



University of North Texas  
**Graduate Student  
Success Manual**

Revised June, 2016

TOULOUSE  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL  **UNT**<sup>®</sup>



Dear Graduate Student,

Welcome to the University of North Texas! We are honored that you have chosen UNT to complete your graduate degree and excited that you're joining the UNT community. We want to help you succeed and cannot wait for you to begin your journey with us.

You're coming to a university with a long history of nationally recognized excellence in academics and research. At UNT, we create a rich environment for personal growth and discovery. We strive to provide you an excellent education and an enriching and challenging graduate school experience. Here, we expect you to pursue academic excellence in our rigorous, yet caring, environment.

To assist you, the Toulouse Graduate School offers an outstanding series of professional development workshops. Our distinguished and passionate faculty and helpful staff will help ensure that you stay on track and absorb all the knowledge and experiences possible so you can reap the benefits of your graduate education.

At UNT, you can depend on your UNT family to be with you every step of the way to guide you toward success. Everyone – from your professors to your advisors to your fellow students – will offer you the support, insight and resources you will need to excel and ensure timely degree completion. This Graduate Student Success Manual – one of the many resources available to you – is designed to provide you with a wealth of information so that you can make a smooth and successful transition into your graduate coursework at UNT.

Graduate students are the lifeblood of successful research universities. Together, we'll tackle some of society's greatest challenges, find solutions to real-world issues, make discoveries in laboratories and in the field and find new ways to contribute to the world around us.

I hope you're as inspired as I am by the journey you are beginning and what the future with a UNT graduate degree holds.

UNT Proud,

Neal Smatresk  
President  
@UNTPrez

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# Things to Do Before You Begin Classes



Hurley Administration Building

Once you are admitted, you need to begin making arrangements to become a UNT student. This section of the manual guides you through the things you need to do before you begin classes. If your plans have changed, you can learn how to update your application or change your major by skipping to the section *Things to Do if Your Plans Have Changed*.



## Access myUNT

MyUNT is an online student portal you will use to register, accept/decline financial aid, check your grades, and make payments. The first time you log in to [myUNT](#), you will need your Personal Identification Number (PIN) and Effective User Identifier (EUID). You can find your EUID by clicking “Forgot your EUID” on the main webpage.

Your PIN is a 4-digit code that was sent to the email address you provided on your admissions application. If you do not know your PIN or have difficulty logging in, contact the Computing Center Help Desk at 940.565.2324.

## Set Up EagleConnect

EagleConnect is UNT’s official student email service. An account is automatically created for you when you are admitted to UNT. It is important to activate your account so that you receive important UNT communications, including messages from the Registrar, Financial Aid alerts, and Student Accounting notifications. Many professors also communicate with their classes using EagleConnect accounts.

If you choose not to use EagleConnect to manage your email, be sure to forward your EagleConnect mail to your personal mailbox. You should also update your profile on myUNT with your preferred email address. For more information, including how to forward mail, see the [EagleConnect webpage](#).

### **Make Any Necessary Arrangements for Disability Accommodations**

The Office of Disability Accommodation facilitates accommodations for students with physical, sensory, psychological, and learning disabilities. You must register for their services and we recommend starting the process before the semester begins. Please contact their office at 940.565.4323 to discuss your special needs.

### **Get a Student ID**

You will need a student ID to access services, resources and events on campus. You can get your ID on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Eagle Student Services Center. You will need your student ID number, which you can find on myUNT. For more information about obtaining your ID, please visit the [Student Accounting and University Cashiering Services website](#).

### **Obtain Your Meningitis Vaccination/Record (If Applicable)**

The State of Texas requires that students who meet certain criteria be vaccinated for meningitis. Visit the website above to determine if you need to provide immunization documentation. You can get immunized by your primary care physician, at the UNT Health and Wellness Center, or the Texas Department of State Health Services. Documentation can be submitted to the Toulouse Graduate School, the UNT Registrar, or the UNT Health and Wellness Center.

### **Plan to Attend New Graduate Student Orientation**

Plan to attend New Graduate Student Orientation, hosted by Orientation and Transition Programs. During orientation you will have the opportunity to meet other graduate students and learn more about pertinent campus resources. Visit the [Orientation and Transition Programs website](#) for more information.

In addition, international students are required to attend orientation through UNT-International. Review items that will be covered by the [UNT-International Welcome Center](#).

### **Update Contact Information for Eagle Alert**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students, staff and faculty with critical information in an emergency. The system is activated in critical situations such as severe weather conditions, campus closings due to inclement weather and health and public safety emergencies like fires or violence. You are automatically enrolled in the system and can update contact information and preferences on myUNT under the "Update Eagle Alert" link.

### **Get a Parking Permit**

The UNT Parking and Transportation Services website provides information about obtaining a permit, parking maps, parking garages, and parking regulations.

There are several different options for commuter parking permits. There are also parking meters around campus, which may be adequate if you plan to visit campus infrequently. The meters are coin operated or can be paid with a pre-paid reloadable meter card, which can be purchased at the Parking Office. Meters cost \$1.00/hour. There are also two parking garages on campus (Union Circle and Highland Street). You can buy semester passes or pay by the hour. Be sure to consider all of these options so that you select the most affordable parking plan for your situation.

