



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Full Professor Tenure-Track,
Food and Nutrition Security
Cluster Hire Co-Lead
*College of Education, Health,
and Human Sciences*

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Position Announcement
Department of Nutrition
College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

THE HILL

Position Description

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville's College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (CEHHS) invites applications and nominations for a national search to fill a new, 9-month, tenure-track position of Full Professor, Food and Nutrition Security Cluster Hire Co-Lead, in the Department of Nutrition. The position will start August 1, 2024.

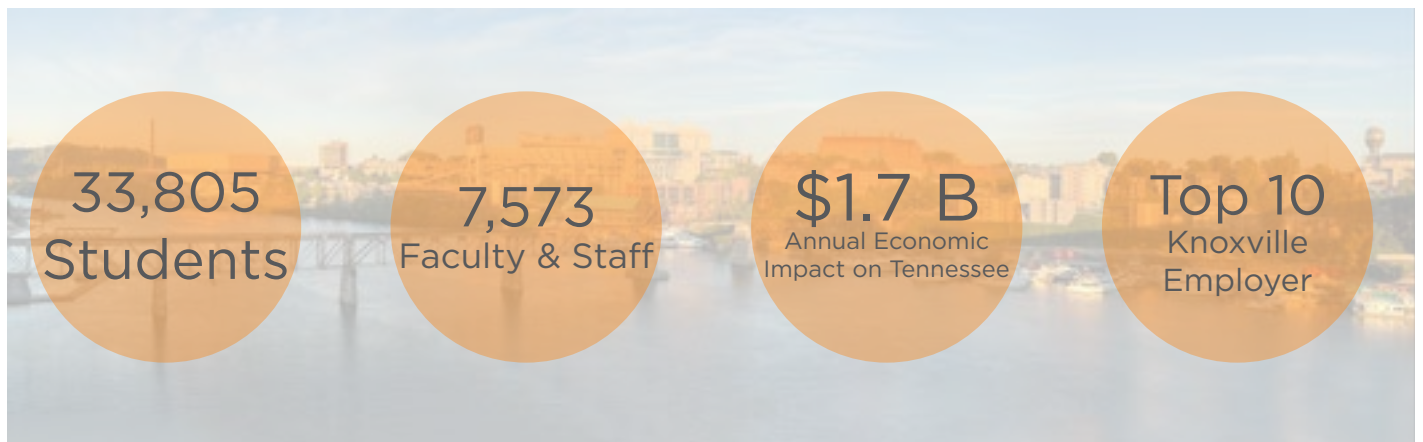
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, (UTK) has identified food and nutrition security as a strategic priority and aims to develop a national reputation in this area using a food systems perspective. To achieve this national reputation, UTK is investing close to \$7 million in a cluster hire. This position, along with a new hire in the Department of Agricultural and Research Economics, which is based in the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA), will provide foundational leadership and jointly lead the cluster hire of six faculty in the home units of Nutrition; Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management; Nursing; Agricultural and Resource Economics; Food Science; and University of Tennessee (UT) Extension - Family and Consumer Sciences.

Faculty hired as part of this cluster will collaboratively work across the UTK and UTIA campuses, using a team science approach, in building a strategic plan that emphasizes enhancing collaboration and impact by creating an interdisciplinary, translational human health and wellness identity at UTK and UTIA in food and nutrition security. This strategic plan will include a focus on interdisciplinary academic programming and scholarship. Within the area of scholarship, this cluster hire will help lead the university in building an equitable and inclusive research enterprise, which supports a diverse and inclusive workforce, community-engaged scholarship, and research that enhances population representativeness.

This leadership position will also include a joint appointment in UT Extension - Family and Consumer Sciences at UTIA and have a 30% administrative appointment for leading cluster initiatives. The salary is competitive and based on experience and academic credentials. The start-up package for the position is designed to support the launch of the cluster hire.

The University and Community

UTK is the state of Tennessee's flagship land-grant university and a public Carnegie Research 1 institution. As a land-grant university and as Volunteers, serving our state and nation is key to our mission. The UT System is on the rise, and currently enrolls approximately 35,000 students at its Knoxville campus, with expected growth. With new leadership at the system, university, and college levels, the university is realizing dramatic **positive change** focused on solving some of the most audacious, pressing problems our country and world face today.



Fall 2022 data

The city of Knoxville is a **hidden gem** surrounded by eight gorgeous lakes, with a beautiful and walkable downtown, a diverse music scene including internationally recognized festivals, active neighborhoods, unique restaurants, and a robust offering of diverse cultural and outdoor activities. UTK is located within easy driving distance to the Great Smoky Mountains, Atlanta, Nashville, Asheville, Charlotte, Louisville, and Cincinnati. It is only a day's drive to Memphis, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. Knoxville and the surrounding counties have a population of more than 850,000 people.

The Knoxville region houses many leading corporations, including Bush Brothers & Company, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, PetSafe/Radio Systems Corporation, Pilot/Flying J, and Tennessee Valley Authority.

The College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

CEHHS consists of eight departments: Child and Family Studies; Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Educational Psychology and Counseling; Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sports Studies; Nutrition; Public Health; Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management; and Theory and Practice in Teacher Education. The college has approximately 3,100 undergraduate majors, and approximately 900 graduate students. CEHHS offers undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare future educators, health professionals, and service industry leaders to enhance the quality of life for others. We also provide numerous community-based collaborations and initiatives that help to empower people all over the world.

