



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Department of Astronomy**  
College of Natural Sciences



**Exploring the universe and advancing the frontiers of human knowledge.**

The Department of Astronomy's mission is to advance the frontier of human knowledge and share it with future generations. It actively engages students in the journey

of scientific exploration and leads frontier research in cosmology, galaxy formation and evolution, stellar evolution and star formation, exoplanetary systems, and the Solar system. Its research contributes to UT Austin's ranking in space science as 4th among US public universities and 10th worldwide. It is a major founding partner in the Giant Magellan Telescope, one of the world's largest next generation telescopes. It is home to McDonald Observatory, which hosts cutting-edge telescopes, instrumentation, and a renowned education and public outreach program.

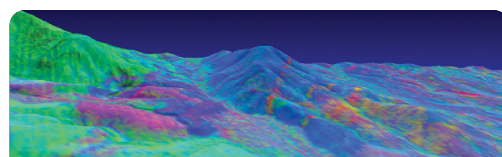
**Bolsters  
UT Austin's  
ranking  
in Space  
Science as  
4th among  
US public  
universities  
and 10th  
worldwide**

**STUDENTS**

Enrollment (Fall 2015)  
104 Undergraduate / 38 Graduate

**FACULTY**

24 faculty  
23 research scientists, fellows and associates  
20 postdoctoral fellows  
1 Nobel Prize in Physics  
2 Members of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers  
3 Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards  
2 NSF Early Career Development Grant Awards  
6 Alfred P. Sloan Fellowships  
1 Packard Fellowship for Science and Engineering  
1 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award



**One of the largest premier astronomy programs in the nation**

**RESEARCH**

Research covers frontier areas, such as cosmology, galaxy formation and evolution, stellar evolution and star formation, exoplanetary systems, and the Solar system.

**AFFILIATED CENTERS & INSTITUTES**

McDonald Observatory

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Leads research that contributes to UT Austin's ranking in space science as 4th among US public universities and 10th worldwide.
- Conducts world-renowned research in frontier areas of astronomy.
- One of the largest premier undergraduate and graduate astronomy programs in the nation.
- Provides research-centered innovative undergraduate education.
- Major partner in the Giant Magellan Telescope, one of the world's largest next-generation telescopes.
- Leads the Hobby Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment (HETDEX) to explore the nature of dark energy.
- Home of McDonald Observatory, hosting world-class telescopes and 60,000 annual visitors.
- Home of StarDate radio, tuned in to by 2.1 million people daily.



**A founding partner in the Giant Magellan Telescope**