashville
12	Cordova High School	Cordova
13	John Overton Comprehensive HS	Nashville
14	White Station High School	Memphis
15	Lead Academy High School	Nashville
16	Central High School	Memphis
17	Blackman High School	Murfreesboro
18	East High School	Memphis
19	Craigmont High School	Memphis
20	Republic High School	Nashville

#	High School (Out of State)	City, State
1	Westlake High School	Atlanta, GA
2	Central High School	Louisville, KY
3	Cardinal Ritter College Prep	Saint Louis, MO
4	Southwest Dekalb High School	Decatur, GA
5	New Manchester High School	Douglasville, GA
6	Warren Central High School	Indianapolis, IN
7	Cass Technical High School	Detroit, MI
8	Pike High School	Indianapolis, IN
9	Lawrence Central High School	Indianapolis, IN
10	Jonesboro High School	Jonesboro, GA
11	Rockdale County High School	Conyers, GA
12	Southaven High School	Southaven, MS
13	Thornton Township High School	Harvey, IL
14	Ramsay High School	Birmingham, AL
15	Arabia Mountain High School	Lithonia, GA
16	Desoto Central High School	Southaven, MS
17	Tri-Cities High School	East Point, GA
18	Langston Hughes High School	Fairburn, GA
19	Benjamin E Mays High School	Atlanta, GA
20	Ben Davis High School	Indianapolis, IN

Top 20 Transfer Institutions by Enrollment

#	Transfer Institution	City, State
1	Nashville State Community College	Nashville, TN
2	Southwest Tennessee Community College	Memphis, TN
3	University of Memphis	Memphis, TN
4	Volunteer State Community College	Gallatin, TN
5	Austin Peay State University	Clarksville, TN
6	Bethel University	Mc Kenzie, TN
7	Chattanooga State Community College	Chattanooga, TN
8	Georgia Military College	Milledgeville, GA
9	Motlow State Community College	Tulahoma, TN
10	Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University	Huntsville, AL
11	Belmont University	Nashville, TN
12	University of Tennessee: Martin	Martin, TN
13	Columbia State Community College	Columbia, TN
14	Jackson State Community College	Jackson, TN
15	Shades Mountain Independent Church Academy	Hoover, AL
16	Dyersburg State Community College	Dyersburg, TN
17	Georgia Piedmont Technical College	Clarkston, GA
18	Georgia State University	Atlanta, GA
19	Fisk University	Nashville, TN
20	University of Tennessee: Chattanooga	Chattanooga, TN

Data as of 8/23/26 – 5:06pm

What's New for Fall 2027



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You Belong @ TSU
APPLY NOW!
Explore Over 80 Undergraduate & Graduate Programs

tnstate.edu/apply

Your journey to becoming a TSU Tiger begins today

Applicant Type	Fall 2026 as of 8/24/25	Fall 2027 as of 8/24/26	Growth
First-Year	218	1456	+569%
Transfer	12	34	+183%



Data as of 9/2/26 – 8:57pm

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Slate Updates

NEW FEATURE
ALERT!

- ❖ Fall 2027App is open!
- ❖ Dynamic Portal
- ❖ Drip Campaigns & Targeted Communications
- ❖ President, Provost, & Deans Welcome Videos Embedded within the Admitted Student Campaign & Future Tiger Portal
- ❖ Integrated Honors College and Dr. Levi Watkins Program Applications
- ❖ Residency Pre-assessment Tool & Net Price Calculator Pre-assessment
- ❖ Update List of Majors

17

Dynamic Applicant Portal

WELCOME BACK,
Bruce

HAVE A QUESTION? WE HAVE THE ANSWER.
Irwin Todd Admissions Counselor
[EMAIL](#)

APPLICATION STATUS TRACKER

APPLICANT DECISION MADE ADMITTED CONFIRMED ENROLLED


Admitted
Welcome to the Land of Golden Sunshine! We are excited to have you as part of the Tiger Family. Click below to officially claim your spot and pay the \$100 enrollment deposit.
[ACCEPT OFFER OF ADMISSION](#)

 **Decision Letter**
RECEIVED: 11/10/2025

 **Scholarship Letter**
RECEIVED: 01/07/2026

 **Financial Aid Offer**

[Application](#) [Financial Aid](#) [Events](#)

[Application](#) [Financial Aid](#) [Events](#) [Orientation](#)

Enrollment Checklist

STATUS	DETAILS	DATE
Received	Eligibility Verification for Entitlements Act	07/11/2026
Received	Final, Official Transcript (Ivy Tech Community College (All Locations))	08/05/2026
Received	Final, Official Transcript (Ivy Tech Community College: Central Indiana)	08/05/2026
Received	Final, Official Transcript (Jackson State University)	07/14/2026
Received	Transcript (Ivy Tech Community College (All Locations))	07/13/2026
Received	Transcript (Ivy Tech Community College: Central Indiana)	07/07/2026
Received	Transcript (Jackson State University)	07/03/2026

[UPLOAD MATERIALS](#)

Awaiting Checklist Glossary

COLLEGE OF
Health
Sciences

The national need for health care professionals can't be overstated – from nurses to administrators to health educators, there is a wide demand that TSI graduates are filling. Our programs prepare students for the workforce or further education in physical therapy, nursing, and public health graduate programs. And with Nashville's access to dozens of hospitals and clinics, you can easily build a life and career in one of the nation's fastest growing cities after graduation!

[LEARN MORE](#)



The Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Institute Scholarship Application

Deadline for applications is 03/30/2027

Established in 2020, The Tennessee State University Medical/Dental Accelerated Pathway in pursuing the M.D. or D.D.S. degrees. TSU has a rich history in preparing gifted students. Students will spend three years of study in the College of Life and Physical Sciences at Tennessee State University. Upon successful completion of the undergraduate degree required for admission to the College of Medicine (M.D.) or Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) will be conferred after admission to one of our partnering medical schools: Meharry Medical College, Sidney Kimmel Medical College, or the School of Medicine @ Belmont University.

Requirements:

Students applying for the Accelerated Pathway Program of the Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Institute must meet the following requirements:

- Applied to Tennessee State University or to the Common Black College Application
- A minimum high school overall unweighted cumulative GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
- A minimum Composite ACT score of 28 (or equivalent SAT score of 1310).

Upon meeting minimum requirements, final acceptance into the Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Institute will be determined by a formal interview process administered by a committee composed of TSU and Meharry representatives. Students will be notified with an official letter of acceptance into the program.

Responsibilities and Commitments of Students:

- Students must agree to participate in the Summer Academic Enrichment and Summer Research programs.
- Students must agree to participate in the MCAT and DAT preparation programs.
- Students must commit to completing all requirements for admission into MMC.
- Upon completion of Medical/Dental school, students will commit to a career as a healthcare professional in underserved communities.

Scholarship:

Students selected for the program will receive a scholarship to assist with the cost of their education. The scholarship will cover tuition, fees, and room and board. The scholarship will also cover the cost of travel to and from the program. The scholarship will be awarded for the duration of the program. The scholarship will be awarded to students who are accepted into the program. The scholarship will be awarded to students who are accepted into the program. The scholarship will be awarded to students who are accepted into the program.

For additional information contact Mrs. Barbara Murrell at bmurrell@tnstate.edu or 615-881-1234.

Application Instructions: Please complete the entire application.

High School Unweighted GPA *

Demographic Information

Academic Information

Program *

Please list your high school counselor's information below.

Counselor's Name *

Counselor's Phone *

Counselor's Email *

List academic honors and/or awards

List the following: community involvement, school activities and work experience. List leadership roles, accomplishments, hours per week or per month and extent of involvement.

Activity #1	Years of Participation	Hours (per month)	Role/Accomplishments
Activity #2	Years of Participation	Hours (per month)	Role/Accomplishments
Activity #3	Years of Participation	Hours (per month)	Role/Accomplishments

Why are you applying to this program? Why do you want to pursue a career in medicine or dentistry serving underserved communities? (500-750 words) *

Recruitment Gameplan

Tennessee Association of College Registrars
& Admissions Officers (TACRAO) Calendar

Nashville State CC
Columbia State CC
Motlow State CC
Southwest CC
Volunteer State CC

College 615 Initiatives

Tigers on Tour School Takeovers

Target Metro Areas:

- Tennessee
- Atlanta
- Huntsville
- Birmingham
- Houston
- Dallas/Fort Worth
- St. Louis
- Chicago
- Indianapolis
- Detroit
- Cincinnati
- Louisville
- DC

21



JOHN A. MERRITT CLASSIC 2026
PRESENTED BY

CAMPUS TOUR
DISCOVER. EXPERIENCE. BECOME A *TIGER*.

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 29, 2026** 10:00 AM CST

**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
FLOYD-PAYNE CAMPUS CENTER
THE FORUM ROOM 210**

REGISTER TODAY!
<https://apply.tnstate.edu/register/jmccampustour>

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
#johnamerrittclassic



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BIG BLUE EXPLOSION
Fall Preview Day 2026

Saturday, October 10, 2026
9:00 AM CST
Kean Hall Gymnasium
tnstate.edu/nreview

22

Division of Enrollment Management

Questions & Discussion



23



24

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: September 10, 2026

ITEM: Student Affairs Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Bridgett Golman, Vice President of Student Affairs

Background Information

Dr. Golman will present a report on the Division of Student Affairs.



Division of Student Affairs

Student Success and Institutional momentum

Board of Trustees Meeting
September 2026

Dr. Bridgett Golman

www.tnstate.edu

bgolman@tnstate.edu

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY | DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES • SEPTEMBER 2026

Highlights

Student Affairs is advancing enrollment, belonging, wellness and institutional visibility while managing capacity and operational risks.

