



**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents  
**FROM:** William P. Murphy *William Murphy*  
**SUBJECT:** Permission to Operate: The University of Texas at Austin  
**DATE:** May 30, 2024  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Beth A. ...*

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Should the Board of Regents renew The University of Texas at Austin's permission to operate its Semester in New York Program for another five-year term?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

**Proposed Handling**

The issue will come before the Full Board for action at its June 2024 meeting.

**Procedural History**

Pursuant to Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, The University of Texas at Austin submitted an application seeking renewal of its permission to offer its Semester in New York Program in New York City. The institution was initially granted permission to operate the program at the June 2019 Board of Regents meeting.

**Background Information**

The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) is a public research university accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Its student body includes 52,000 students from 130 countries.

UT-Austin indicates that its Semester in New York Program (UTNY) provides students enrolled at UT-Austin with an immersive experiential learning and career development opportunity, allowing the students to fine-tune their professional skills through coursework, internships, events, behind-the-scenes tours, and programming specific to the business, culture, and daily life of New York City. UTNY connects students

with New York area industries that recruit UT-Austin graduates for employment in the fields of journalism, media, finance, live and programmed entertainment, fashion, marketing, real estate, advertising, and public relations.

UTNY is a one-semester experience offered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms. Students participating in UTNY are required to enroll in 12 credit hours of classroom instruction, including a common course, an internship or independent study course, and at least one additional UTNY academic course. Since being granted permission to operate in 2019, the institution expanded eligibility to include students who have completed fewer than 60 credit hours. Also, students can now request an independent study option in lieu of the internship requirement.

Nine UTNY lecturers, who are industry professionals, instruct students in New York City. Courses for UTNY students are scheduled Monday through Friday evenings at the UTNY Center in midtown Manhattan. The Program Director teaches the required common course: Leadership and Urban Engagement.

UTNY is staffed by five individuals in New York City, including a Program Director, Deputy Director, Student Success and Project Coordinator, Office & Operations Coordinator, and UTNY Student Support Specialist. These individuals provide day-to-day operations management and support to students during the program. There are four additional staff members to assist students in Austin before and during their participation in UTNY.

Over the initial five-year term of permission to operate, UTNY has enrolled 424 students. The program intends to add additional assessments, including a pre-/post-test framework and tracking of program participants' post-graduate placements. If approved, UT-Austin projects enrollment to continue to increase by 8 percent annually during the next five-year approval term.

### **Related Regents Items**

June 2019: [Permission to Operate – University of Texas at Austin](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/619brca4.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/619brca4.pdf>)

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents renew The University of Texas at Austin's permission to operate its Semester in New York Program (UTNY) in New York, New York. This permission will be effective July 1, 2024, and end on June 30, 2029.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

Subsequent renewals of this permission to operate, if sought, will be subject to the terms of section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. If the University of Texas at Austin seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term, it must notify the Department no later than June 30, 2028.