

SAP 33.99.01.T0.01 Employment Practices



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Procedure Summary

Tarleton State University (Tarleton) is committed to following consistent hiring practices in accordance with provisions of federal and state law and The Texas A&M University System (system) policies and regulations. This standard administrative procedure (SAP) is adopted to supplement System Regulation 33.99.01, *Employment Practices*, and establishes requirements, processes, and responsibilities specific to Tarleton.

Procedure

1. REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1. All budgeted vacancies below the level of president (excluding positions that require student status) will be posted by Human Resources to the university's online employment site for a minimum of five days. Vacancies will be posted in one of three ways:
 - 1.1.1. Posting open to all applicants (internal and external)
 - 1.1.2. Posting open only to applicants currently employed at Tarleton or internally within the system
 - 1.1.3. Posting open only to applicants within a department or defined university area of designation
- 1.2. Vacancies may also be filled by a current Tarleton employee without posting by approved internal promotion or transfer as defined in System Regulation 33.99.01 and in accordance with System Regulation 33.99.04, *Promotion, Transfers and Voluntary Moves*.

- 1.3. All applicants for a posted budgeted position must apply through the university's online employment site for referral to the hiring manager.
- 1.4. All postings that are listed with the university's online employment site are automatically posted with the Texas Workforce Commission as required by the State of Texas labor code.
- 1.5. Offer of employment will be contingent upon: (1) the hiring department's compliance with employment policies and procedures and applicable federal and state laws and regulations; (2) the applicant's meeting at least the minimum qualifications for the vacant position; and (3) receipt of acceptable criminal history record check.
- 1.6. Applicants for positions will not be processed onto the Tarleton payroll unless proper hiring procedures are followed.
- 1.7. Employment decisions that would be counter to this procedure will normally not occur. However, if exceptional situations exist, the hiring supervisor may request approval to hire through the appropriate division vice president to Human Resources. The posting requirement under Section 1.3.3 of System Regulation 33.99.01 cannot be waived.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1. Human Resources will develop, issue, and maintain detailed procedures, instructions, and guides to departments for use in the hiring process.
- 2.2. Human Resources is responsible for:
 - assisting departments in developing consistent, job-related selection procedures;
 - posting vacancies;
 - recruiting, screening, and referring applicants;
 - conducting criminal history and U.S. degree verification checks as required;
 - ensuring that Tarleton hiring practices meet the requirements of all federal and state laws and system policies and regulations; and
 - informing university personnel of proper hiring procedures through workshops, user guides, and other methods of communication.
- 2.3. Hiring Managers are responsible for:
 - preparing and using job descriptions throughout the hiring process;
 - developing and following consistent, job-related selection procedures;
 - following university hiring procedures, notifying Human Resources of pending vacancies, and ensuring all applicants are referred by Human Resources through the university's online employment site;
 - hiring qualified applicants based on the parameters established in a comprehensive posting;

- ensuring all experience (including military experience) used in the hiring decision is verified;
- ensuring copies of documents related to the hiring process are retained (or provided to Human Resources upon request) per the specified hiring practice for each position listed in accordance with the respective retention periods in the System Records Retention Schedule and Tarleton SAP 61.99.01.T0.01, *Records Management*; and
- conducting appropriate and timely orientation and training for the hired employee, including assignment of training as required by law, system policy or regulation, or university rule.

3. POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

Human Resources will ensure each budgeted position (excluding positions that require student status and adjunct faculty) has an approved position description. Where a position description does not exist, the hiring manager must prepare and obtain approval through the university's human resource information system (HRIS) before a vacant position can be posted.

4. JOB POSTINGS

- 4.1. Departments may initiate a request to fill a vacant position by accessing the HRIS and completing and submitting the appropriate request. The action is routed through the department's respective vice president for approval. Upon approval, Human Resources will post the position on university's online employment site.
- 4.2. Job postings will document if the position is subject to a criminal background check.
- 4.3. Vacancies in non-faculty budgeted positions will post a minimum of five days in accordance with System Regulation 33.99.01, *Employment Practices*. Vacancies in faculty budgeted positions must be posted for a period no less than five days, but additionally in accordance with the needs and requirements of the provost.
- 4.4. Appropriate Advertising
 - 4.4.1. Posted faculty vacancies must be advertised. For tenure-track vacancies, national advertising in one or more higher education listing and/or journals of the field is appropriate. For non-tenure track vacancies, local or regional advertising is appropriate.
 - 4.4.2. Posted executive and managerial vacancies must be advertised using the most appropriate form of advertisement that attracts a qualified applicant pool.
 - 4.4.3. Advertising for all other posted position vacancies is highly encouraged and should be utilized in situations where positions require a specialization or a specific skill, or where availability is limited.