91.3%

Housing occupancy

\$449.6K

Summer revenue

931

Welcome Week engagements

2,618

Immunizations processed

204

Military funding recipients



Highlights

- Overall demand for on campus housing validates the strength of the TSU student experience.
- Increased number of new students living in Housing
- New student enrollment impacted all areas from Student Engagement, Health Services to Military students.

Housing Demand Is an Enrollment and Retention Asset

Strong occupancy and first-year participation affirm the residential experience and signal future capacity needs.

3,181

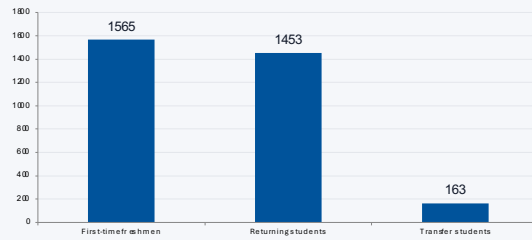
Students housed

91.3%

Occupancy, post-purge

91.2%

FTF choosing campus

**BOARD TAKEAWAY**

Plan capacity before demand becomes displacement

Use Fall 2026 demand in the 2027-28 housing forecast. Protect affordability, first-year belonging and access for returning students.

3

Fall 2026 Housing Snapshot

Post-purge data | On-campus housing

BEDS AVAILABLE**3,429**

Total on-campus capacity

STUDENTS HOUSED**3,181**

Maintaining Fall 2026 housing

REPORTED OCCUPANCY**91.3%****+6%**
vs. Fall 2025

Student Population in Campus Housing

3,181 students total

**FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN****1,565**

49.2% of housed students

TRANSFER STUDENTS**163**

5.1% of housed students

RETURNING STUDENTS**1,453**

45.7% of housed students

4

Summer Operations Produced Revenue and Recruitment Visibility

Camps and conferences are emerging as strategic channels for auxiliary support and partnerships.

\$449,600

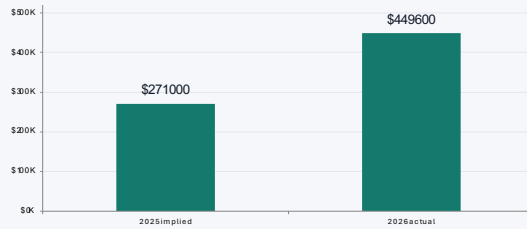
Total summer revenue

65.9%

Growth over 2025

14

Programs hosted



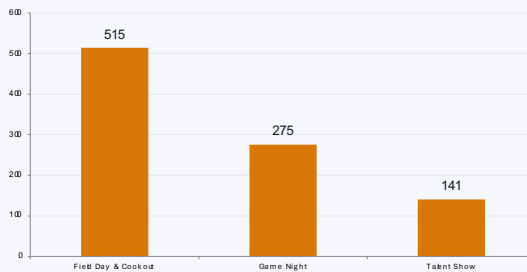
BOARD TAKEAWAY

Scale selectively and protect readiness

Set net-revenue and recruitment targets, apply full-cost analysis, and preserve residence hall readiness for the academic year.

Early Engagement Is Building Belonging at Scale

Welcome Week, leadership development and mentoring support a structured first-year transition.



78

Student leaders trained

14

Tiger Pals

53

First-year mentees

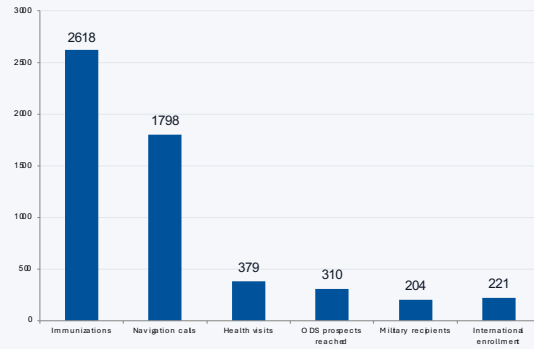


ULTIMATE measure is persistence, not only participation

Connect first-six-weeks engagement to credit completion, academic standing and retention. Expand participation to capture students in residence halls and those residing off campus.

Student Support Infrastructure Is Broadly Utilized

Health, navigation, disability, international and veteran services provide critical access points for student success.

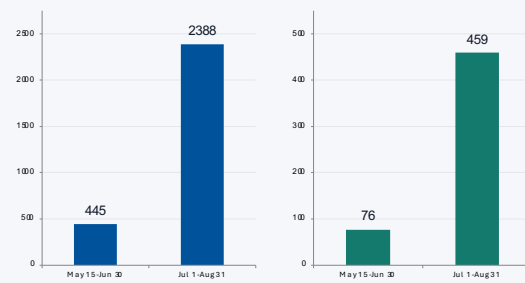


Increase utilization of support services across several areas in Student Affairs

7

Wellness and Aquatics Participation Accelerated

Late-summer usage increased as students returned and campus activity expanded.

**5.4x**

Student attendance growth

6.0x

Pool participation growth

Demand is visible

Increased utilization for both the Wellness Center and Aquatics.

Increase staffing and programming demand

8

Campus Life and Visibility Strengthen Institutional Pride

The student center, Cheer and Dance, and the Aristocrat of Bands connect daily student life with TSU traditions and national visibility.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Floyd-Payne Student Center supported major orientations, convocation, registration and community events.
- Cheer, Sophisticated Ladies, Lil Tigers and the Royal Court expanded school spirit and student leadership.
- The Aristocrat of Band (AOB) is 177 strong due to advanced recruitment efforts.

Campus-life assets are central to belonging, recruitment and brand value.

CLOSING PERSPECTIVE

Demand validates the value of the TSU experience.

Questions and discussion



Thank You

Division of Student Affairs

"Think. Work. Serve."

Dr. Bridgett Elliott Golman
Vice President of Student Affairs

SEPTEMBER 2026

Tennessee State University
Division of Student Affairs
Board Report – September 2026

The Division of Student Affairs at Tennessee State University supports student success by fostering a campus environment where students are engaged, connected, healthy, supported, and prepared to thrive. This report highlights the Division's work across residence life, student engagement, cheer and sophisticated ladies, student conduct, health and wellness, aquatics, counseling, student navigation, disability services, international student support, and campus center operations, with emphasis on programs and services that strengthen belonging, retention, leadership, wellness, school spirit, and the overall student experience.

Executive Summary

This reporting period reflects a strong start to the academic year for the Division of Student Affairs, with Residence Life and Student Engagement serving as central drivers of student belonging, retention, leadership, and campus pride. Residence Life opened Fall 2026 with 3,181 students housed on campus, a 91.3% occupancy rate, and significant first-year demand, with 91.2% of enrolled first-time freshmen choosing campus housing. The unit also generated \$449,600 in summer camp and conference revenue and supported large-scale partnerships such as the Urban League Annual Youth Summit. Student Engagement and Leadership strengthened the first-year transition through leadership development, Welcome Week, first-six-weeks programming, Tiger Pals mentoring, student organization support, and John Merritt Classic Week activities. Additional units across Student Affairs reinforced the student experience through conduct education, health services, wellness and aquatics programming, counseling and career support, centralized student navigation, veteran services, disability accommodations, international student services, and Floyd–Payne Student Center operations. Collectively, these efforts demonstrate the Division's sustained focus on access, engagement, wellness, student support, and a vibrant campus community.

OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE AND HOUSING

The Office of Residence Life and Housing advances student success by creating supportive residential communities. This section highlights Fall 2026 housing operations, move-in, summer conferences, living-learning communities, and residential engagement.

Housing for Fall 2026

Fall 2026 housing operations reflect strong occupancy, continued student demand, and a positive residential experience.

Fall 2026 Housing Snapshot

- 3,429 total beds available on campus

- 3,181 students maintaining on-campus housing for Fall 2026 (post-purge data). **91.3%** occupancy rate, representing a **6%** increase over Fall 2025

Student population housing includes:

- 1,565 First-Time Freshmen
- 163 Transfer Students
- 1,453 Returning Students

First-Year Student Demand

91.2% of enrolled first-time freshmen elected to live on campus, underscoring the value students place on affordability, convenience, programming, and community.

Student Move-In

The 2026–2027 move-in reflected a successful and highly collaborative opening experience, with 3,327 students assigned across nine residential facilities. The process included 1,659 first-time freshmen and 1,674 returning students, supported by more than 300 student volunteers, over 25 faculty and staff volunteers, alumni, external partners, and multiple university departments. Freshman move-in was organized over two days by zones to improve traffic flow and create a welcoming arrival experience for students and families.

Summer Camp and Conference Revenue

Summer 2026 conference operations generated substantial revenue and expanded TSU’s visibility among prospective students, families, and external partners.

- 14 total camps and conferences hosted across three residence halls
- \$449,600 in total summer camp and conference revenue, representing a **65.9%** increase over 2025
- \$259,667.45 in revenue generated from the Urban League Annual Youth Summit overall through a combination of:
 - Housing
 - Space rentals
 - IT services
 - Event management services

Urban League Annual Youth Summit

The Urban League Annual Youth Summit was a major summer highlight, bringing youth ages 13–18 to campus and strengthening TSU’s recruitment visibility and community partnership reach.

Living-Learning Communities & Signature Programs

- Wilson Hall enters its second year as the University's First-Year Experience Living-Learning Community (LLC), continuing to provide an intentional residential environment focused on supporting first-year student success and engagement.
- New Hall is again home to Cohort 6 of the Dr. Levi Watkins Jr. Institute for the Fall 2026–Spring 2027 academic year. This year's Dr. Levi Watkins Jr. Institute cohort is the largest cohort to date, reflecting continued growth of this important University program and the role that residential housing plays in supporting its success.

Residential Programming & Engagement

Residence Life projects to implement 115 residential programs for Fall 2026 to support learning, wellness, connection, cultural awareness, service, and belonging.

