

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

Invites Applications and Nominations for the Position of:

Department of Psychological Science Chair



The Opportunity

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) invites nominations and applications for the position of chair of the Psychological Science Department. Reporting directly to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the chair will be responsible for setting strategic, operational, and financial direction for the chemistry department. The college seeks a dynamic leader who will work in concert with faculty, staff, and students to promote a culture of excellence. The chair shall create and carry out a vision that leads the department to greater prominence in the Valley and beyond.



UTRGV is the second largest Hispanic Serving Institution in the United States in a growing region on the border with Mexico, where the majority of the students are bilingual and bicultural, and their sights are set on the coveted R1 status “very high research activity” distinction by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. The Department of Psychological Science opens the door to one of the most challenging and rewarding professional fields today. Psychology students learn the necessary skills to assist people in improving their mental health; they also gain knowledge and abilities that are valued in many other fields, such as

business and politics. At the bachelor’s level, psychology graduates are sought in fields like mental health casework statistics, probation and corrections, public relations, health education, social work, human resources, recreational therapy, education, and physician assisting among others. The department prepares advanced students to be clinicians, researchers, and behavioral specialists. The department's vision is to prepare a diverse group of students to serve all people justly and open gates to service in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

“Healthy Minds, Happy Lives!”

The Psychological Sciences Department offers the College of Liberal Arts’ only Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology specializing with an expertise in mental health assessment and treatment within Hispanic/Mexican American populations. It is the first fully bilingual Ph.D. program in the United States. The Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program at UTRGV has applied for Accreditation on Contingency to the American Psychological Association in December 2021. Following preliminary review of the application for accreditation on contingency a site visit has been authorized for the program.

UTRGV campuses, strategically located throughout the Valley, offer a unique opportunity to lead the psychological science department on the two main campuses – Edinburg and Brownsville as well as a clinic in Harlingen in collaboration with the School of Medicine. The chair is expected to establish a visionary process for program development and enhancement that utilizes the expertise and resources available on the multiple campuses.

The Role of the Psychological Science Department Chair

The psychological science department chair is expected to inspire and support faculty, staff, and the predominantly Hispanic student population; foster an environment of collegiality, transparency,



teamwork, respect, inclusion, and diversity; interact with all stakeholders to determine the priorities and direction of the department; support the expansion of the research capabilities of the department while maintaining excellence in teaching; increase the regional recognition of the departmental programs; and advocate for the department within the College of Liberal Arts and UTRGV as a whole.

The chair will oversee the dynamic department; faculty and student productivity and development; research; external relations; and multi-disciplinary collaborations within the university. The psychological science chair will recruit and retain diverse faculty, staff, and students. As a faculty member, the chair will also be expected to be teach a reduced load as well as participate in research and service activities.



The department currently has 20 tenured/tenure-track faculty members and 13 lecturers distributed over its two main campuses in Brownsville and Edinburg. Faculty research programs include the Adversities in Childhood and Trauma Studies (ACT) Lab, Basic Memory and Cognitive Processes Lab, Behavioral and Child

Development Lab (BeChildLab), Behavioral Health Lab, Cognitive Science of Language & Education Lab, Multicultural Clinical Lab, Clinical Neuropsychology Lab, Research Enhancing Access to Culturally-Informed Mental Health Services Lab (REACH), Social and Political Behavior, Stress, Sleep & Health Lab, and Trauma and Anxiety Disorders Lab. The department of psychological science is currently home to more than 1,500 undergraduates and 64 graduate students. At the undergraduate level, the department offers a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in psychology. At the graduate level, a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Clinical psychology, a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Experimental psychology, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Clinical Psychology are offered. All graduate programs also offer a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) concentration. The faculty are highly acclaimed in their respective sub-disciplines, are well published, and often invite students to participate in their research.

The department of psychological science is seeking a chair who is a skilled, visionary leader with an established track record of research and administrative success. The successful candidate will lead the department to be the premiere psychological science program in the Rio Grande Valley, with a world-class reputation earned by delivering an outstanding education and cutting-edge research training to students and providing opportunities for professional growth and community engagement to all members of the department.

