

## 2.4

### Institutional Mission

The institution has a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published mission statement that is specific to the institution and appropriate for higher education. The mission addresses teaching and learning and, where applicable, research and public service.

### Judgment

Compliance    Partial Compliance    Non-Compliance    Not Applicable

### Narrative

Tennessee Technological University (TTU) has a mission statement that encompasses its commitment to student success and to the promotion of research and service that will contribute to the lives of the campus community as well as the community at large. The mission is widely published and available to the public.

#### Mission Statement

*Tennessee Technological University's mission as the state's only technological university is to provide leadership and outstanding programs in engineering, the sciences, and related areas that benefit the people of Tennessee and the nation. The University also provides strong programs in the arts and sciences, business, education, agriculture and human ecology, nursing, music, art and interdisciplinary studies. Tennessee Tech serves students from throughout the state, nation, and many other countries, but it retains a special commitment to enrich the lives of people and communities in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee.*

*The University is committed to the life-long success of students in its undergraduate, master's, specialist, and doctoral degree granting programs through high-quality instruction and learning experiences. The University is engaged in scholarly activity, especially basic and applied research, creative endeavors, and public service, with special emphasis on community and economic development. The University supports student participation in a broad array of extracurricular activities as an integral component of its commitment to student life and success.*

*The University's three interdisciplinary Accomplished Centers of excellence in Energy Systems Research, Manufacturing, and Water Resources and Chairs of Excellence in Business Administration strengthen the instructional, research, and service mission of the University.*

*The University is as supportive of women as of men and as supportive of those in the minority as of those in the majority. The University provides educational opportunities to all eligible persons without regard to age, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. The institution is committed to an inclusive and diverse campus that enriches the educational experience, promotes personal growth and a healthy society, prepares students for success in a global economy, and enhances America's economic competitiveness.*

Tennessee Technological University is a member of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee and is governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents. The mission statement was reviewed by the Tennessee Board of Regents on March 25, 2011, with the Strategic Plan [1].

#### Distinctiveness

TTU's mission statement addresses teaching, learning, research, and service. The mission statement specifically addresses TTU's unique role as "the state's only technological university" and its primary

mission “to provide leadership and outstanding programs in engineering, the sciences, and related areas that benefit the people of Tennessee and the nation,” with a “special commitment to enrich the lives of people and communities in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee.”

The mission statement emphasizes TTU’s commitment “to the lifelong success of students” and identifies the level of degrees offered “in its undergraduate, master’s, specialist, and doctoral degree granting programs.” The mission statement further documents engagement in scholarly activity and public service; support of gender and ethnic diversity; and commitment to providing “educational opportunities without regard to age, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.”

TTU holds the Carnegie Classification of “Masters, Large.” Teaching, learning, research, and service are actualized through the academic colleges and other units including the Centers of Excellence and administrative and academic support units as well as through appropriate policies and procedures. TTU implements the unique aspects of the mission statement in varied units, including the Center of Excellence in Energy Systems Research, the Center for Manufacturing Research, and the Center for the Management, Utilization, and Protection of Water Resources; the STEM Center; Ph.D. programs in Engineering, Environmental Sciences, and Exceptional Learning; and the Professional Science Master's in Environmental Informatics. The Office of Research and Economic Development, the Small Business Development Center, and the Continuing Education and Extended Education Programs particularly address the needs of the Upper Cumberland region.

The mission statement is part of TTU’s 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, which was in effect until the adoption of the TTU Flight Plan. The Flight Plan, which now serves as the TTU Strategic Plan, guides implementation of the TTU mission through its four focus areas: undergraduate education, technology, distinctiveness, and infrastructure and resources. The twelve priority actions— freshman flight path, academic advising, high demand course capacity, technology service to students, technology infrastructure and innovation, undergraduate co-curricular program, multidisciplinary research innovation, new graduate programs, technology in teaching, enrollment, tuition, and scholarships, physical infrastructure priorities, and efficiency and effectiveness — provide a framework for all teaching, learning, research, and service.

TTU’s Joint Committee for Planning and Budgeting follows a rigorous process through the University's system of shared governance to review, evaluate, and update the mission statement. The mission statement is brought back to the Board for periodic review at least every five years along with the strategic plan. TTU is a member of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee and is governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR). The mission statement was approved by the TBR on March 25, 2011, with the Strategic Plan [2].

TTU’s mission statement is published in several places, including the university website [3], Faculty Handbook [4], Student Handbook [5], the online Undergraduate [6] and Graduate catalogs [7], the TTU Strategic Plan 2010-2015 [8], and on TTU’s Flight Plan website [9].









## Conclusion

TTU's comprehensive, clearly defined mission statement, which is easily accessible to students, faculty, and the general public, addresses teaching, learning, research, and public service. The mission statement describes TTU's unique role as the state's only technological university, as well as its commitment to serving students from throughout the state, the nation, and the world, while retaining its special commitment to the Upper Cumberland region. Therefore, TTU is in compliance with Core Requirement 2.4.

## Sources



[1] TTU Mission and Vision

-  [2] TBR Meeting Minutes March\_25\_2011
-  [3] TTU Website Mission and Vision
-  [4] Faculty Handbook
-  [5] Student Handbook
-  [6] 2014\_2015 Undergraduate Catalog
-  [7] 2014\_2015 Graduate Catalog
-  [8] TTU Strategic Plan Publication 2010\_2015
-  [9] Flight Plan Website