A PARENT’S GUIDE TO UNT

UNT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

A green light to greatness.
Welcome to unt!
Congratulations on your student’s admission to the University of North Texas!

This is such an exciting time — not only for your family, but the UNT family of faculty and staff committed to making the next four years of your child’s life an enriching and exciting experience. As a parent, you no doubt have many questions about the university your child plans to attend. Will my son or daughter be happy? Will my child be successful academically? Will I be able to afford tuition? Will my child be safe and secure on campus? Will my child receive the encouragement and support he or she needs?

This guide will answer those questions, as well as provide you with additional resources to find out more about everything from campus security and housing to admissions and campus life. You also can visit our Parents & Family page at unt.edu/parents-family.htm for more information.

We’re so happy your student has chosen to learn, grow and pursue a green light to greatness at UNT. We welcome you to the Mean Green family!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- About UNT
- Academics
- Money Matters
- Campus Life
- Support and Security
- Staying Involved

3
4
8
12
17
21
The University of North Texas is a student-focused public research university offering 97 bachelor’s, 81 master’s and 35 doctoral degree programs, many nationally and internationally recognized.

The pursuit of knowledge and the personal growth of our students through an innovative, collaborative learning environment is at the center of UNT’s mission. UNT’s 213 high-quality degree programs in 12 colleges and schools attract some of the best and brightest students. The university has been named a “Best in the West” college by The Princeton Review and has been one of America’s 100 Best College Buys® for 17 consecutive years.

Come see for yourself

If you haven’t yet visited the UNT campus, we would love to meet you on a guided tour. You’ll experience what UNT has to offer and have a chance to ask our student tour guides questions. Our administrators and faculty also want to make sure your specific questions about majors, admissions, financial aid or other matters are answered.

To schedule a tour, call 940-565-4104 or visit tours.unt.edu. Another way to feel confident about your child’s decision to attend UNT is to attend Parent Orientation while your son or daughter attends Freshman Orientation in the summer. For more details about the parent and freshman orientations, visit unt.edu/orientation.
The rigorous curriculum at UNT combined with opportunities to participate in research and make friends with students from around the world will not only engage your child academically, but will enrich your child socially. At UNT, your child can choose from thousands of classes each semester. Your student can study abroad, participate in global learning activities on campus or sign up for service-oriented spring break trips.

UNT students consistently score above the state and national averages on the SAT.

**Life with honors**

Students of all majors may apply for the Honors College, which enhances the academic and intellectual experience of highly talented, motivated and well-prepared students. The more than 1,300 students enrolled in UNT’s Honors College have a rigorous academic experience, including opportunities to conduct ground-breaking research with leading faculty members and live with their intellectual peers in a dedicated residence hall.

**Undecided**

Many first-year students are uncertain about a major. Many more declare a major upon admission to college and change it several times before they graduate. If your son or daughter has many interests and cannot decide on just one, UNT’s professional academic advisors are available to help your child choose the best major. Our on-campus Counseling and Testing Services can help students choose a major and identify a career in which they will be successful. Another option is the Career Development section of the Freshman Seminar Course (UCRS 1000), which is a university core course that teaches students about majors and careers that correlate with their abilities, interests and values.
Majors

Majors in visual and performing arts, business, marketing, computer science and physical sciences are among the most popular. For more information on all 97 undergraduate majors, visit unt.edu/majors.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

UNT has a growing reputation as an innovative university, with research endeavors spanning the globe. We’re investing millions in interdisciplinary research clusters to address society’s greatest needs.

Some of our brightest stars are students majoring in science, technology, engineering and math. Your child can choose from nine engineering degrees, including Mechanical and Energy Engineering.

Is your family a fan of CSI? Your student can enroll in the only undergraduate Forensic Science program in Texas accredited by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Your child will learn to use the same equipment used in professional crime labs.
Accredited
UNT is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Ga. 30033-4097, telephone 404-679-4500; inquiries should relate only to the accreditation status of the institution) to award bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees. This assures that UNT adheres to the highest professional standards. For a complete list of accreditations, visit catalog.unt.edu.

