

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Chair, Department of Literatures and Cultural
Studies

Position Profile



Role of the Literatures & Cultural Studies Department Chair

This candidate will be principally dedicated to administrative leadership, while maintaining a strong scholarly profile, and a reduced teaching load. This is a marvelous opportunity for a leader with a bold spirit to head a department at a university aspiring to become a Research I institution.

The chair is expected to:

- Inspire and support a diverse and multilingual faculty, staff, and students and foster an environment of collegiality, collaboration, transparency, teamwork, and respect.
- Provide preparation, leadership and oversight of the department including budget, assessment and reporting, supervision of faculty, staff, and student productivity and professional development, external relations, and multi-disciplinary collaborations within the university.
- Develop strategic planning initiatives and programming aligned with similar efforts at the college and university level to ensure student success.
- Support the expansion of the research capabilities of the department while maintaining departmental excellence in teaching.
- Advocate for the department and ensure it is aligned with the priorities of the college of liberal arts and UTRGV as a whole.
- Foster student success and satisfaction.

Required Qualifications

The successful candidate must possess a PhD in English literature or a related field from an accredited institution of higher education and have demonstrated leadership abilities in administration, human talent management, and budgeting. The ideal candidate should meet the requirements for tenure and appointment at the rank of full Professor and have an excellent track record in research, teaching and service. Advanced Associate Professors are also encouraged to apply.

Preferred Qualifications

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

- Experience with academic program leadership at the level of program coordinator, director, or chair.
- Familiarity with interdisciplinary approaches to scholarship and teaching.
- Clear commitment to shared governance, transparency, and inclusion.
- Ability to effectively communicate in a pragmatic and collegial way.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Commitment to embracing multi-culturalism.



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.

UTRGV 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.

Mission*

UTRGV serves the Rio Grande Valley and beyond via an innovative and unique multicultural education dedicated to student access and success. By championing leading research, healthcare, and application of University discoveries, we support sustainable development, community engagement, and well-being.

**Pending approval by The University of Texas System Board of Regents.*

Vision

Drawing on our unique identity as the leading Hispanic-Serving Institution in a bilingual and bicultural environment, UTRGV will promote student access and success by building from strength in education and creating a vibrant campus experience. By 2027, we will accelerate transformation in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond by driving meaningful advancements in research and creative works, expanding access to high-quality and affordable healthcare, and fostering authentic community engagement and integration.

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.

Why liberal arts? In a world that seems dominated by ever increasing specializations, the answer may be found in the nature of the challenges we face as individuals and communities, stemming from the interaction of factors that span time, geography, behavior and ideology. No discipline by itself can provide the answer to these challenges. The liberal arts approach recognizes this.

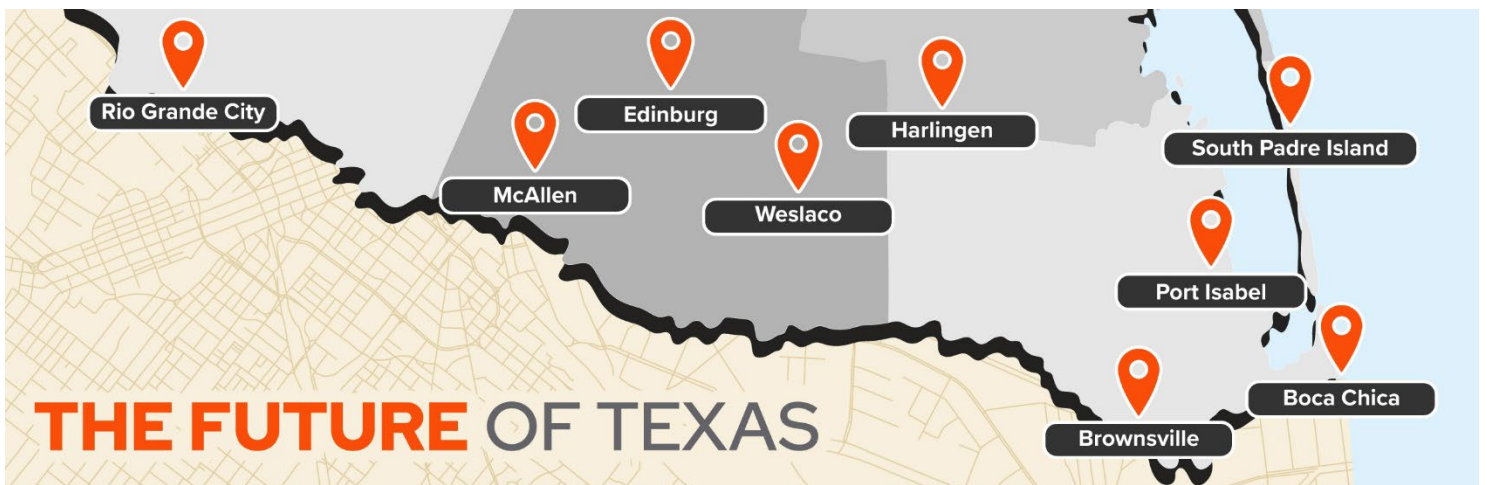
The College of Liberal Arts Mission

Located in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, the UTRGV College of Liberal Arts embraces its mission within a Hispanic Serving Institution to prepare students for success in a complex, diverse, and constantly changing world through our disciplinary strengths and engaged teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Our faculty are committed to both theoretical and applied scholarship serving our professions and communities. Our courses emphasize critical thinking, research mentoring, experiential and service learning, analysis, and skills in oral and written communication to prepare bilingual, bicultural, and biliterate students who will serve our communities, nation, and world.

The College of Liberal Arts Vision

The UTRGV College of Liberal Arts will become a top Hispanic Serving College through continuous development of our faculty, staff, and students in transdisciplinary approaches to inquiry by embracing innovation, diversity, bilingualism, biculturalism, biliteracy, innovative teaching, research, and service.

We will create generations of thoughtful, humane, and informed graduates who recognize the importance of the past, think critically about issues in the present, and are prepared for a future that is inclusive of peoples everywhere.



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.

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, 9 World Birding Centers, 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.



Nomination & Application Process

Compensation

Salary will be competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

How to Apply

Greenwood Asher & Associates® is assisting the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. Inquiries, nominations, and application materials should be directed to Greenwood Asher & Associates. Application materials should include:

- A letter of interest that clearly states the applicant's qualifications for the position
- A current résumé/curriculum vitae
- The name, title, and email address of five professional references

We strongly encourage submitting application materials as PDF attachments. 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 March 1, 2024.

Please direct inquiries, nominations, and application materials to:

Julie Schrodt, Senior Executive Search Consultant

E-mail: julieschrodt@greenwoodsearch.com

Tracey Weldon, Vice President of Executive Search

E-mail: traceyweldon@greenwoodsearch.com

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.

Greenwood Asher & Associates

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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.