Qualifications

The successful candidate must possess an earned terminal degree (Ph.D.) in psychology or related field and have demonstrated leadership abilities in administration, personnel management, and budgeting. Also, the successful candidate must meet the requirements for tenure and appointment at the rank of Associate Professor and have an excellent track record in research, teaching, and service.

The ideal candidate will also be able to demonstrate these preferred qualifications:

- Meet the requirement for tenure and appointment at the rank of Professor.
- Committed to transparency and to enhancing cultural diversity amongst students, faculty, and staff with a proven ability to integrate and unify multiple programs.



- Able to communicate effectively in a pragmatic and collegial way.
- Have excellent people skills and an administrative philosophy grounded in the belief that diversification and shared governance are foundations for academic success.
- Effective in encouraging, building, implementing and sustaining undergraduate and graduate degree offerings.
- Success in attainment of external funding.
- History of interdisciplinary collaboration and research.
- Experience working with and mentoring students from underrepresented backgrounds.
- Commitment to embracing the Hispanic culture and bilingualism.

The next chair will be a tireless advocate for the department of psychological science and must be nimble and innovative in their approach to articulating the value and relevance of the department's mission to a wide range of audiences.

The College of Liberal Arts



With 11 academic departments, two freestanding degree-conferring programs, over 300 faculty members, almost 8,000 students, and a multitude of service courses needed by every student enrolled at UTRGV. The College of Liberal Arts is, by far, the largest and most diverse college at UTRGV. In a world that seems dominated by ever increasing specializations, the answer to that may be found in the nature of the challenges we face as individuals and communities.

Built on the foundations of three colleges from our two legacy institutions, the UTRGV College of Liberal Arts embraces the notion that the great strengths of our traditional academic disciplines in the humanities and social sciences must be harnessed and organized so our students can enjoy the advantages of a strong liberal arts education, meet the challenges and opportunities embodied in UTRGV's guiding principles, and better serve the needs of the Rio Grande Valley, state, nation and global community. By joining the strengths of the humanities with those of the social sciences we can develop students who better understand the complex nature of the problems and opportunities we face and cannot be approached in a piecemeal manner. Rather, they will understand that to meet challenges and exploit opportunities they need to avail themselves of the bodies of knowledge developed by multiple disciplines, be able to critically evaluate them, and effectively communicate and implement the solutions they develop.

The College of Liberal Arts thrives on two distinct campuses (Brownsville and Edinburg) and its member units include the Department of Anthropology, Department of Communications, Criminal Justice Department, History Department, Literatures and Cultural Studies Department, Military Science Department, Department of Philosophy, Political Science Department, Department of Psychological Sciences, Public Affairs and Security Studies Program, School of Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Engagement, Department of Sociology, and Writing and Language Studies Department.



About the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Innovation. Opportunity. Purpose. Careers. That's what the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is about. With campuses throughout the Valley, UTRGV empowers successful futures, enhances daily life, and lets our region shine as a global innovator in higher education, bilingual education, health education, biomedical research, and emerging technology that inspires positive change.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley was created by the Texas Legislature in 2013 as the first major public university of the 21st century in Texas. This transformative initiative provided the opportunity to expand educational opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley, including a new School of Medicine, and made it possible for residents of the region to benefit from the Permanent University Fund – a public endowment contributing support to the University of Texas System and other institutions.

Our mission is to transform the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas, and the world through an innovative and accessible educational environment that promotes student success, research, creative works, health and well-being, community engagement, sustainable development, and commercialization of university discoveries. UTRGV's vision is to be one of the nation's leaders in higher education, its premier Hispanic-serving institution, and a highly engaged bilingual university, with exceptional educational, research, and creative opportunities that serve as catalysts for transformation in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond. Our core priorities are Student Success; Educational Opportunities; Health and Medical Education; Research Impacting the Rio Grande Valley and Beyond; and Community Engagement.

UTRGV has campuses and off-campus research and teaching sites throughout the Rio Grande Valley including in Boca Chica Beach, Brownsville (formerly The University of Texas at Brownsville campus), Edinburg (formerly The University of Texas-Pan American campus), Harlingen, McAllen, Port Isabel, Rio Grande City, and South Padre Island. UTRGV, a comprehensive academic institution, enrolled its first class in the fall of 2015, and the School of Medicine welcomed its first class in the summer of 2016.