Registration and core courses
Freshmen register for classes during freshman orientation when academic advisors and orientation leaders are available to help them. The site my.unt.edu also contains step-by-step instructions for online registration, including payment deadlines.

The academic core includes:
• 6 hours in English composition and rhetoric
• 6 hours in understanding the human community
• 6 hours in U.S. history
• 6 hours in political science
• 6 hours in natural sciences
• 3 hours in mathematics
• 3 hours in visual and performing arts
• 3 hours in social and behavioral sciences
• 3 hours in humanities

The core curriculum is designed to give all graduating students basic intellectual competencies in reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking and computer literacy.

For an online version of the undergraduate catalog and schedule of classes, visit catalog.unt.edu.

Faculty
UNT faculty and staff are friendly and willing to help your student succeed. UNT has 1,026 full-time faculty members and 455 part-time faculty members. Professors usually are available after class and during office hours to offer guidance and support to students. Many faculty members serve as mentors, sponsor student organizations, invite students to participate in their research projects, and get involved with campus matters of importance to students.
Most UNT classes are taught by faculty or post-doctoral students who are advancing the frontiers of knowledge through research and creative activities. Your student can find classes and professors to fit different learning styles. Our faculty members are among the ranks of Fulbright Scholars; Grammy, Pulitzer and Emmy nominees; National Academy members; and American Council on Education members.

Expanding to meet your student’s needs

With an enrollment of 36,000 students, UNT has responded to growth by expanding campus resources and infrastructure. A few of the exciting new buildings on campus include:

• UNT’s Apogee Stadium — The new football stadium and entertainment complex serves as a landmark entrance to the campus on the Interstate 35 corridor and is a beacon of pride for students, alumni and supporters. It is the first newly constructed collegiate football stadium in the nation to be awarded a LEED Platinum Certification.

• Business Leadership Building — This new, eco-friendly facility features a securities trading room with a dozen Bloomberg kiosks and stock tickers, an executive board room, 24 classrooms, a café, computer labs, study and tutor rooms, and an entire floor dedicated to faculty offices and meeting spaces.

• Life Sciences Complex — This four-story state-of-the-art research facility houses the university’s biochemistry and molecular biology, developmental physiology, genetics and plant sciences programs. The building features rooftop greenhouses and one of the country’s most sophisticated aquatics laboratories with more than 2,500 tanks.

• Chestnut Hall — This multi-purpose facility houses the Student Health and Wellness Center, College Optical Express, Career Center, Student Money Management Center, and Counseling and Testing Services.

Always thoughtful in its approach to expansion, UNT is proud to be on The Princeton Review’s “Green College” list of environmentally responsible universities.
Research shows that a college graduate will earn about $1 million more than a high school graduate over his or her adult working lives. As our economy becomes more dependent on technology, many jobs are requiring at least a bachelor’s degree, and getting a degree at a public university saves money while providing an excellent quality education. UNT has been named to America’s 100 Best College Buys® for 17 consecutive years.

Can I afford it?

UNT offers need-based financial aid such as federal and state grants, loans and work-study jobs, plus scholarships and loans that are not based on demonstrated need. So there are a number of options available to you and your child for affording college.

The majority of UNT students receive some kind of financial aid, and many have jobs on or off campus while they are enrolled. Other options include payment plans for tuition and housing. We recommend that you apply as early as possible, since funds are limited. For an overview of financial aid and scholarships, visit financialaid.unt.edu or call 877-881-1014.

The 2013-14 costs for an undergraduate student enrolled in 15 semester credit hours for the fall and spring semester are:

- Tuition and fees: $9,105 (out-of-state students: $19,725)
- Residence hall room and board: $7,171 (Rates are current at the time of printing but are subject to change.)

We estimate that books and supplies will cost $1,250 per year, but this varies by major. For example, physics textbooks can be more expensive than philosophy textbooks, and an art student’s supplies will cost more than those of an English major. Many students save money by purchasing used textbooks and selling them back at the end of the semester. Students can reserve textbooks for the coming semester at unt.bkstr.com.