The Office of Research and External Funding within the college facilitates research, service, and education activities by supporting faculty and staff in their pursuit of external funding. This office provides individualized and specialized, high-quality service in all aspects of proposal development for federal, state, and private funding. The college is predominantly located in five buildings on campus, and is beginning to plan for the new Interdisciplinary Health, Research & Clinic Building, in which construction is anticipated to start within the next five years.

CEHHS' dean, Dr. Ellen McIntyre, implemented a five-year **strategic vision** that emphasizes the college's role within a flagship, land-grant, Research 1 institution. The focus of this vision is on quality, impact, engagement, equity, and access. CEHHS has also created a vision for health, which is to lead the UT System in being a US higher education model of interdisciplinary academic programming, scientific inquiry, and community outreach that facilitates healthy living and wellbeing. The vision focuses on positive behavioral, emotional, physical, relational, and social aspects of health, providing a comprehensive model of health promotion, that focuses on addressing areas of disparity and inequity in health. Nutrition and health is a subtheme within the vision.

CEHHS' growth is aligned with UTK's. The last two years have seen the college achieve record enrollment, student retention rates, and research expenditures.

The Department of Nutrition

The mission of the Department of Nutrition is to promote an understanding of the science of nutrition for the enhancement of the physiological and social well-being of individuals, families, and communities. This is accomplished primarily through research and education. The department has a new department head, Dr. Dhiraj Vatter, who started in August 2023. There are three concentration areas within the department: biomedical nutrition science; clinical nutrition and dietetics; and community/public health nutrition. The department offers bachelor of science and master of science degrees in all three concentration areas, and doctoral degrees in biomedical nutrition science and community nutrition. The clinical nutrition and dietetics concentration has an undergraduate and graduate program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The graduate program provides the supervised practice hours necessary for students to be eligible to take the national credentialing examination to become Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. Students engage in the supervised practice hours in several locations in the Knoxville area, including [Cherokee Health Systems](#), a federally qualified health center in which UTK has a memorandum of understanding to engage in mutually beneficial academic, research, and service activities to improve the health of Tennesseans.



Leadership Opportunity

The successful candidate will co-lead the effort to fill four positions within the cluster, in the units of Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management; Nursing; Food Science; and UT Extension - Family and Consumer Sciences, and thus have considerable influence in building a team of food and nutrition security scholars. The co-leads of the cluster hire will need to address the following priorities:



- **Develop a strategic vision** focused on establishing a national reputation in food and nutrition security that focuses on interdisciplinary collaboration, impact, and reputation.
- **Recruit faculty** that can help develop a research theme of enhancing consumer food acquisition behaviors to improve diet quality to address health disparities associated with food and nutrition insecurity.
- **Develop interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate academic programing.**
- **Mentor faculty** hired within the cluster hire initiative.
- **Build an equitable and inclusive research enterprise**, which supports a diverse and inclusive workforce, community-engaged scholarship, and research that enhances population representativeness.



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Qualifications

This Full Professor position will also include a joint appointment in Family and Consumer Sciences and have a 30% administrative appointment for leading cluster initiatives. The successful candidate will also co-lead the effort to fill four positions within the cluster, in the units of Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management; Nursing; Food Science; and Family and Consumer Sciences, and thus have considerable influence in building a team of food and nutrition security scholars.

We seek an established and recognized scholar whose work focuses on enhancing diet quality in populations experiencing food and nutrition insecurity. The candidate should be able to provide leadership in the cluster hire and related initiatives, apply health-relevant theoretical frameworks in research, have strong quantitative or mixed methods research skills, and have expertise with interdisciplinary collaboration. The successful candidate will: (a) lead interdisciplinary academic and research programming in food and nutrition security; (b) participate in related collaborative research programs; (c) mentor faculty hired within the cluster hire initiative; (d) provide limited teaching in the Department of Nutrition's educational programs; (e) mentor MS/PhD students; and (f) provide limited outreach and service in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (joint appointment).

This 9-month, full-time (1.0 FTE), position begins August 1, 2024. Starting salary is commensurate with experience. UTK has a competitive benefits package, and 9-month tenure-track faculty are eligible for summer salary. The start-up package for the position is designed to support the launch of the cluster hire. UTK is Tennessee's flagship land-grant university and is currently in the midst of unprecedented growth in enrollment, with approximately 35,000 enrolled students. The University is also a Carnegie Foundation Research University with the highest research activity (R1) and has achieved a Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement.

Qualifications

UTK is seeking candidates who have the ability to contribute in meaningful ways to the diversity and intercultural goals of the University. Candidates must have earned their doctorate in nutrition or a related public health, social, or behavioral science field. The candidate must have an extensive record of extramural funding, scholarly productivity, and successful mentoring. The successful candidate must meet the qualifications for being a full professor within UT's [faculty handbook](#). Candidates with demonstrated experience in productive interdisciplinary collaborations, successful team leadership, experience in team science, and/or administrative experience are preferred.

To Apply

Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2023, and will continue until the position is filled. Individuals interested in applying for this position should submit electronically at apply.interfolio.com/129754 a letter of application, curriculum vita, and list of three references who can address the applicant's capabilities with complete addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. Questions can be directed to Dr. Hollie Raynor, search committee chair, at hraynor@utk.edu.

Equal Employment Opportunity

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admission without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, and parental status, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law. In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and the is policy extends to employment by the university. Inquiries and charges of violations of Title VI (race, color, and national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), the ADA (disability), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity, 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone 865-974-2498. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity.