

02.08 System Expansion

Revised [August 16, 2023](#) (MO -2023)
Next Scheduled Review: August 16, 2028
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Policy Summary

The rationale and criteria established herein are intended to serve as a guide for the chancellor and other internal or external groups, organizations, or individuals who may seek expansion of The Texas A&M University System (system) and to provide the bases on which the system Board of Regents (board) would consider expansion of the system.

Policy

1. NOTICE

The chairman of the board and the chancellor confer when a serious overture is made on behalf of a candidate entity and prior to the initiation of:

- (a) a comprehensive analysis of the candidate entity; and
- (b) any commitments by the system for or against the potential expansion.

2. RATIONALE FOR EXPANSION

Expansion is one of many strategic means of responding to the mission and vision for the system and the needs of the state of Texas. The specific reasons for considering expansion include the following:

- (a) building a shared vision;
- (b) serving more students;
- (c) providing more programs to meet regional needs;
- (d) pursuing excellence by strengthening existing programs and services;
- (e) responding to an identified state need;
- (f) broadening and strengthening public support; and
- (g) improving efficiency and effectiveness through collaboration.

3. ATTRIBUTES USED FOR EVALUATING CANDIDATE ENTITIES

Once a decision is made to evaluate a particular candidate entity, a comprehensive analysis of the entity is necessary to provide the chancellor and the board with an assessment of the entity's academic, financial, and legal status. It also helps to predict what resources are required to ensure that the candidate can meet or exceed expectations consistent with existing members. The key attributes of concern are:

- (a) compatibility with the system's vision;
- (b) present and projected financial viability;
- (c) academic standing;
- (d) geographic niche and demographics of the service area;
- (e) impacts on existing members;
- (f) cost effectiveness of administration and program delivery;
- (g) adequacy of physical assets;
- (h) impacts from non-system entities;
- (i) legal review;
- (j) demands on system infrastructure;
- (k) student and alumni sentiment; and
- (l) public support base.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The board authorizes the chancellor to establish a process to implement the system expansion policy and the timelines for a full and careful analysis of all opportunities for merger and acquisition.

Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

Contact Office

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