4.4.4. All advertisements must be approved by Human Resources. This applies to all forms of advertising, electronic or print.

4.4.5. Human Resources will maintain a comprehensive list of recruitment sources. Periodically, Human Resources will send a listing of vacancies to relevant sources on the recruitment list.

5. SELECTION

5.1. Search Committee

5.1.1. A search committee must be formed for positions of director and above and for all tenure-track faculty positions. Searches for other professional staff may also use a committee if desired. The committee will recruit, screen applicants, check references, interview candidates, and submit a list of recommendations to the hiring manager who is responsible for making the final selection.

5.1.2. The committee members should represent the constituencies of the group most closely associated with the position. The committee should further reflect the status of the position and reflect the community and global makeup of the university. The hiring manager generally selects the committee chair followed by the selection of others to serve. The search committee membership should be reported to and documented with Human Resources. Human Resources reserves the right to review, approve and/or make recommendations related to the make-up of a committee.

5.1.3. A search committee is subject to all the same requirements as a hiring manager as outlined in system policies and in federal and state laws and regulations.

5.2. Applications

5.2.1. Applicants for a posted job vacancy must submit a Tarleton employment application through the university's online employment site. Other supporting materials may be required such as resumes, vitas, transcripts, or letters of reference. In no case, however, will a resume or vitae be accepted in lieu of an online employment application for all job postings.

5.2.2. For applicants to be considered, applications must be received by Human Resources before a job posting is removed from the university's online employment site.

5.2.3. The hiring department will ensure applications are screened for all job postings for each applicant's qualifications meeting basic minimum requirements as posted. Applicants qualifying for a job posting will be forwarded to the hiring manager for further consideration. Applicants not qualifying for a job posting will be notified of their non-qualification by an

automatic electronic notification generated by the university's online employment site.

5.2.4. The hiring manager and/or the search committee is responsible for the consistent application of established criteria to applicants in accordance with this SAP and System Regulation 33.99.01. Hiring managers and search committees should review applications received and select the top candidates to interview based on the qualifications outlined in the position description and announcement. The evaluation of applicants may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) military or former foster child's employment preference under Texas Government Code, Chapters 657 and 672, respectively, in accordance with System Regulation 33.99.01;
- b) assessment of their application forms, vitae, credentials;
- c) reference checks;
- d) telephone interviews;
- e) face-to-face interviews; and
- f) observation of classroom teaching for faculty vacancies.

5.3. In accordance with System Regulation 33.99.01, the hiring manager, or other appropriate committee designee, should verify references, previous employment and other job-related credentials before an offer of employment is made. Information collected should be documented and retained in the department hiring record.

5.4. The final hiring decision for all vacancies rests with the hiring manager. Hiring managers should secure all appropriate approvals to hire before extending an offer.

5.5. Final candidates not meeting the minimum qualifications for the position must be satisfactorily justified in writing and approved up through Human Resources and the appropriate vice president prior to extending an offer.

6. JOB OFFERS

6.1. Faculty and Faculty Administrators

6.1.1. All appropriate approvals to hire must be secured before an offer can be extended. Requests for approval of offers for faculty appointments proceed from the department head to the dean, and from the dean to the provost. Where the position requires a joint appointment in different departments, approval must be secured by both the primary and secondary appointment authorities.

6.1.2. Additionally, before approval to hire is sought and offer extended, the department head must ensure that all wage commitments are consistent with the university's Comprehensive Compensation Administration Guidelines.