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership advances student connection, leadership, and institutional pride. This section highlights student leadership, Welcome Week, first-year engagement, student organizations, and campus traditions.

Student Leadership Retreat

Seventy-eight student leaders participated in a retreat focused on leadership, collaboration, accountability, and campus culture, then supported Freshman Move-In and early student engagement.

First-Year Engagement & First Six Weeks Programming

OSEL implemented Freshman Welcome Week and first-six-weeks programming to build community, introduce traditions, connect students with resources, and strengthen first-year belonging.

OSEL's six-week approach provides first-year students with continued opportunities to build relationships, access campus resources, engage with peers, and strengthen their connection to the University.

Freshman Welcome Week 2026

Freshman Welcome Week 2026 used the theme **"Coulda Been 1912: Officially Signed to the Legacy"** to welcome students into TSU traditions, campus pride, and peer connection.

Reported attendance at key Welcome Week activities included:

- **"Welcome to the Label" Talent Show – 141 attendees:** Provided students an opportunity to showcase their talents while connecting with their peers in a fun and welcoming environment.
- **"1912 Arcade" Game Night – 275 attendees:** Created an informal social experience where new students could interact, build relationships, and become more comfortable within the campus community.
- **"Sound of TSU (Prep Rally) and Tiger Records" Field Day and Cookout– 515 attendees:** Introduced freshmen to TSU cheers, chants, traditions, and school spirit. Following the Prep Rally, students participated in a cookout and outdoor field-day activities that encouraged interaction, community building, and Tiger pride.

Total documented participation across these activities was **931 student engagements**. Reported attendance should be considered a conservative estimate because several activities were held outdoors and in large, open areas.

Tiger Pals Mentoring Program

For Fall 2026, **14 Tiger Pals were selected to mentor 53 first-year students**, supporting academic, social, and personal adjustment during the first weeks of college.

Student Organizations & Campus Engagement

OSEL hosted required training sessions for student organization advisors and student leaders as part of the annual registration and renewal process. To date, **28 student organizations have completed registration**. The Fall 2026 new organization application period runs August 15–October 31, with approved organizations eligible for recognition beginning Spring 2027.

Welcome Back & John Merritt Classic Week

OSEL hosted Welcome Back activities during John Merritt Classic Week, giving students opportunities to reconnect with the campus community while supporting the University’s T.I.G.E.R. Programming Model.

OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The Office of Student Conduct promotes a safe, respectful, and accountable campus community. This section highlights conduct case activity, policy updates, student court preparation, Maxient training, and student awareness efforts.

Case Status	Total
Closed	28
In progress or under investigation	23
No-Contact Directive entered	4
Resolved, Sanctions Pending	17
Student Suspension	5
Student Expulsion	1

Update the Student Code of Conduct

Establish Standard Operating Procedures for Adjudication

Define Roles and Create a Manual for the Student Court

Due to low interest in spring, the Student Court application was reopened for Fall 2026 and will close on September 4, 2026. The number of applicants has increased. We expect to add 3 new members to the Student Court.

Provide Updated Training for Maxient Users

Launch a Discipline Awareness Campaign

- A new Student Conduct motto was launched for Fall 2026.
- Tigers C.A.R.E. (Communicate, Advocate, Report, and Engage)
- The new motto is currently displayed on monitors in residence halls and the Floyd Payne Campus Center

Recruit Additional Hearing Committee Members

- Two staff members have been added to the Student Affairs Disciplinary Committee
- One committee member recently separated from the university and will be replaced by September 18, 2026.
- To maximize availability for scheduling and update and Maxient letter templates

CHEERLEADERS AND SOPHISTICATED LADIES

Cheer and Sophisticated Ladies

Cheer and Dance supports school spirit, student leadership, and campus visibility. This section highlights summer preparation, Fall 2026 readiness, community engagement, and the programs' role in representing TSU with pride.

The University Cheerleaders, Sophisticated Ladies, Lil Tigers, and Royal Court programs opened the Fall 2026 season with strong preparation, visible campus spirit, and positive community engagement. Summer camps, pre-camps, leadership development, John A. Merritt Classic participation, and youth outreach positioned these programs to represent TSU with professionalism, pride, and excellence.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES CENTER

Overview

The Student Health Services Center provides accessible medical care, health education, and wellness support for TSU students. This section highlights clinic visits, immunization processing, TimelyCare access, outreach, and community partnerships.

Student Health Services (May 15, 2026 – August 31, 2026)

- Total Visits: 379
- Immunizations processed: 2,618

Access to Telemedicine Through TimelyCare

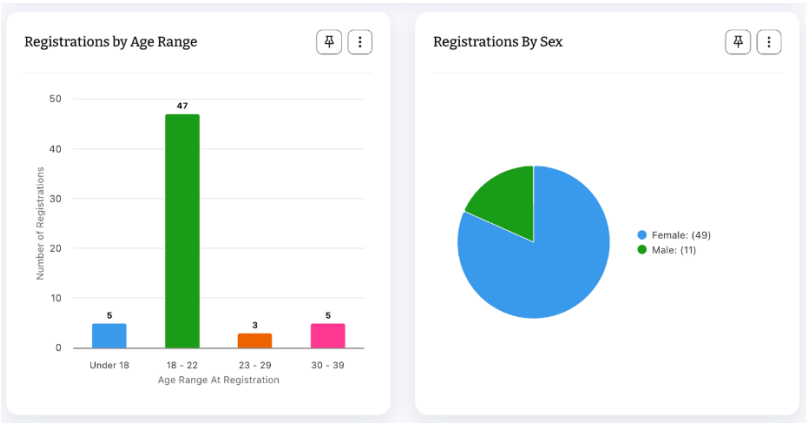
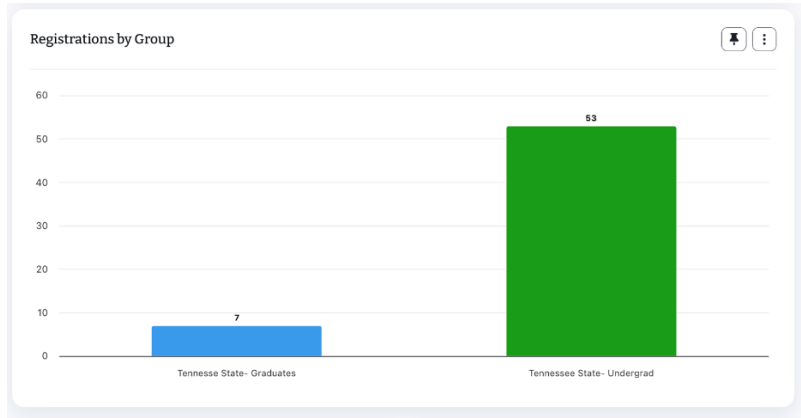
Student Health Services continued its partnership with TimelyCare to provide students with 24/7/365 access to care, allowing evaluation and treatment from any location within all 50 states. TimelyCare has served as a critical extension of medical campus-based services, ensuring continuity of care during periods of limited provider/nursing capacity or when the clinic reaches full capacity.

TimelyCare Utilization & Service Metrics

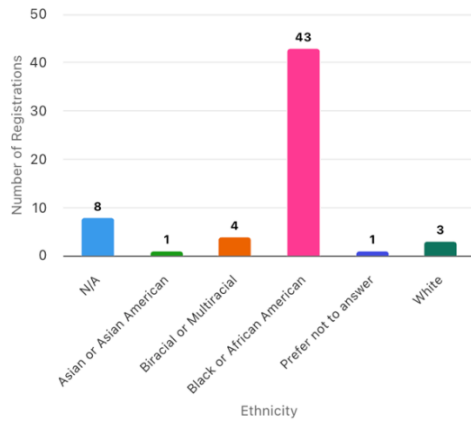
TimelyCare continues to play a vital supportive role in meeting student medical needs when on-campus providers are unavailable, helping to reduce delays in care while maintaining appropriate clinical oversight and referral pathways. Overall student visit volume decreased because fewer students were on campus during the summer sessions.

