UT Martin academic programs ranked nationally

UT Martin recently received multiple national and regional top-10 rankings for its on-campus and online academic programs.

The UT Martin nursing program was ranked fourth in the southeast by nursingprocess.org for its high NCLEX-RN pass rate, academic quality, reputation and affordability. Over 700 schools offering nursing programs were evaluated for the 2020 Best BSN Programs in the Southeast ranking. For more information about the nursing program, contact Dr. Mary Radford, department chair, at marye@utm.edu.

The online Master of Science in Education with a major in counseling also placed fourth nationally in collegerank.net’s 30 Best Online Master’s in Mental Health Counseling. The program was ranked on its accreditation, affordability and estimated salary graduates will earn with the degree. For more information about the Master of Education degree, contact Laurie Green, education graduate student services coordinator, at lgreen14@utm.edu.

Learn.org ranked the university’s agriculture degree programs 10th nationally, including its bachelor’s and master’s degree options, for a wide variety of concentrations offered both on-campus and online. UT Martin’s 640-acre teaching farm and agriculture living-learning communities also played a factor in its top-10 ranking. For more information about the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, contact Dr. Todd Winters, dean, at winters@utm.edu.

For more information about the university’s rankings, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

Come out to walk with Chancellor Carver and Public Safety Officers

October 29, 2020
3:00 p.m.
University Center North Patio

Small groups will walk with officers around campus and discuss any areas of concern for students. Help us help you and The University of Tennessee at Martin be a better place. Input will be greatly appreciated.

LATIMER BUILDING - The concrete foundation for the Latimer Engineering and Science Building was poured Thursday, Oct. 8, in preparation for the next phase of construction. The Latimer Building is expected to open fall 2022. To watch the construction live, visit utm.edu/latimer.
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Rachna Tewari

From Nainital, India, to Martin, Tennessee, the likelihood of Dr. Rachna Tewari calling rural Northwest Tennessee her home was slim to none. Yet, in 2013, Tewari found herself on the campus of UT Martin teaching agricultural business, unaware of the impact the university community would have on her life in the years to come.

Tewari first felt a pull toward agriculture when she would reminisce about her childhood family trips to the rural regions of India. She grew up in the city, which kept her from being exposed to agriculture firsthand; however, upon realizing her interest in the field of agriculture, she decided to pursue a degree in the area, followed by an MBA in agribusiness. After a brief stint in the banking industry, her fascination and desire to pursue agriculture-related research is what led her to West Texas A&M University for graduate school where she focused her research on Texas’s need for groundwater management.

“It’s a big, big focus area of research there just because they are dealing with a lot of water scarcity issues, so pretty much all of the major agricultural research there focuses on groundwater management there,” Tewari said.

Tewari’s first teaching experience came during her time studying at West Texas A&M, when her graduate adviser requested that she teach an upper-division agricultural marketing course. While Tewari was focused on research, she found teaching to be a greatly enjoyable experience that influenced her to accumulate more hours working with students in the classroom. As she went on to complete a doctorate in agricultural economics at Texas Tech University, Tewari was also able to incorporat the research she loved into teaching to find her true passion.

“... I enjoy being in the classroom; it’s a lot more lively,” Tewari said. “Just the whole interaction, being with the students and learning about what their interests are and really just trying to provide information to them to help them out with their career decision.”

When Tewari first came to UT Martin, she says the connection was immediate. She loved the community and the small-town feel of the campus, so when she was offered a position, she accepted it without a second thought.

The friendly atmosphere she first experienced when she arrived at UT Martin has continued through the kindness exhibited by both students and faculty and continues to be what she appreciates most in her profession to this day.

“Everyone is very, very easy to get along with,” Tewari said. “You go to work with a happy face, and you come back with a happy face. That’s a thing to appreciate in everyday work life.”

Working with students to clarify their future goals is a major source of fulfillment for Tewari. She currently serves as the primary investigator for an ongoing grant project focused on climate change education in rural communities, which allows her to continue her environmental work, as well as provide students with opportunities that allow them to do hands-on research in their fields of interest.

“I think one of the most rewarding things in teaching is whenever there are students that come to you and they are able to say that ‘I was not sure what I wanted to do with my program or with my degree,’ but because of a certain class that they took or a certain interaction that they had with me or a professor that might have helped them, that helped them decide their career goals, and that helped them shape their idea of what they wanted to do in the future,” Tewari said. “That feels really, really good.”

Tewari continues to unite her love of research and working with students every day in the classroom, and as she helps train the next generation of agricultural professionals, she hopes they will have a great impact on the world.

Feature by Antonia Steele, newswriting intern for the Office of University Relations.
You Tell Me

• **Question** – Do posted notices at the entrances to campus buildings saying that no firearms are allowed need to be clarified, given that Tennessee law now authorizes certain university employees other than Public Safety officials to be legally armed in these buildings?

• **Answer** – Based on a legal review of the Tennessee law, the gun signage wording displayed on UT Martin buildings complies with the statute and states the general rule that weapons are prohibited. There are many exceptions to that general rule, one of which is that authorized employees of institutions of higher education may carry a weapon if they meet certain requirements. But the rule is the rule, and although handgun carry permits might also qualify as an exception to the rule, the sign does not need to be changed.

Submit your questions anonymously to the Suggestion Box link at www.utm.edu/suggestionbox.