

THE  
VOL

# EDGE





# CULTIVATING THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**Demonstrate leadership in providing high-quality educational opportunities for people at every stage of life, whenever and wherever they seek to learn**

- Provide learners at all levels with opportunities to engage in rich learning and in scholarship that is collaborative, inquiry-based, experiential, affordable, and relevant
- Deliver educational opportunities that are responsive to the needs of learners
- Support curricular innovations that align with 21st-century workforce needs and our research strengths and priorities
- Ensure that the programs we offer are accessible to communities across Tennessee and beyond

# WHERE WE ARE TODAY

90%

Positive Career  
Outcomes

Highest on  
Record at UT





# WHAT OUR VOLLS SAY

- Students may fear the uncertain future, but some know their path while others don't.
- Experiences vary widely for each student, depending on year, academic major, and first-gen status.
- These differences can impact feelings of inclusion, preparedness, anxiety, and disconnection.
- Students feel only 6.3 out of 10 prepared for the future.
- Focusing on underclassmen can reduce junior-year stressors.
- 64% of students would participate in a career-readiness program.



# PROGRAM GOALS

- Elevate student confidence, strengths, and well-being.
- Develop graduates who can articulate their value to employers and graduate programs.
- Expand transformational experiences for scholars by deepening campus engagement.
- Bolster employer involvement in life-career readiness.





## VOL EDGE

UT will generate one of the nation's most robust and highly skilled employment pipelines, with scholars well-prepared to tackle the complexities of an interconnected global landscape.

# GROUNDING IN THE NACE COMPETENCIES



Career and Self-Development



Communication



Critical Thinking



Equity & Inclusion



Leadership



Professionalism



Teamwork



Technology



# PATHWAY TO COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

1. Engage in **Self-Paced Learning**
2. Engage in at least one meaningful **Transformative Experience**
3. Engage in **Intentional and Ongoing reflection**
4. **Receive Meaningful Feedback** from professionals in their desired field/areas





# VOL EDGE: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- Lead by incorporating well-being, transformational experiences, intentional reflection, and professional feedback.
- Produce a robust and talented employment pipeline.





# PROGRAM TIMELINE

A small pilot launched in 2023-2024.

Then roll out in phases over next three years, with sophomores invited into the program in fall 2024.

Each new phase is rolling out until all stages of the Vol  
EDGE are available in fall 2027.





**UT students are unlike any other.**

Assertive, driven, and confident, nothing gets in the way of a Volunteer.

This program gives students that exceptional edge –  
On-campus and in the workforce.





# Dr. Amber Williams

## Vice Provost for Student Success

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