UTRGV Fast Facts

(Fall 2021)

- Total Enrollment: 31,939
- 84% Undergraduate
- 91% Hispanic enrollment
- 55% First Generation
- Degrees Offered
 - Bachelor's: 68
 - Master's: 61
 - Doctoral: 10
 - Professional: 3
- Degrees Awarded: 7,083

UTRGV Accolades

- #2 in Texas and #36 nationally for social mobility
- #8 top national public university among Texas public universities (#144 nationally)
- #2 among national public universities for least student debt

*by U.S. News & World Report
(2021)*

About the Rio Grande Valley

The Rio Grande Valley is located at the southernmost part of Texas. At the meeting point of Mexico and the USA, the 4-county region called *The Valley* is one of the fastest growing areas of the United States. The northernmost established city, Edinburg, is the region's "college town." It is home to one of the main campuses belonging to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and is the site of the largest arena in the region. To locals, it is regarded as the Gateway City to the Rio Grande Valley. Brownsville is the southernmost port city of the continental U.S. It is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico along with three international bridges that connect Brownsville with its neighboring border town, Matamoros, Mexico. The two major languages you will find in the Valley are Spanish and English. Approximately 80% to 90% of the Valley's population is Mexican American, so a working knowledge of Spanish is helpful, but not necessary.



Edinburg City Hall

The Valley has some of the richest history and tradition found anywhere in the US. Its culture and identity are based on adaptation to movement and change, perseverance, and resiliency. The Valley is an ideal area in which to live, combining a modern infrastructure, multicultural population, rich history and cultural heritage, and a beautiful natural environment with an excellent quality of life, reasons why UTRGV is becoming a major international education destination. The Valley also enjoys a vigorous and growing economy with a high standard of living that has one of the lowest costs of living in the country. What Winter Texans, Spring Breakers, and families looking for fun in the sun most associate with

our area is one of the best beaches anywhere in the USA: South Padre Island. The Rio Grande Valley encompasses many landmarks that attract tourists. Popular destinations include Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, Brazos Island, a SpaceX launch site, and the Port Isabel Lighthouse.

The region offers a wonderful subtropical climate, with sunny weather and warm-to-hot temperatures prevailing all year long, including excellent facilities for sport, leisure and shopping, and a varied nightlife. Plus, the natural beauty of the Valley is one of a kind. Beyond our beautiful beaches and palm trees, there are wildlife preserves that are international hot spots for birders and others who enjoy watching the butterflies, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals inhabiting the area. The area supports one of the best sites for deep sea fishing and, for the past 77 years, has hosted the Texas International Fishing Tournament. The region features abundant historical and cultural sites, honoring traditions of military and public service as well as the shared ties with Mexico. The people of the Valley are famous for their warmth and friendly dispositions, making it a welcoming environment for all. Taken together, the hospitality, relaxed pace of life, safe neighborhoods, and emphasis on community involvement, inclusion and education make the Valley a place where life is to be enjoyed and lived to its fullest.



Brownsville Market Square

Nomination and Application Process

Salary

Salary will be competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

How to Apply

Greenwood/Asher & Associates, LLC is assisting the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. For a full application package, please submit a cover letter, CV, and list of five references. Confidential inquiries, nominations and application materials should be directed to Greenwood/Asher & Associates. Submission of application materials as

PDF attachments is strongly encouraged. The search will be conducted with a commitment of confidentiality for candidates until finalists are selected. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made. For best consideration, applications and nominations should be provided by September 1, 2022.

Please direct inquiries, nominations, and application materials to:

Betty Turner Asher, Founder, Greenwood/Asher & Associates
E-mail: bettyasher@greenwoodsearch.com

Julie Schrodtt, Senior Executive Search Consultant
E-mail: julieschrodtt@greenwoodsearch.com

It is the policy of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to promote and ensure equal employment opportunities for all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information or protected veteran status. In accordance with the requirements of Title VII of the civil rights act of 1964, the title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, our University is committed to comply with all government requirements and ensures non-discrimination in its education programs and activities, including employment. We encourage women, minorities, and differently abled persons to apply for employment positions of interest.

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.