Textbook rental is a relatively new and affordable option for your student. The UNT Bookstore offers a rental option for many textbooks, but not all.
Applying for financial aid

The best time to apply for financial aid is in January or February of that enrollment year — for example, January 2014 to enroll beginning Fall 2014. That may sound early, but the process is lengthy. We recommend applying early to ensure plenty of time for application processing and to receive first consideration of awards. Your child can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. For more information about financial aid, visit financialaid.unt.edu.

We recommend that your child lead the application process. You will certainly need to assist, but students who are involved from the beginning have a better understanding of how to continue monitoring financial aid throughout their college career.

Scholarships

Some of UNT’s scholarship opportunities for high-achieving students include:

- Meritorious Scholarships for National Merit Scholars, covering tuition and most expenses
- Terry Foundation Scholarships for future leaders of Texas
• UNT Excellence Scholarships for students in the top 50 percent of their high school class and score at least 1100 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT.

Your child may apply for scholarships funded by the university, specific academic departments, alumni and staff members. Merit-based, need-based and athletic-based scholarships are usually available. UNT annually awards more than $320 million in financial aid, including more than $32 million in scholarships. Scholarship and other financial aid information can be accessed online at financialaid.unt.edu.

Timely Graduation

Encouraging your child to take 15 hours or more each semester under UNT’s Timely Graduation Tuition Program can lead to big savings over time and ensure that your child graduates on time. The plan allows all full-time undergraduate students to pay about the same tuition and fee rate regardless of how many hours they take. This helps students graduate earlier and earn more money sooner. For more information visit unt.edu/tuition.

To ensure your student stays on track to graduate without taking extra courses, UNT offers an online degree audit which lists all of your student’s degree requirements in a graphic-friendly output referred to as the “interactive audit.” With few exceptions, the information presented is identical to the information viewed by your child’s academic advisors. For undecided students, the online degree audit allows users to run “what if” degree audits for all the majors across campus to help explore degree options.
Your child’s happiness is crucial to you. According to the National Survey of Student Engagement, more students are happy with their educational experiences at UNT, as compared to its state and national peer institutions, and would attend the university again.

Housing

All unmarried students who have graduated from high school the semester prior to enrolling at UNT, who have completed less than 30 semester hours of university work (advanced placement hours not included) and who enroll for 12 or more semester hours are required to live in university-operated residence halls under a contractual room and board plan as long as space is available. Exceptions may be made for students who live with parents, grandparents or a married sibling, so students should apply for exemption with the housing department before signing a housing contract. If living off campus is an option for your child, many apartments are within walking distance and many are served by campus buses.

Dining

Students can eat balanced meals at any of UNT’s five residence hall cafeterias. They provide many nutritious selections including Bruce Hall cafeteria, which offers a vegetarian line, as well as Mean Greens, a completely vegan dining option inside Maple Hall. Champs in Victory Hall offers a wide selection of freshly made pizzas while Kerr Dining Hall is your student’s destination for made-to-order sub sandwiches.

Students with a meal plan can eat in any of the cafeterias. Meal plans are available to students living on and off campus. All full-service cafeterias are open at least 12 hours a day, and a staff dietitian will work with students with food allergies or other needs. There are many food choices for your student within walking distance of campus as well.
Activities

An array of activities will help your child make new friends and adjust to college life at UNT from the moment he or she steps foot on campus. For example, there is Move-In Day, when UNT faculty and staff help students move into their residence hall; the Freshman Program, which is designed to assist new students in their personal, academic and social transition to UNT; and Eagle Camp, an off-campus weekend retreat. For more details, visit unt.edu/orientation.

Students can get involved in 400 organizations on campus; go to athletic events, concerts, plays and art exhibitions; meet friends for coffee and study sessions at the Cyber Café inside Willis Library; attend lectures, film festivals and other cultural events; compete in recreational sports leagues; and work out in the Pohl Recreation Center or try a new adventure through its outdoor pursuits program.

Many students donate their time for community service or get involved in the department of their major doing research, working on the campus radio or television station, tutoring or mentoring other students, or performing in campus productions. That's one of the chief advantages of attending a
large university like UNT — there's something for everyone.

