UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

The university is a part of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, which is composed of all higher education institutions supported wholly or in part by state appropriations. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education is the coordinating board for the system.

The university – as part of the public educational system of the state, established by legislative action and supported by annual legislative appropriations – places emphasis on sound scholarship, good citizenship, and the duties of the individual to the community and the commonwealth.

By constitutional enactment, the governance of the university is vested in the OU Board of Regents, a board consisting of seven members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Each member is appointed to serve for seven years, except when appointed to fill an unexpired term, and is subject to removal from office only as provided by law for the removal of officers not liable to impeachment.

The Oklahoma State Regents and the university regents approve the requirements for admission and graduation, the degrees offered, and the fees and expenses. The boards reserve the right to change these requirements.

NORMAN CAMPUS

The central campus and the offices of administration of the University of Oklahoma are located on some 3,500 acres in Norman, a city of more than 100,000 residents. Norman is located near the center of the state, 20 miles south of Oklahoma City, the state capital.

The colleges housed on the Norman campus are University College, the College of Architecture, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, the Michael F. Price College of Business, the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy, the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, the College of Engineering, the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts, the Graduate College, the Joe C. and Carole Kerr McClendon Honors College, the College of International Studies, the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, the College of Law, and the College of Liberal Studies. The Norman campus is also headquarters for the College of Continuing Education, which directs outreach programs throughout the state and around the world.

The Norman campus consists of four sections -- central campus, south campus, research campus, and north campus. Most of the academic and administrative buildings are located on the central campus, noted for its Cherokee Gothic architecture and award-winning landscaping. Also situated on the central campus are the university residence halls; Sarkeys Energy Center; University Libraries; Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art; Catlett Music Center, including Sharp Concert Hall and Pitman Recital Hall; Oklahoma Memorial Union; recreational facilities, including the Huston Huffman Physical Fitness Center and the Murray Case Sells Swim Complex; Gaylord Family – Oklahoma Memorial Stadium; the Everest Indoor Training Center; and the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education, a year-round educational center and conference site. Located one block east of the central campus is the OU Brandt Park and Duck Pond, a recreational area used throughout the year by OU students and Norman residents. David A. Burr Park is conveniently located near residence halls and other recreational facilities.

South Campus

Immediately adjacent to central campus is the south campus, site of the College of Law; the OU Foundation; OU Traditions apartments; the world-class Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History; Lloyd Noble Center and parking complex; the John Crain Field at the OU Soccer Complex; the Headington Family Tennis Center; the Jimmie Austin University of Oklahoma Golf Course; L. Dale Mitchell Baseball Park; the Marita Hynes Field – OU Women’s Softball Complex; the Sam Viersen Gymnastics Center; and Our Children’s World Learning Center.

Research Campus

In less than a decade, the 277-acre OU Research Campus has been transformed from an empty field to a thriving economic engine shaped by a community of public and private sector collaborations located in nearly 1 million square feet of occupied space representing $300 million in investment. Today, the Research Campus brings together 1,700 workers across academic, federal, state and industrial organizations in a mutually beneficial environment.

The National Weather Center, a 257,000 square-foot facility that opened in 2006, anchors the OU Research Campus on the south. The Center houses both academic and federal groups dedicated to forecasting, research and training. The 260,000 square-foot Stephenson Research complex houses cutting-edge research in fields including robotics, genomics, bioengineering and the OU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, which includes a National Institutes of Health-funded structural biology program. A series of five “Partners Place” buildings, totaling 362,000 square-feet, enable the public and private sector collaboration on weather and radar research; innovation and entrepreneurship; and water, climate, and energy. Additionally, a 35,000 square-foot “one of a kind” Radar Innovations Laboratory opened in 2014.

OU’s Research Campus has been certified by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce as Site Ready, which allows the university to capitalize on fast-moving economic opportunities and enables site selectors to readily find quality land and facilities that meet nationally established criteria. OU’s Research Campus was named the nation’s top research park for 2013 by the Association of University Research Parks, placing it among such past recipients as Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, Purdue Research Park in Indiana and University City Science Center in Pennsylvania.

North Campus

North campus, which is two miles north of the main campus, includes the Merrick Computer Center; Max Westheimer Airport, the University-operated airport that also serves the City of Norman; and Swearingen Research Park, where government agencies and industry have established facilities.
Other research and study units of the university include the Biological Station on Lake Texoma; the Sutton Avian Research Center in Bartlesville; the Oklahoma Geophysical Observatory at Leonard near Tulsa; the Aquatic Biology Fisheries Research Center in Noble near Norman; and the Oklahoma Biological Survey, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey and Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West in Norman. In addition, the Oklahoma Geological Survey is a state agency mandated in the Constitution of Oklahoma, and is part of the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy at the University of Oklahoma.

HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is the state's major educational resource for training physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, public health specialists and a wide range of allied health personnel. It is one of only four comprehensive academic health centers in the nation with seven professional colleges. The center is composed of the College of Allied Health, College of Dentistry, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, College of Public Health and Graduate College.

Faculty and students use the clinical, laboratory and teaching facilities at the OU Medical Center, Veterans Administration Medical Center, The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center, Presbyterian Hospital, Dean A. McGee Eye Institute, Oklahoma Department of Health, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, other affiliated hospitals in Oklahoma City, the major teaching hospitals in Tulsa, the Veterans Administration Hospital in Muskogee and various affiliated hospitals and clinics in other locations in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Health Center is composed of the former Presbyterian Health Foundation Research Park and 30 other biomedical entities, including the OU Health Sciences Center as its centerpiece.

Also housed at the University of Oklahoma is OU Physicians, the state's largest physician group. The practice encompasses nearly every adult and child specialty. Many OU Physicians have expertise in the management of complex conditions. Such expertise is unavailable anywhere else in the state, region or sometimes even the nation. Some have pioneered surgical procedures or innovations in patient care that are world firsts. They also serve as faculty at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and train the region's future physicians.

The Peggy and Charles Stephenson Cancer Center represents the largest public-private biomedical initiative in Oklahoma history. The 210,000-square-foot facility provides patient-centered care by the largest and most experienced group of cancer specialists, offering the most advanced cancer detection and treatment technology. OU's Harold Hamm Diabetes Center is one of the top comprehensive diabetes centers in the world for adults and children with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, engaging in novel research aimed at progress toward a cure for diabetes and its complications.

OU-TULSA SCHUSTERMAN CENTER

The OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center is located in the heart of mid-town Tulsa at 41st and Yale. On this campus both the OU Health Sciences Center and the OU Norman Campus offer programs. The vision of OU-Tulsa is to build a nationally-recognized center of higher education excellence in select areas that emphasize strong campus-community partnerships and leverage unique opportunities and needs in the Tulsa region.

OU has a long history in the Tulsa area. The earliest program of the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa started in 1957 as a partnership with the Tulsa City-County Library. This program averaged 50 students a year and was one of the first programs to be part of the Tulsa Graduate Center, which became University Center at Tulsa in 1982. Recognizing the potential community impact of an expansion of OU services in Tulsa, the Oklahoma Legislature enacted Senate Bill 453 in 1972 that created a clinical branch of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in Tulsa. Today, the OU College of Medicine in Tulsa enrolls 60 medical students in their third and fourth years and trains 181 residents who conduct 200,000 patient visits annually at the college's ambulatory clinics.

Although OUs presence in Tulsa has been longstanding, it changed dramatically in 1999. As a result of the transformational $10 million gift from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and the leadership of President David L. Boren, OU was able to purchase 60 acres at the corner of 41st and Yale, previously the BP-Amoco Research Center. The OU programs in Tulsa had been located in a wide variety of physical locations. By the fall of 2002, all OU academic programs in Tulsa were located at the Schusterman Center campus. This campus has allowed OU to better serve the community by providing a strong, centralized identity in Tulsa.

In February of 2008, the George Kaiser Family Foundation made a $50 million gift to the OU College of Medicine in Tulsa allowing the College of Medicine to have the explicit focus to improve the health status of underserved communities. To reflect that change, the name of the College of Medicine in Tulsa was changed to the OU School of Community Medicine, the first in the nation. The School of Community Medicine remains an integral part of the OU College of Medicine. The University of Tulsa and the University of Oklahoma recently signed a memo of understanding to commence the process to seek approval of the accreditation body for U.S. medical schools to expand the School of Community Medicine to a four-year educational track as a partnership of TU and OU.

COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

The College of Continuing Education provides academic outreach opportunities to the state, region and nation. As the administrative unit for outreach at the University of Oklahoma, continuing education programs are the means by which the university extends its resources to the people of Oklahoma and beyond. By encompassing comprehensive, multidisciplinary academic services and programs that focus on the needs of adult learners, the College of Continuing Education offers both credit and non-credit courses, seminars, workshops, conferences, correspondence study, public service activities, and travel/study programs. The diversity and quality of the services available through continuing education programs provide an exciting and challenging academic experience.

Sources: General Catalog of the University of Oklahoma; OU Press Secretary.