All Time Registrations ⓘ

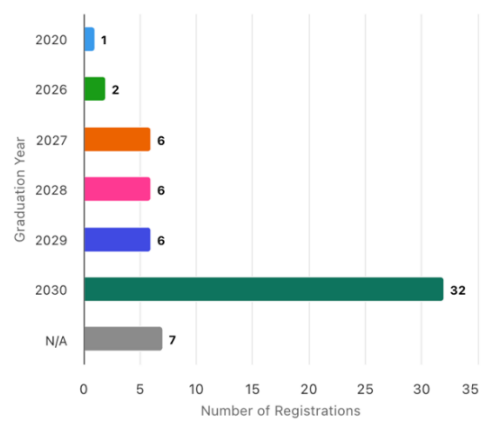
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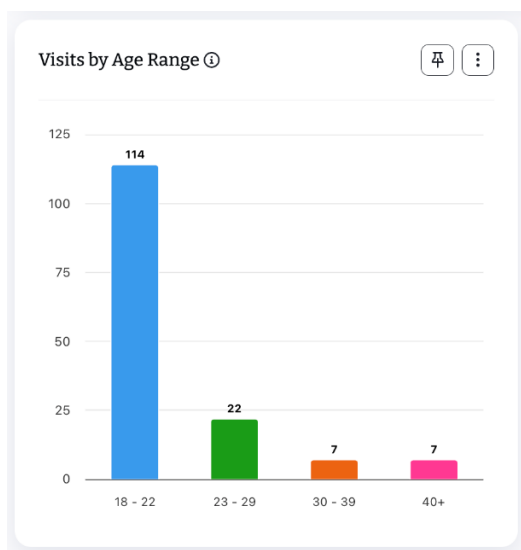
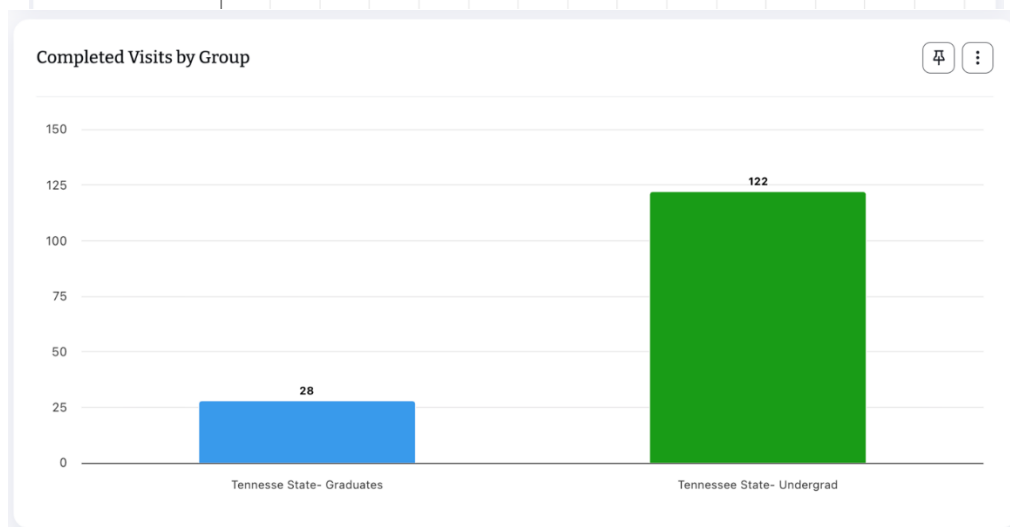
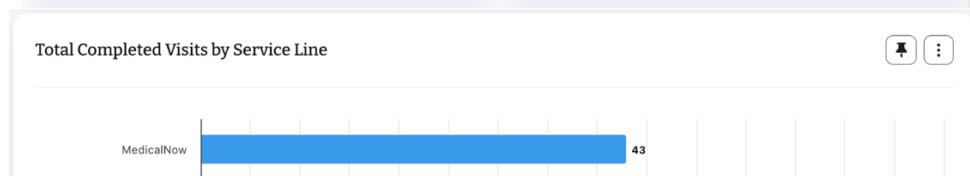
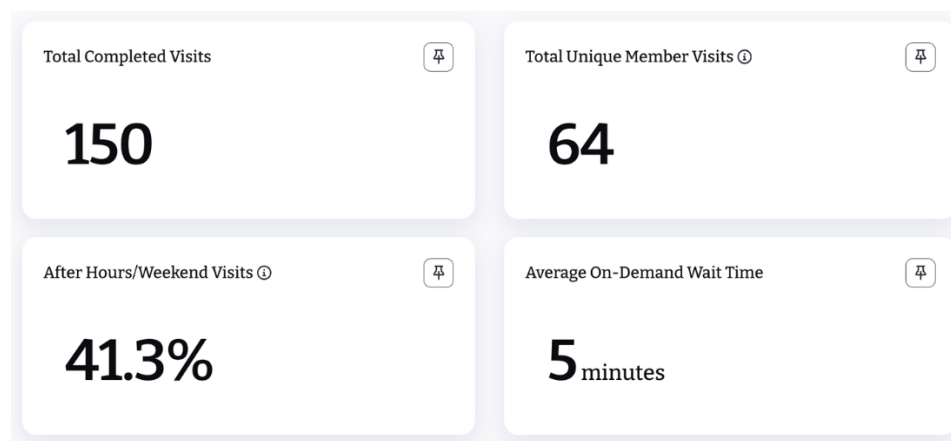


Registrations by Ethnicity

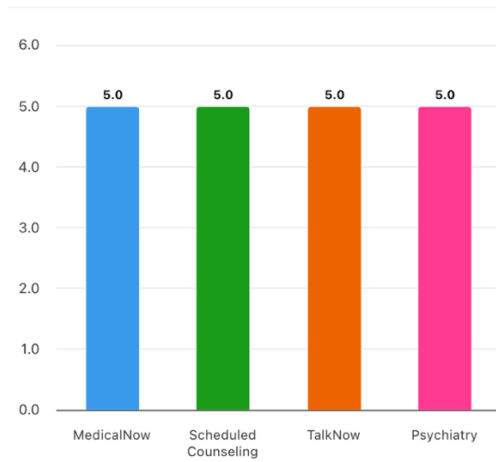


Registrations by Graduation Year

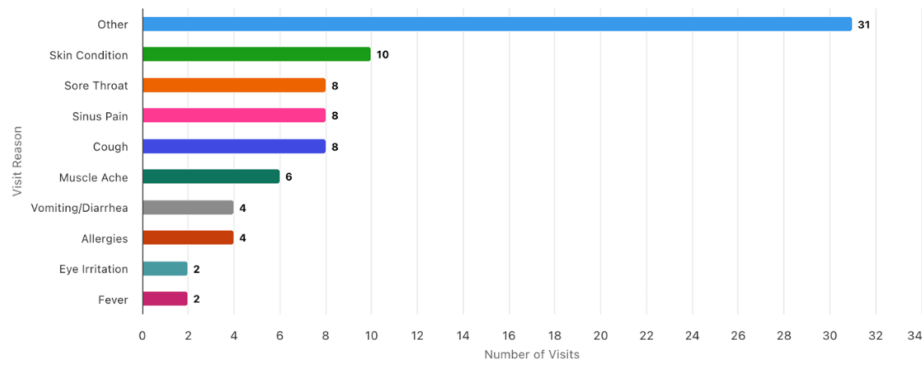




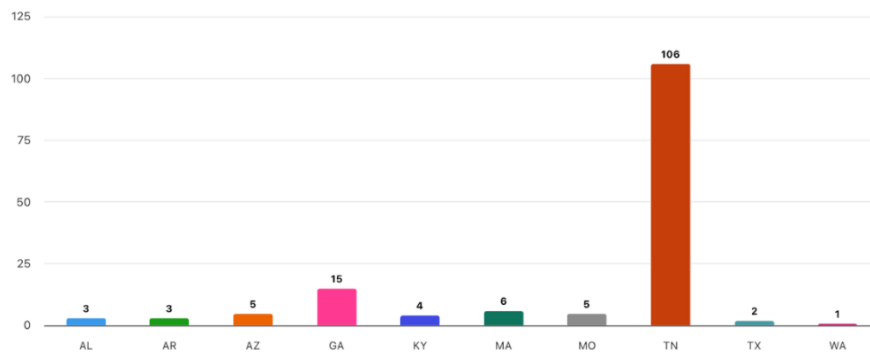
Average Provider Ratings by Service Line

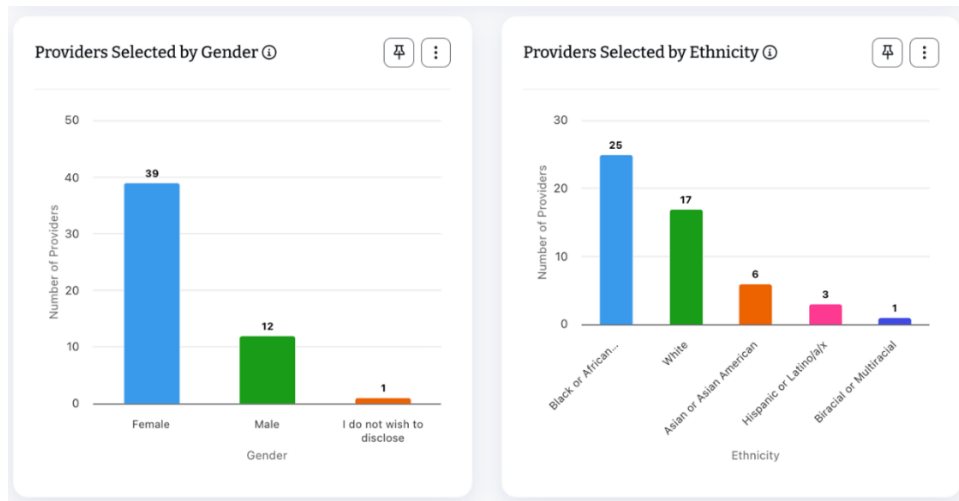


Top 10 Visit Reasons - Medical



Visits by State





Health Outreach & Educational Engagement (Summer)

Total number of Students Served May - July 2026: 13

RALPH H. BOSTON WELLNESS CENTER/AQUATICS DEPARTMENT

The Wellness Center and Aquatics Department support student well-being through recreation, fitness, safety, and campus partnerships. This section highlights wellness programming, student participation, aquatics activity, and collaborative initiatives.

- Dr. Gerald Davis delivered a presentation at several workshops for the TSU Police Department focused on physical fitness, health and wellness, and eating tips.
- Two camps from the Engineering Department were granted access to the Wellness Center this summer:
 1. Engineering Exploration Camp (EEC)
 2. NSTI (National Summer Transportation Institute) Camp

Rising 9th -12th grade students were welcomed and informed of policies/procedures regarding the Wellness Center and Gentry Swimming Pool. Several students were incoming freshmen.

- The Wellness Center collaborated with Residence Life by providing recreational equipment and spaces during the Fun and Fitness Activity for the Urban League Conference Participants. Students participated in line dancing, basketball, pickleball, football, and swimming.
- The Wellness Center will partner this fall semester with the current SGA President and Student Benjamin Thomas to create Fitness Fridays. The program will focus on building a welcoming fitness community to support consistency, staying active, meeting others, staying at their own level, and challenging themselves.

AQUATICS DEPARTMENT

The Aquatics Department supports safety, instruction, athletic recovery, and student recreation through pool operations and aquatic programming.