One of the nation’s top 50 colleges graduating ethnic minority students, UNT works hard to create a welcoming environment and secure a reputation as a diverse institution. Many student organizations celebrate ethnic and racial heritage or support career networks such as the Hispanic Business Student Association and the National Association of Black Journalists. For more information, visit edo.unt.edu.

From athletics to the arts

For many, intercollegiate athletics is essential to the university experience not only for your child, but for you! Conference USA football and 12 other men’s and women’s sports provide excitement and build affinity.

With seating for 31,000 fans, UNT’s Apogee Stadium is the latest in a series of exciting additions to our campus. The Mean Green competes in Conference USA with Rice, Tulane, Tulsa and UT-San Antonio.

In addition to the excitement of our athletics programs, about 1,000 concerts a year are presented by UNT’s world-renowned College of Music. Art exhibits, theatre and dance performances, films and other activities also abound.
Getting around

Because of the many transportation options available, it is not necessary for your student to have a car while attending UNT. Students can use UNT Shuttle, e-ride, Connect by Hertz, or Denton County Transportation Authority services to get around.

UNT Shuttle is the university’s transit system, and e-ride provides on-demand rides from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. all week in a lift-equipped ADA bus. For more information, visit unt.edu/transit.

Connect by Hertz also is an option. It offers qualified drivers, ages 18 years and up, environmentally friendly vehicles to rent at a low rate — by the hour or the day. Members access cars using a Smart Card and only pay for the time they rent the car. For more information, visit unt.edu/transit/hertz.html.

Denton County Transportation Authority’s (DCTA) new A-train is a 21-mile corridor running from downtown Denton to Carrollton where passengers can connect to DART’s Green Line at the Trinity Mills Station. DCTA has five stations along the corridor — two in Denton and three in Lewisville. For more information on hours of operation, connections and the university fare program, visit dcta.net.

If your student plans to bring a vehicle to campus, there are several parking permit options available, including premium parking, residence hall parking, general parking and motorcycle parking. The parking fee is not included in tuition and fee costs. For more information, visit unt.edu/transit.

Students with disabilities

More than 900 students are served through the Office of Disability Accommodation, which helps students with hearing, mobility or vision loss; learning disabilities and brain injuries; cancer; chronic back pain; and other conditions that are not obvious. Students with a temporary disability, such as a broken arm or leg, also receive services from the Dean of Students Office. For more information, visit disability.unt.edu.
Many students are challenged by the rigors of college classes or need to learn how to manage their time for the independent learning required. UNT offers many resources to help students succeed in their college classes. The Learning Center provides tools for academic success including tutoring, reading labs, study skills labs, speed-reading courses and an extensive academic resource library. The center is located in Sage Hall 315. For more information, visit learningcenter.unt.edu.

Another invaluable resource for your child is access to computer labs in order to complete coursework. UNT has 13 general-access computer labs, including one that is open 24 hours a day and six that have Macintosh computers as well as PCs. All labs offer computer-based training programs, and many offer statistical analysis packages, including SAS, SPSS and SPlus. All residence halls are wired for Internet access, and wireless access is available in most buildings. Two libraries also offer free laptop checkout.
It’s important to know that your child will be well taken care of while he or she is away at college. Whether it’s academic or emotional support, health care or safety and security, UNT offers a wide variety of resources, across a broad spectrum of areas, to ensure your child will be cared for, supported and enriched.

**Emotional support**

Good grades aren’t everything. The emotional well-being of your child while he or she is away at college is just as important as academic success. Through UNT’s Student Counseling Center services, we strive to support students through professional counseling, career counseling, consultation, mental-health screenings, educational programs and self-help resources as well as a referral service. We offer to consult with students, parents, faculty and staff who may be concerned about a UNT student (while still respecting the confidentiality of our clients). With client permission, we often work closely with physicians and psychiatrists, the Career Center, Office of Disability Accommodation, and many other helpful resources in order to provide the best overall care. We value diversity and students can expect to be treated in a respectful and accepting manner.