- 6.1.3. To comply with system regulations and university rules and procedures, certain disclosures and contingencies must be included in every offer-to-hire letter. In general, these disclosures and contingencies address, but may not be limited to, matters such as final administrative approval before the offer is effective, employment eligibility verification, criminal background check, degree verification and access to official transcripts.
- 6.1.4. Department heads will ensure that offer letters are worded with the appropriate disclosure and contingency language and that such language is used in every offer letter to tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty. This language can be found in the hiring guidelines made available by Academic Affairs.
- 6.1.5. The letter of offer becomes a mutually binding agreement if the applicant communicates an acceptance in writing, provides the university with official transcripts in a timely manner, and completes all necessary hiring and onboarding steps with Human Resources.
- 6.1.6. Upon receipt of written acceptance, the provost prepares and signs the official appointment letter which is sent to the candidate. This letter reaffirms the appointment and clearly indicates the precise terms of the appointment as described in this procedure. If the appointment is of a tenure-accruing nature, the length of the period of probationary service at Tarleton is indicated, as well as, credit for appropriate service at other institutions. If any discrepancies exist between the offer letter and official appointment letter, the Academic Affairs appointment letter will be considered the official document.

6.2. Non-faculty

- 6.2.1. All appropriate approvals to hire must be secured before an offer can be extended. Approval of offers for non-faculty appointments proceed from the hiring manager through the department head to the respective divisional vice president. Where the position requires a joint appointment in different departments, approval must be secured by both the primary and secondary appointment authorities.
- 6.2.2. To comply with system regulations and university rules, certain disclosures and contingencies must be included in every required offer-to-hire letter. In general, these disclosures and contingencies address, but may not be limited to, matters such as final administrative approval before the offer is effective, employment eligibility verification, criminal background check, degree verification and access to official transcripts.
- 6.2.3. Additionally, before approval to hire is sought and offer extended, the hiring manager must ensure that all wage commitments are consistent with the university's Comprehensive Compensation Administration Guidelines.

7. CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK

After an offer is extended and accepted, Human Resources will conduct a criminal record check on the finalist in accordance with System Regulation 33.99.14, *Criminal History Record Information-Employees and Candidates for Employment*, and Tarleton Rule 33.99.14.T1, *Criminal History Record Information*. Hiring managers will only be notified if the criminal record check produces a negative result.

8. HIRING OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

Tarleton will comply with requirements related to the hiring of foreign nationals as outlined in System Regulation 33.99.09, *Employment of Foreign Nationals*, and Tarleton's Export Control Compliance Program (see Tarleton Rule 15.02.99.T1, *Export Control Program Management*, and *Tarleton Export Control Compliance Program Manual*).

9. RECORDKEEPING

- 9.1. Applicant scoring matrices, interview notes, selection documentation, job advertisements, reference checks, and all correspondence related to a hire will be compiled by the hiring department and promptly provided to Human Resources per the specified hiring practice for each position listed in accordance with the System Records Retention Schedule and Tarleton SAP 61.99.01.T0.01, *Records Management*.
- 9.2. Electronic applications will be retained in the university's HRIS in accordance with the System Records Retention Schedule and Tarleton SAP 61.99.01.T0.01.
- 9.3. Job vacancy files will be kept within Human Resources in accordance with the System Records Retention Schedule and Tarleton SAP 61.99.01.T0.01.

10. ORIENTATION/TRAINING

- 10.1. New employees are expected to report to Human Resources orientation on or before their date of hire as prescribed by a specified schedule to complete required documentation related to employment with Tarleton.
- 10.2. New faculty are expected to participate fully in the first-year faculty onboarding program and subsequent programming.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[Tex. Gov't Code, Ch. 657](#)

[Tex. Gov't Code, Ch. 672](#)

System Regulation 31.01.01, Compensation Administration

System Regulation 33.99.01, Employment Practices

System Regulation 33.99.04, Promotions, Transfers and Voluntary Moves

System Regulation 33.99.09, Employment of Foreign Nationals

System Regulation 33.99.14, Criminal History Record Information - Employees and Candidates for Employment

Tarleton Rule 33.99.14.T1, Criminal History Record Information – Employees and Candidates for Employment

Tarleton Rule 15.02.99.T1, Export Control Program Management

Tarleton Export Control Compliance Program Manual

Tarleton SAP 61.99.01.T0.01, Records Management

System Records Retention Schedule

Comprehensive Compensation Administration Guidelines

Contact Office

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