- The TSU football, men's and women's basketball teams are collaborating with the Aquatics Department to use the swimming pool for their workout recovery and rehabilitation sessions.
- Pool closed for maintenance and repair for several weeks. During this time, the bulkhead was re-surfaced with a new abrasive coating.
- Pre-tests for swimming skills for lifeguards are being offered to prepare for the Lifeguard Certification Class.
- Several students have requested swimming lessons, which will begin in September after lifeguards have been hired.

Metrics

Wellness Center usage increased significantly from early summer to late summer, reflecting strong student participation and expanded campus engagement. From May 15–June 30, the center recorded 445 student visits and 148 staff visits. From July 1–August 31, participation increased to 2,388 student visits and 202 staff visits. Aquatics participation also increased, with swimming pool participation rising from 76 participants during May 15–June 30 to 459 participants during July 1–August 31.

- Total Attendance: May 15, 2026, to June 30, 2026, was 445 students and 148 staff members.
- Total Attendance: July 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026, was 2,388 students and 202 staff members.
- Total participants for Swimming Pool May 15 to June 30, 2026, is 76
- Total participants for Swimming Pool July 1 to August 31, 2026, is 459

THE COUNSELING CENTER

Executive Summary

The Counseling and Career Center supports student well-being, crisis response, outreach, and career readiness. This section highlights counseling activity, educational programs, career services, and employer engagement.

STUDENT NAVIGATION 1STOP CENTER & VETERAN AFFAIRS

The Student Navigation 1Stop Center and Veteran Affairs area provides centralized support for student questions, service access, and university processes. This section highlights student navigation, call support, walk-ins, and military-affiliated student services.

The Student Navigation 1Stop Center serves as a centralized access point for admissions, bursar support, degree tracking, financial aid, registration, excused absences, and other student support needs.

Total calls taken, assisted, or transferred: 1798.

- The walk-ins totaled 287

- Advisement= 13
- Admissions= 12
- Bursar= 10
- Excused Absence= 52
- Financial Aid = 27
- Miscellaneous= 58
- Records = 15
- Veterans & Dependents = 100

Current Caseload and Benefit Utilization (Certified) = 61 Summer Certifications. The office is actively supporting **204 military** funding recipients for Fall 26

Enrollment Breakdown: 5 Doctoral, 22 Graduates, 57 Seniors, 37 Juniors, 20 Sophomores, 63 Freshmen

Top Benefits Used: Chapter 35 -Dependents - 130, Chapter 33 - GI Bill -39, Parents transferred GI-Bill -11, Chapter 31 -Voe Rehab - 8, Reserves - 1606-16

THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES (ODS)

The Office of Disability Services promotes equitable access through accommodations, student and family guidance, and campus partnerships. This section highlights accommodation activity, orientation support, outreach, and faculty engagement.

During Summer 2026, ODS produced 30 accommodations and issued 82 accommodation memoranda to date for Fall 2026. The office also hosted four virtual open houses, participated in eleven New Student Orientation events, collaborated with Enrollment Management to connect more than 310 interested students with disability support information, and coordinated accommodations for students and families during orientation.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES (ISSS)

Unit Focus:

International Student & Scholar Services supports international enrollment, immigration compliance, and cross-cultural engagement. This section highlights I-20 processing, Fall 2026 enrollment, orientation, and programming for international students.

Fall 2026 International Student Enrollment

- **91** I-20s (32 UG & 59 Grad) were processed and issued for Fall 2026 to enable students to enroll at TSU as F-1 international students.
- **59** new students enrolled for the Fall 2026 semester.
- Projected Fall 2026 international student enrollment is **221**.

- 39 students received their degrees in May. Of the 39 graduating students, 10 had 4.0 GPAs, and 5 had GPAs over 3.9. The average GPA for May graduates is 3.67. 12 additional students received their degrees in August.

Programming

- **August 4, 2026:** Conducted international student orientation with **31** new students attending, followed by an ice cream social with current students and staff.
- **August 27, 2026:** Conducted orientation for late-arriving students.

THE FLOYD PAYNE STUDENT CENTER (FPSC)

The Floyd–Payne Student Center serves as a central hub for campus life, events, recreation, and community connection. This section highlights major events, facility operations, student engagement, and new initiatives.

Major Accomplishments

- Urban League’s Youth Leadership Summit; 7/26
- Three (3) high school graduations
- Nine (9) New Student Orientations during June, July, and August
- President’s summer address to the university
- Freshmen Convocation; 8/26
- Setup and support for the One Stop Registration in Kean Hall; 8/26

Strategic Leadership and Operations

FPSC supports university-wide events, student activities, athletics partnerships, and expanded recreational/free-play programming.

Student Engagement / Management and Collaboration

The FPSC remains the campus community's ultimate gathering place. Whether participating in intramural sports or free play, utilizing the game room for card games and pool, attending movie night in the forum, or engaging in collaborative study sessions, students rely on the FPSC for daily activities, engagement, and information.

New Initiatives

- Increase the number of academic activities we have on the 2nd-floor hallway.
- Provide more time slots for free play in the gym.
- Provide giveaways in the game room for pop-up activities/events.
- Add more digital signage to the hallways and monitors to the conference rooms.

THE ARISTOCRAT OF BANDS

The Tennessee State University Aristocrat of Bands continues to uphold a legacy of excellence, leadership, and innovation in musical performance and student engagement. As one of the

University's most visible ambassadors, the AOB promotes the TSU brand nationally and fosters pride throughout the university community.

Performance Highlights

- National Urban League Annual Conference
- 2026 Freshmen Convocation
- John Merritt Pep Rally
- John Merritt Classic vs. Jackson State University

Recruitment Initiatives

The AOB prioritized recruitment through direct engagement, expanded outreach, and collaboration with Enrollment Management to develop a more coordinated recruitment approach. Recruitment increased during the 2026 season through the "Tennessee Takeover," national recruitment efforts, summer band camp, campus orientation sessions, concert and recruitment fair tours in Nashville and Memphis, recruitment fairs in Atlanta, auditions in Huntsville, Alabama, and online auditions with prospective students across the country.

Program Enhancements and Student Development

Program enhancements included expanded social media engagement to increase visibility and attract prospective members, a fundamentals class to strengthen member skill development and performance consistency, and the annual awards banquet to honor outstanding student musicians and announce new student leadership.

The Aristocrat of Bands remains a pillar of excellence at Tennessee State University, embodying the University's values of innovation, leadership, and service. Through performance, recruitment, student development, and community engagement, the AOB continues to elevate the TSU brand locally, nationally, and globally. Sincere appreciation is extended to the President and university administration for their continued support of the program's growth and development.

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: September 10, 2026

ITEM: Academic Affairs Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Jewell Winn, Executive Director and Senior International Officer

Background Information

Dr. Schmeller will present an Academic Affairs Report highlighting several key initiatives and developments within the Office of Academic Affairs.

The report will begin with Dr. Schmeller presenting an overview of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (“SACSCOC”) response to Tennessee State University’s Fifth-Year Interim Report and the University’s subsequent Referral Report addressing the three areas for which additional information was requested. The review outcome was highly favorable, with only three follow-up items identified. For context, approximately 35% of institutions undergoing the Fifth-Year Interim Review process receive four or more referrals. SACSCOC’s review findings on TSU’s Fifth-Year Interim Report, and the recently submitted Referral Report are provided for reference. The Referral Report will be considered by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees at its December meeting. The review outcome positions TSU favorably within the reaffirmation process and reflects the significant efforts by academic and administrative units throughout the preparation and submission process.

In addition, Dr. Schmeller will provide updates on faculty and student accomplishments, enrollment, academic success initiatives, and the University’s tenure policy.

Dr. Winn will provide an update on the University’s Global Education Initiative.

These updates reflect the continued progress of the Office of Academic Affairs in advancing student success, faculty excellence, global engagement, institutional effectiveness, and accreditation compliance.



Meeting of the TSU Board of Trustees

Student and Academic Affairs Committee

1

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AGENDA ITEM

VIII. Academic Affairs Report

- A. Accreditation Update**
- B. Faculty and Student Updates**
- C. Tenure Policy Update**
- D. Global Education Initiatives**

2

Accreditation Update

- SACSCOC (The Commission)
 - CADENCE our Quality Enhancement Plan
 - Referral Report submitted
 - 2026 Financial Profile and Indicators submitted
 - Revisions to Standards of Accreditation
 - Possible change from 10 to 7 year cycle
 - Self-Study likely 2030
 - Post Position for Dr. Charlise Anderson's Replacement, Dec. 2026

3

Faculty and Student Updates

- Recognition for our First Generation Student efforts
 - First Gen Forward Network Member Class of 2024
 - One of four HBCUs selected for a data leadership learning experience
 - 2026 #CelebrateFirstGen grant of \$2,500 for TSU's First-Generation College Celebration
- Fulbright Awards—Drs. Kisha Bryan Jordan, Justin Whitney, Dilip Nandwani, and Twianie Roberts (retired)

4

Tenure Policy Update

- University Wide Committee of 10 members representing each College, the Library and Media Centers, and Academic Affairs Administration
- Charge:
 - Review the current tenure policy in its entirety
 - Evaluate the policy for clarity, consistency, fairness, and transparency
 - Examine alignment with applicable laws, TSU Board of Trustee policies, and institutional governance documents
 - Review tenure policies and best practices with comparable institutions and identify best practices
 - Prepare and submit a final report and recommended policy revisions for review and approval at the June 2027 Board of Trustee meeting

5



6



Home

SACSCOC

Referral Report (2026)

Referral Report (2026)

 Item 10.2

10.2

Public Information

The institution makes available to students and the public current academic calendars, grading policies, cost of attendance, and refund policies.