**Healthcare**

UNT offers a full-service primary care clinic, with full-time physicians, nurse practitioners and nurses to manage your child’s care and treatment. Also offered are a full-service pharmacy, comprehensive lab services, optometry services, radiology services, substance abuse referral service, health education programming and ambulatory mental healthcare provided by part-time senior psychiatric residents. These services are available because students pay a medical usage fee each semester, which is included in...
their tuition bill. Services are provided at a discount if students need to fill prescriptions or have X-rays taken, laboratory tests performed, nutrition consultation, massage therapy, splints or minor surgery. College Optical Express is the first optical office located on any college campus in the state of Texas. Services are provided at the Student Health and Wellness Center in Chestnut Hall. For insurance and other information, visit healthcenter.unt.edu.

All students who are newly enrolled at UNT and who will reside in on-campus housing must provide evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis or must qualify for one of the two permissible exemptions prior to moving into on-campus housing. Vaccinations must be administered no fewer than 10 days prior to the student’s move-in date. Exemption will be permitted based on evidence that the vaccine would be injurious to a student’s health based on the professional opinion of a medical practitioner or if the student has refused the vaccination based on a conscientious objection, including religion.

The university recommends that all students have current immunizations for polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, rubella, mumps and measles. Consideration should be given to vaccination against hepatitis A, hepatitis B and varicella.

Most vaccines are available at the Student Health and Wellness Center. Additional information, immunization record and exemption affidavit forms are available online at healthcenter.unt.edu.

Campus security

Students can sign up for the Eagle Alert system for information about campus closings and emergency situations affecting the safety and well being of people on and around the campus. Voice and text messages are sent to all students who have provided current contact information. Students should update their contact information at my.unt.edu. Please be sure your child signs up for this service.

UNT police patrol the campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in vehicles, on bicycles and on foot. At night, the campus is well lighted, and students may ride the night shuttle, request pick up from e-ride or call the UNT police for an escort, if needed. More than 70 emergency phones located throughout campus provide direct access to the campus police dispatcher at all times.
Parents can access our home page at unt.edu, where we post the latest information on any campus emergency, even if university phone lines are not working.

**Continued support**

UNT will continue to support and encourage your child as he or she becomes an upper classman and even after graduation through our job assistance and internship programs.

Internships provide invaluable training and a head start on a career. Most programs offer hands-on experience in your student’s field before graduation. UNT’s nationally accredited Cooperative Education program provides students with paid, supervised positions related to their field of study, often for several semesters. Some students even receive academic credit for their work and permanent job offers after graduation.

Job placement services are available to help your son or daughter find a full-time job. The Career Center offers one-on-one advising, web-based job listings and on-campus interviews with employers. Dallas-Fort Worth is one of the nation’s top five metropolitan areas for job growth and employment opportunities based on higher than average starting pay, low unemployment and affordable housing. UNT’s well-prepared graduates are recruited by companies like American Airlines, Federal Express, Southwest Airlines and Texas Instruments, among others. For details on the many career center services available, visit careercenter.unt.edu.
UNT has an office solely devoted to parent programs, offering many ways for parents to get involved in their student’s experience. One of the first things you can do to help ensure that your child makes a successful transition to college is to attend Parent Orientation, which is held concurrently with each freshman orientation session and transfer orientation session.

Parent Orientation allows you to meet faculty and administrators, become familiar with the campus and share ideas on your child’s entry into college, even if this is not your first child to attend. Orientation leaders also distribute a parent handbook with essential phone numbers and other helpful information.

To remain active in your student’s accomplishments and build friendships with other parents, we recommend joining the UNT Parent Association. Benefits include a Family Weekend discount, a monthly e-newsletter and a 10 percent discount on UNT Bookstore items. Members’ children also compete for Parent Association scholarships. An annual membership is $70; a lifetime membership is $300. Email parents@unt.edu, call 940-565-4198 or visit transition.unt.edu/parents/association.html for more information.
COME SEE US!

If you haven’t yet visited our campus, call 940-565-4104 or visit tours.unt.edu and book a tour today. Our student tour guides can answer your questions and show you why UNT is the right choice for your student.
Still have questions? Let us help.

unt.edu/parents-family.htm

Parent Programs
1155 Union Circle #311274
Denton, TX 76203-5017

Email: parents@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-4198
Fax: 940-369-7849

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tours.unt.edu
or 940-565-4104.

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