

# Lance McMahon, Ph.D.

## What is a Ph.D.?

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The Ph.D. is a research intensive degree. This is a degree where trainees engage in dissertation work these are large scale projects that take years to accomplish. And those degrees enable the trainees to go out into the workforce and engage in science as a profession.

## What is this ranking?

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The Carnegie Foundation ranks universities according to the magnitude of the research activity, defined by the external funding are the dollars that they bring in from the outside as well as by the number of degrees that are conferred to their scientists, the so called Ph.D.s. The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is very proud that we have been ranked as Very High to High Research Activity. This is the top category for Special Focus Four-Year Institutions. This means that we bring in at least \$5 million in external funding each year and confer a minimum of 20 scholarly research Ph.D.s to our students per year.

## How did TTUHSC rank?

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Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center ranked in the Very High to High Research activity category which is an outstanding achievement for our institution.

## What do you want people to know about TTUHSC and our research?

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We have excellence in a number of research domains including aging, cancer, mental health and neuroscience, infectious disease, diabetes and metabolic diseases. And we're very proud of the research excellence that our faculty bring to our institution and help elevate our reputation as a Center of Research Excellence. This helps us accomplish our mission to transform health care through innovation and collaboration.

## Why are Ph.D.'s important to health care?

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Part of an academic health centers mission is to not only provide the highest level of care but is also to provide cutting edge health care. And for us to be able to provide cutting edge health care. We need to engage in the scientific exercise to create the discoveries that help catalyze advanced and push forward health care to our community.

## What does the Ph.D. training at TTUHSC allow graduates to do after leaving TTUHSC?

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Ph.D. training at the Health Sciences Center plants a seed it's an important seed that our trainees will then carry forward into the research community to create additional discoveries when they move on to other institutions, other activities. Many of them go into academic settings and work in research institutions as faculty, they also go into private industry, where they help create and transform health care discoveries.

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How does this ranking elevate TTUHSC's status when compared to other universities?

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The Carnegie Classification places the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in some elite company included in that ranking are other Texas institutions, world class institutions like Baylor College of Medicine, UT Southwestern, and institutions outside the state of Texas including the Mayo Clinic, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Rockefeller University.

What does this ranking signify for an institution?

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This Carnegie ranking signifies that the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is a leader in transforming health care through innovation and collaboration. We have some of the brightest minds in our faculty performing medical, pharmaceutical, biomedical research, and we are proud of the research excellence that these faculty bring to our institution every day.

Why is this ranking important to the public?

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The Carnegie Foundation classification is important to the public because it helps measure the impact the university has on its local community in terms of teaching and research, and to be ranked in the Very High to High Research category as Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has been demonstrates the high degree of impact that we have on health care, education, discovery and delivery in our community.