Judgment

☐ Compliant ☐ Non-Compliant ☐ Not Applicable

SACSCOC Request May 12, 2026

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee reviewed the institution's compliance with the select standards of the Principles of Accreditation outlined in the SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report. Based only on those reviewed standards, the institution is requested to submit a Referral Report due September 8, 2026, addressing the referenced standard(s) in your Fifth-Year Interim Report located in the institutional portal.

10.2 The institution makes available to students and the public current academic calendars, grading policies, cost of attendance, and refund policies. (Public information)

Referral Required

The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee could not find evidence of cost of attendance and its availability to students and the public.

Institution Response

Tennessee State University acknowledges that evidence documenting the University's cost of attendance was not included with the original Fifth-Year Interim Report submission.

The University publishes its estimated cost of attendance for students and the public through the Office of Financial Aid. The published information identifies the estimated direct and indirect costs associated with attendance, including tuition and fees, housing and food, books and supplies, transportation, and other estimated educational expenses. The University is submitting the [2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Estimated Cost of Attendance](#) as a PDF of the information currently published on the [University's website](#), and available to students and the public.

The submitted documentation demonstrates that Tennessee State University makes current cost-of-attendance information available to students and the public. The University believes it has demonstrated compliance with Standard 10.2.

Sources

 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Cost of Attendance

 Cost of Attendance

Site Map | Tennessee State University_Planning Home Page

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Home

SACSCOC

Referral Report (2026)

Referral Report (2026)

 **Item 10.5**

10.5

Admissions Policies and Practices

The institution (a) publishes admissions policies consistent with its mission; ensures that its recruitment materials and presentations accurately represent the institution’s practices, policies, and accreditation status; and (c) ensures that independent contractors or agents used for recruiting purposes and for admission activities are governed by the same principles and policies as institutional employees.

Judgment

☐ Compliant ☐ Non-Compliant ☐ Not Applicable

SACSCOC Request May 12, 2026

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee reviewed the institution's compliance with the select standards of the Principles of Accreditation outlined in the SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report. Based only on those reviewed standards, the institution is requested to submit a Referral Report due September 8, 2026, addressing the referenced standard(s) in your Fifth-Year Interim Report located in the institutional portal.

10.5 The institution (a) publishes admissions policies consistent with its mission; (b) ensures that its recruitment materials and presentations accurately represent the institution’s practices, policies, and accreditation status; and (c) ensures that independent contractors or agents used for recruiting purposes and for admission activities are governed by the same principles and policies as institutional employees. (Admissions policies and practices)

Referral Required

The recruitment materials reviewed by the Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee were not consistent with institutional list of academic degree programs provided. Numerous programs were listed in the recruitment materials that were not also included in the official Institutional Summary (i.e., Architectural Education, Family and Consumer Science, Food and Bioscience & Tech, Food Service Management, Food Technology, Mechatronics, Speech Pathology, Educational Leadership, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy).

Institution Response

Tennessee State University acknowledges that the admissions brochure submitted with the original Fifth-Year Interim Report contained inconsistencies in the presentation of the University’s academic offerings.

Specifically, the brochure did not clearly distinguish between academic programs, which are the University’s approved degree programs or majors, and concentrations offered within those programs. As a result, several concentrations were presented in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as identifying them as separate academic degree programs.

To address the specific listings identified by the Committee, the University provides the following reconciliation of each item cited in the finding:

Listing Cited in Committee Finding	Institutional Determination	Explanation and Correct Representation
Architectural Education	Inaccurate listing. Typographical error - the listing should have been Architectural Engineering.	Architectural Education is no longer listed in Admissions Brochure.
Family and Consumer Science	Approved program listing	Approved program - no revision needed. Listed in Admissions Brochure.
Food and Bioscience & Tech	Inaccurate listing. Formerly a concentration under the Agricultural Sciences (BS)	No longer listed in Admissions Brochure.
Food Service Management	Inaccurate listing. Food Service Management formerly a concentration under the Family and Consumer Sciences (BS)	No longer listed in Admissions Brochure.
Food Technology	Inaccurate listing. Formerly a concentration under the Agricultural Sciences (BS)	No longer listed in Admissions Brochure.
Mechatronics	Inaccurately listed as a program. Mechatronics is a Concentration	Listed as a Concentration under the Applied & Industrial Technologies (BS)
Speech Pathology	Inaccurate program name	Speech and Hearing Science (MS) is an approved program in the Speech Pathology & Audiology Department and listed in the Graduate & Professional Studies Brochure
Educational Leadership	Approved program listing	Approved program - no revision needed. Listed in the Graduate & Professional Studies Brochure.
Occupational Therapy	Approved program listing	Approved program - no revision needed. Listed in the Graduate & Professional Studies Brochure.
Physical Therapy	Approved program listing	Approved program - no revisions needed. Listed in the Graduate & Professional Studies Brochure

To address the inconsistency, the University conducted a comprehensive reconciliation of the academic offerings presented in its now revised undergraduate and graduate admissions brochures against the Official Academic Program Inventory. The undergraduate brochure was reviewed to ensure that all listed undergraduate programs and concentrations correspond with the official inventory and that only active programs and active concentrations are presented. The graduate brochure was reviewed to ensure that all listed graduate degree and certificate programs correspond with the official inventory; consistent with the brochure's design, graduate concentrations are not listed.

Tennessee State University maintains separate recruitment resources for undergraduate and graduate audiences. The Admissions Brochure is intended specifically for prospective undergraduate students and therefore presents only undergraduate degree programs and their associated concentrations. Graduate programs are communicated through separate recruitment resources maintained by the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (see [Graduate and Professional Studies Brochure](#)). The University reviewed both undergraduate and graduate recruitment information against the most current Official Academic Program Inventory and removed or corrected information related to programs that have been closed, renamed, or inaccurately represented. The University is providing PDF copies of the revised [Admissions Brochure](#) for undergraduate students, the [Graduate and Professional Studies Brochure](#), and [Official Academic Program Inventory](#) as evidence of the corrections and as confirmation that the revised recruitment materials accurately distinguish degree programs from concentrations.

Going forward, the University requires all recruitment materials that identify academic programs or concentrations to be reviewed by the Office of Admissions and the Office of Academic Affairs against the official Academic Program Inventory before publication or distribution. The review will include documented approval and version control, as well as an annual review before each recruitment cycle. Academic Affairs will communicate approved program additions, closures, title changes, and concentration changes to Admissions so that current materials can be updated promptly and superseded versions removed from circulation.

The revised brochure provides prospective students and the public with a clear and accurate representation of the University's academic offerings. The supporting documentation demonstrates that the recruitment material is consistent with the University's official inventory of approved academic programs.

Sources

-  Admissions Brochure
-  TSU Academic Program Inventory_Active Programs
-  TSU Graduate and Professional Studies Brochure Expand Your Horizons



Home

SACSCOC

Referral Report (2026)

Referral Report (2026)

 **Item 14.1**

14.1

Publication of Accreditation Status

The institution (a) accurately represents its accreditation status and publishes the name, address, telephone number, and website address of SACSCOC in accordance with SACSCOC’s requirements and federal policy; and (b) ensures all its branch campuses include the name of that institution and make it clear that their accreditation depends on the continued accreditation of the parent campus.

Judgment

☐ Compliant ☐ Non-Compliant ☐ Not Applicable

SACSCOC Request May 12, 2026

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee reviewed the institution's compliance with the select standards of the Principles of Accreditation outlined in the SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report. Based only on those reviewed standards, the institution is requested to submit a Referral Report due September 8, 2026, addressing the referenced standard(s) in your Fifth-Year Interim Report located in the institutional portal.

14.1 The institution (a) accurately represents its accreditation status and publishes the name, address, telephone number, and website address of SACSCOC in accordance with SACSCOC’s requirements and federal policy and (b) ensures all its branch campuses include the name of that institution and make it clear that their accreditation is dependent on the continued accreditation of the parent campus. (Publication of accreditation status)

Referral Required

The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee reviewed the narrative and documentation provided by the institution and was unable to find reference to the Specialist in Education degree in the published statements.

Institution Response

Tennessee State University acknowledges that the original Fifth-Year Interim Report narrative contained an inaccurate reference to “Specialist in Education.” The accreditation statement reproduced in the original Standard 14.1 narrative incorrectly included the words “Specialist in Education.” Tennessee State University no longer offers an Education Specialist degree; the degree was formally closed in April 2025. Therefore, the absence of the Education Specialist degree from the official accreditation statements submitted as supporting documentation was accurate. The error was limited to the narrative submitted with the Fifth-Year Interim Report.

To provide the Committee with clear and readily reviewable evidence, the University is **re-submitting** PDF copies of the accreditation statement published on the [University’s website](#), in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#), in the [Graduate Catalog](#), and in the [Faculty Handbook](#). This statement also appears via link on the [TSU Academic Affairs webpage](#)

The PDFs identify the location of the accreditation statement and demonstrate that the University accurately represents its accreditation status and publishes the name, address, telephone number, and website address of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Sources

 Accreditations and Memberships Academic Affairs Webpage

 Graduate Catalog Accreditations and Memberships - Tennessee State University

 Pages from Revised Faculty Handbook 2025

 TSU University Accreditation Webpage

 Undergraduate Catalog Accreditations and Memberships - Tennessee State University

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REPORT OF THE FIFTH-YEAR INTERIM REVIEW COMMITTEE

Statement Regarding the Report

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is responsible for making the final determination on continued accreditation based on the findings contained in this committee report, the institution's response to issues contained in the report, other assessments relevant to the review, and application of the Commission's policies and procedures. Final interpretation of the Principles of Accreditation and final action on the accreditation status of the institution rest with SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

Name of the Institution:	Tennessee State University, TN
Date of the Review:	April 23 – 24, 2026
SACSCOC Staff Member:	Dr. Eurmon Hervey
Chair of the Committee:	Dr. Amy L. Chasteen Professor of Sociology The University of Southern Mississippi
Referral Report Due Date:	September 8, 2026
Standards Cited:	10.2, 10.5, 14.1

Part I. Overview and Introduction to the Institution

The report from the Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee represents the conclusions of the Committee based on the application of the *Principles of Accreditation* to information provided by the institution in its completed Fifth-Year Interim Report. This report is forwarded to the institution. If a referral is not recommended, no additional report is required by the institution. If a referral is recommended, the institution is required to prepare a Referral Report for review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees. The Board will review the Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee Report and the institution's Referral Report and take final action on continued accreditation.

Tennessee State University (TSU) was founded in 1912 and is the only public land-grant institution in middle Tennessee. The institution is located at 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd. In Nashville, Tennessee. As a Level VI institution, the university currently offers one associate's degree, 41 baccalaureate degrees, one undergraduate certificate, 15 graduate certificates, 23 master's degrees, and nine doctoral degrees. The institution enrolls close to 8,200 students with a campus that spans 500 acres. In addition to the Nashville location, TSU offers 22 programs via distance education and has one off-campus instructional site offering eleven degree programs. TSU is the only state-funded Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Tennessee with its own independent governing board.

Part II. Assessment of Compliance

Section 5: Administration and Organization

- 5.4 The institution employs and regularly evaluates administrative and academic officers with appropriate experience and qualifications to lead the institution.
(*Qualified administrative/academic officers*)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

Section 6: Faculty

- 6.1 **The institution employs a sufficient number of full-time faculty members to support the mission and goals of the institution.**
(*Full-time faculty*) [CR]

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

Revised: July 2024

6.2 For each of its educational programs, the institution

- 6.2.b. employs a sufficient number of full-time faculty members to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.
(*Program faculty*)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 6.2.c. assigns appropriate responsibility for program coordination.
(*Program coordination*)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

Section 8: Student Achievement

- 8.1 **The institution identifies, evaluates, and publishes goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to the institution's mission, the nature of the students it serves, and the kinds of programs offered. The institution uses multiple measures to document student success.**
(*Student achievement*) [CR]

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 8.2 The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results in the areas below:

- 8.2.a. student learning outcomes for each of its educational programs.
(*Student outcomes: educational programs*)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

Section 9: Educational Program Structure and Content

- 9.1 **Educational programs (a) embody a coherent course of study, (b) are compatible with the stated mission and goals of the institution, and (c) are based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education.**
(Program content) [CR]

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 9.2 **The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. The institution provides an explanation of equivalencies when using units other than semester credit hours. The institution provides an appropriate justification for all degree programs and combined degree programs that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit.**
(Program Length) [CR]

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

Section 10: Educational Policies, Procedures, and Practices

- 10.2 The institution makes available to students and the public current academic calendars, grading policies, cost of attendance, and refund policies.
(Public information)

Referral Required

The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee could not find evidence of cost of attendance and its availability to students and the public.

- 10.3 The institution ensures the availability of archived official catalogs, digital or print, with relevant information for course and degree requirements sufficient to serve former and returning students.
(Archived information)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 10.5 The institution (a) publishes admissions policies consistent with its mission; (b) ensures that its recruitment materials and presentations accurately represent the institution's practices, policies, and accreditation status; and (c) ensures that independent contractors or agents used for recruiting purposes and for admission activities are governed by the same principles and policies as institutional employees.

(Admissions policies and practices)

Referral Required

The recruitment materials reviewed by the Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee were not consistent with institutional list of academic degree programs provided. Numerous programs were listed in the recruitment materials that were not also included in the official Institutional Summary (i.e., Architectural Education, Family and Consumer Science, Food and Bioscience & Tech, Food Service Management, Food Technology, Mechatronics, Speech Pathology, Educational Leadership, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy).

- 10.6 An institution that offers distance or correspondence education:

- (a) ensures that the student who registers in a distance or correspondence education course or program is the same student who participates in and completes the course or program and receives the credit.
- (b) has a written procedure for protecting the privacy of students enrolled in distance and correspondence education courses or programs.
- (c) ensures that students are notified in writing at the time of registration or enrollment of any projected additional student charges associated with verification of student identity.

(Distance and correspondence education)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 10.7 The institution publishes and implements policies for determining the amount and level of credit awarded for its courses, regardless of format or mode of delivery. These policies require oversight by persons academically qualified to make the necessary judgments. In educational programs not based on credit hours (e.g., direct assessment programs), the institution has a sound means for determining credit equivalencies.

(Policies for awarding credit)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 10.9 The institution ensures the quality and integrity of the work recorded when an institution transcripts courses or credits as its own when offered through a cooperative academic arrangement. The institution maintains formal agreements between the parties involved, and the institution regularly evaluates such agreements.
(Cooperative academic arrangements)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

Section 12: Academic and Student Support Services

- 12.1 **The institution provides appropriate academic and student support programs, services, and activities consistent with its mission.**
(Student support services) [CR]

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 12.4 The institution (a) publishes appropriate and clear procedures for addressing written student complaints, (b) demonstrates that it follows the procedures when resolving them, and (c) maintains a record of student complaints that can be accessed upon request by SACSCOC.
(Student complaints)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

Section 13: Financial and Physical Resources

- 13.6 The institution (a) is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended and (b) audits financial aid programs as required by federal and state regulations. In reviewing the institution's compliance with these program responsibilities under Title IV, SACSCOC relies on documentation forwarded to it by the U. S. Department of Education.
(Federal and state responsibilities)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 13.7 The institution ensures adequate physical facilities and resources, both on and off campus, that appropriately serve the needs of the institution's educational programs, support services, and other mission-related activities.
(Physical resources)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 13.8 The institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community.
(Institutional environment)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

Section 14: Transparency and Institutional Representation

- 14.1 The institution (a) accurately represents its accreditation status and publishes the name, address, telephone number, and website address of SACSCOC in accordance with SACSCOC's requirements and federal policy and (b) ensures all its branch campuses include the name of that institution and make it clear that their accreditation is dependent on the continued accreditation of the parent campus.
(Publication of accreditation status)

Referral Required

The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee reviewed the narrative and documentation provided by the institution and was unable to find reference to the Specialist in Education degree in the published statements.

- 14.3 The institution applies all appropriate standards and policies to its distance learning programs, branch campuses, and off-campus instructional sites.
(Comprehensive institutional reviews)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

- 14.4 The institution (a) represents itself accurately to all U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agencies with which it holds accreditation and (b) informs those agencies of any change of accreditation status, including the imposition of public sanctions. (See SACSCOC's policy "Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies.")
(Representation to other agencies)

Referral Not Required

The institution provided adequate evidence in support of its case for compliance with the standard. The Fifth-Year Interim Review Committee recommends no referral.

Additional Observations Regarding Strengths and Weaknesses of the Institution

None

Appendix A: Assessment of QEP Impact Report

Standard 7.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan) is currently under a period of study. The institution has adequately described the initial goals and intended outcomes of its QEP, discussed the limited changes made in the QEP, discussed the impact on student learning and/or student success, and described what the institution has learned from the QEP experience. The institution's QEP is eligible for review for recognition.

APPENDIX B

Roster of Fifth-Year Interim Committee

Dr. Amy L. Chasteen - CHAIR
Professor of Sociology
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS

Lori Beaty
CFO/Vice President of Finance & Administration
LeTourneau University
Longview, TX

Dr. Cheryl L. Gater
Associate Provost and Director
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

Dr. Douglas W. Hume
Director of Assessment, Accreditation, Curriculum, and General Education
Northern Kentucky University
Highland Heights, KY

Joe Kiser
Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations
The University of Virginia's College at Wise
Wise, VA

Dr. Paul E. Mabrey III
Director, Student Success Analytics & Associate Professor
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA

Prof. Regina Lynn Ramsey
Vice Chancellor for Institutional Accountability & Accreditation
Southern University Law Center
Baton Rouge, LA

SACSCOC STAFF COORDINATOR

Dr. Jay D. Marr
Vice President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
Decatur, GA

RECORDER

Ms. Cassandra Norman
SACSCOC



Meeting of the TSU Board of Trustees

Student Affairs and Academic Affairs Committee

1

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AGENDA ITEM

VIII.D. Agenda Item (Global Education
Initiatives)

2

Internationalization at Tennessee State University

Expanding Global Opportunities.
Strengthening Academic Excellence.
Preparing Students for a Global Workforce.

Dr. Jewell Winn, Executive Director, International Programs

September 10, 2026



3

Why Internationalization Matters

- Expands student learning beyond the classroom
- Builds globally competent graduates
- Creates faculty and research opportunities
- Strengthens academic programs through international partnerships
- Creates pathways for institutional and economic development



4

Pioneers of Global Mobility: The Evolution of HBCU International Education

Highlighting how pacesetter institutions pioneer modern global access through structured diaspora engagement, curriculum integration, and institutional risk frameworks.

Institution	Key Strategic Focus	Notable Program / Distinction
Spelman College	Curriculum Integration & Diaspora Studies	Gordon-Zeto Center; near-100% passport preparation initiatives.
Howard University	Diplomacy, Public Policy & Language Immersion	Ralph J. Bunche Center; strong Foreign Affairs fellowship pipelines.
Tennessee State University	Comprehensive Internationalization & Global Risk	Office of International Programs; robust faculty-led travel & institutional crisis frameworks.
Morehouse College	Global Leadership, Peace & Social Justice	Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership; international service-learning.
Morgan State University	Global Engineering & Urban Research	Study abroad tied to STEM research, urban planning, and cross-border innovation.

5

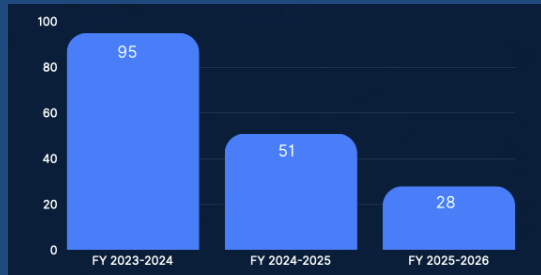
Financial Frameworks for HBCU Study Abroad

Funding student study abroad at HBCUs requires a multi-layered financial framework that blends federal grants, third-party provider access partnerships, targeted corporate philanthropy, and specialized institutional initiatives to minimize out-of-pocket costs for first-generation, Pell-eligible, and underrepresented scholars.

Provider / Partner	Funding / Grant Mechanism	Key Features
 CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange)	GAIN Grants & Frederick Douglass Douglass Global Fellowship	Offers GAIN Travel Grants (covering airfare up to \$1,500) and GAIN Scholars student leaders. Douglass Fellowship covers 100% of tuition and travel costs for leaders of color to Global Fellowship 
 AIFS & SIT Study Abroad 	Access Partner Scholarships & Match Programs	Custom grant matches for Pell Grant dollars and dedicated funding pools for historically minority funding pools (institutional graduation and funding pools for historically minority students (MSIs)).
 iie (Institute of International Education)	iie American Passport Project	Grants awarded directly to HBCU institutional campuses to fully fund U.S. passport acquisition for up to 25 -eligible students for up to 25 -eligible students for up to 25 or cycle. 

6

3-Year Study Abroad Snapshot



GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

Africa	72 Students
Europe	20 Students
Asia	13 Students
Latin America/Caribbean	32 Students
Other	37 Students

174
TOTAL STUDENTS
(3 YEARS)

14
COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

19
LOCATIONS /
PROGRAMS

7

Fulbright at TSU since 2023

8
Fulbright
awardees

10
Countries
represented

5
Colleges and
disciplines



Recent Fulbright Awardee
Dr. Bryan-Jordan
Fulbright Specialist assignment at
Hong Duc University - Vietnam

Why
it
matters

Faculty distinction
and recognition

International
research
collaboration

Student
opportunities
and mentorship

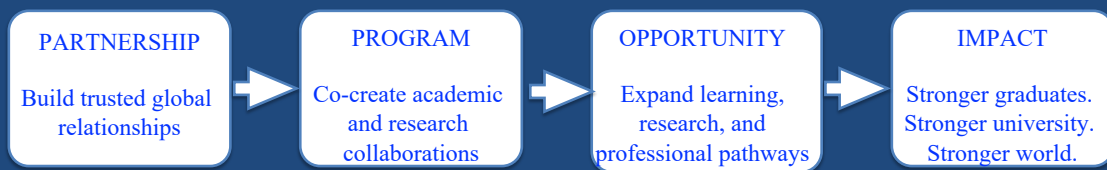
Global visibility
for TSU

Strengthens
recruitment and
partnerships

8

International Partnerships

23 Active MOUs 13 Countries 5 Regions



Student exchange Faculty exchange Joint research 3+1 / articulation programs International internships Visiting scholars

9

Building Strategic Funded Global Hubs and Pathways

IAPP	Thailand	Grow student, faculty, and program opportunities
Smart Center	Ghana	Advance research, innovation, and student engagement
Qatar Foundation	Qatar	Expand academic collaboration and research excellence
SWUST 3+1	China	Create seamless degree pathways for students
Embassy Initiative	Argentina	Strengthen academic and cultural partnerships
Embassy Initiative	Grenada Barbados	Expand mobility and exchange opportunities and deepen regional collaboration
Institutional Partner	Italy	Expand academic collaboration and student exchange



10

Embedding Internationalization Across TSU

15

Global Faculty
Fellows - Title III

7

Colleges

20+

Countries/Projects



1

Expand access

More students,
disciplines, and
experiences

2

Activate partnerships

Prioritize measurable
outcomes

3

**Integrate
internationalization
into curriculum**

4

**Grow
faculty
engagement**

5

Measure outcomes

Participation, research,
funding, success

**Next Phase
Priorities**

11



TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

12

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: September 10, 2026

ITEM: Research and Sponsored Programs Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Quincy Quick, Associate Vice President Research and
Sponsored Programs/Chief Research Officer

Background Information

Dr. Quick will present an update on Grant Awards, Submission Data, OMB Changes, and Proposed Federal Budget

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SEPTEMBER 2026 QUARTERLY REPORT

GRANT AWARDS AND SUBMISSIONS DATA
YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON

Performance Measure	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 26-27 YTD	Change	% Change
Total Direct Awards	\$8,757,002	\$9,760,270	+\$1,003,268	+11.5%
Total Indirect Awards	\$890,488	\$1,940,779	+\$1,050,291	+117.9%
Total Project Awards	\$9,647,490	\$11,701,049	+\$2,053,559	+21.3%
Number of Awards	23	22	-1	-4.3%
Submission Dollars Requested	\$6,737,518	\$72,871,092	+\$66,133,574	+981.6%
Number of Submissions	18	33	+15	+83.3%
Average Award Value	\$419,456	\$531,866	+\$112,410	+26.8%
Average Submission Value	\$374,307	\$2,208,215	+\$1,833,908	+490.0%

- Increase in total amount of awards received (\$2.05 million or 21.3%)
- Indirect cost requested increased by 118%
- Proposal submission volume remains strong increase of 83.3%
- Significant Expansion of the Funding Pipeline (982% increase submission dollars requested)

The most substantial year-over-year change occurred in proposal activity. Faculty and investigators submitted 33 proposals requesting approximately \$72.9 million in FY27 YTD, compared with 18 proposals requesting \$6.7 million during FY26 YTD.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET PROPOSED REVISIONS

The federal grants environment is undergoing significant change, with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposing revisions to the Uniform Guidance designed to strengthen transparency, accountability, oversight, and stewardship of federal funds. These developments are particularly important as Tennessee State University continues to expand its federally sponsored research portfolio. Key developments with implications for the University's research enterprise include:

Award Suspension and Termination Risk

- Expanded federal authority to suspend or terminate certain discretionary awards when continuation is determined to no longer be in the Federal Government's interest.
- Increased potential for changes in federal priorities or program objectives to affect active awards.
- Greater need for continuous monitoring of agency communications, award conditions, project performance, and expenditures.

Expanded Federal Oversight of Discretionary Awards

- Increased federal scrutiny during the review and selection of discretionary awards.

- Greater consideration of alignment with applicable law, agency priorities, program objectives, and the national interest.
- Increased importance of institutional review of funding opportunities and award terms prior to acceptance.

Increased Compliance, Monitoring, and Reporting Expectations

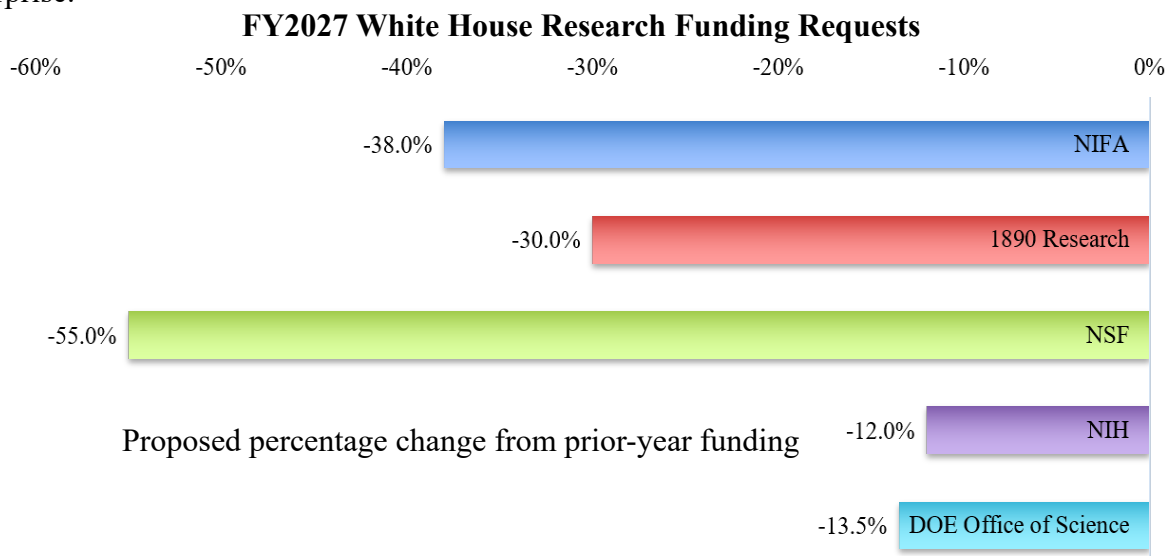
- Heightened expectations for timely and accurate financial and performance reporting.
- Increased emphasis on documentation supporting expenditures and the appropriate use of federal funds.
- Increased expectations for subrecipient monitoring, invoice review, and documentation.
- Greater emphasis on internal controls that demonstrate institutional oversight throughout the grant lifecycle.

Institutional Readiness and Risk Mitigation

- Strengthen pre-award institutional review and risk assessment.
- Enhance post-award expenditure monitoring and financial oversight.
- Ensure timely completion of financial, technical, and performance reports.
- Continue strengthening research administration systems and internal controls

FY2027 FEDERAL R&D APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

The Administration's FY2027 budget request signals continued fiscal pressure across several federal agencies and programs that are important to Tennessee State University's research enterprise.



Key Implications

- Proposed reductions could increase competition for federal research funding and reduce the number or size of available funding opportunities.
- Reductions affecting NIFA and 1890 programs are particularly significant given TSU's land-grant research mission.
- Significant proposed reductions to NSF could affect opportunities across science, engineering, STEM education, and research infrastructure.