### **Register for Classes**

It is important to contact an advisor to get help with degree requirements, registration, transfer credits, degree plans, and establishing a research plan (if required). Contact your department to schedule an appointment with your academic advisor. If you don't know who your advisor is, there is a list organized by department on the Graduate School website.

You can check for holds on your account by logging in to the Student Center on myUNT. You are unable to register for classes until holds are cleared. A box on the right side of the screen labeled “Holds” will show any active holds on your account. Get detailed information about each by clicking on the name of the hold. Some holds you can clear yourself, such as the Financial Obligation hold, which needs to be completed every semester. Others require further action, such as contacting the office who set the block or paying library fines.

You can register for classes during your assigned registration period. Before you register for classes, we strongly recommend that you contact your advisor and consult your department’s graduate student handbook. Registration calendars can be found on myUNT and on the Registrar website. Should you have questions, contact the Graduate School at 940.565.2383.

### Tips for Registering

- Read the introduction to the Student Services Center
- Many programs require graduate students to get codes to register for courses. Contact your advisor for registration codes.
- Login to myUNT
- Clear any “Holds” on your account.
- Review the schedule of classes.
- Under the “My Page” tab,” click on “Student Center/Register.” Then, under “Academics” click “Enroll/Add/Drop” and follow the prompts to complete registration.
- If you need assistance go to ESSC Help Desk website.

### Pay Your Tuition and Fees

Payment is due by 5:00pm on the same day that you register. If necessary, you can set-up a payment plan with Student Accounting & University Cashiering Services. You can view the current tuition and fee schedule by visiting the [Student Accounting and University Cashiering Services website](#).

### Additional Information for Distance-Learning Students

The UNT eCampus website contains information about registration, student services, course availability, and online degree programs. The Frequently Asked Questions page may be particularly helpful. If you need assistance with accessing or using Blackboard, you can call the UNT Computing Center Helpdesk at 940.565.2324 or email them at [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu).

### Additional Information for International Students

UNT requires all incoming international and Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) students who are considered to be at high risk for tubercular disease to be screened for tuberculosis (TB) within the first three (3) weeks of the first term of study. Like all other students, international students are required to follow the State of Texas guidelines for meningitis vaccination. Visit the Bacterial Meningitis vaccination section of this manual for more information.

Your passport should be valid for at least six (6) months into the future when entering the United States. Make arrangements to get a student visa. The U.S. Department of State provides all the information you need to apply.

UNT requires all new international students on an F or J visa to attend International Student Orientation. If you do not attend, you will be unable to register for classes. Contact the International Welcome Center at 940.369.8625 with any questions.

The UNT International website contains information about the Intensive English Language Institute, international admissions, international student services, and study abroad.

# Things to Do If Your Plans Have Changed



Orchestra performing in the Murchison Performing Arts Center

We understand that sometimes life gets in the way, and you might need to update your application, change your anticipated program or take leveling courses to meet the requirements for your program. In this section, you will learn what you need to do in these situations.

## Updating Your Application

You can update your application to a future semester by filling out an online update form. Your application remains active for a year after the term for which you originally applied. You can also withdraw your application online.

## Changing Your Program

New students and current students change their program differently.

- New students who have not yet enrolled should complete an application update form.
- Active and enrolled students need to submit a change of major form. In order to change your major, you will need to be in good academic standing and have necessary test scores on file.

## Taking Leveling Courses

Departments and the Toulouse Graduate School sometimes arrange for students to participate in a 15-hour undergraduate leveling procedure (Graduate Prep). If you are required to take leveling courses, be advised that taking these courses does not guarantee acceptance into a graduate degree program, nor does it change your GPA on your bachelor's degree. However, successful completion of such courses can provide an avenue for further consideration for applicants who may be ineligible for graduate study at the time of their initial application.

Work with the graduate advisor in your department of interest to prepare a planned program of 15 semester hours of 3000-4000 level undergraduate courses. Make sure to consult your academic advisor if you have questions about the recommended courses and financial aid issues related to leveling courses.



Consider the following when taking leveling courses.

- Courses must be regular classes (independent study or special problems courses must be approved in advance by the Graduate Dean).
- Courses taken at other institutions will only be included in the 15 hours in exceptional cases with the approval of the department and the Graduate Dean.
- A grade of A or B in each course is required.
- Not all programs offer the Grad Prep option to prospective students.
- Courses taken to qualify for admission cannot be used to fulfill graduate degree program requirements.
- Upon successful completion of the 15-hour program and submission of competitive test scores, you may apply for admission to a degree program by submitting a change of major form to the Graduate School.



# Funding Your Education



We know that funding your education is one of the biggest concerns and highest sources of stress for our students. The following few pages contain resources and tips for funding your graduate education.

## Toulouse Graduate School Fellowships & Scholarships

- **Academic Achievement Scholarship** – This scholarship is available to many new doctoral and Master of Fine Arts students for the first year of study with a possible one year renewal. Recipients receive \$1,000.
- **Dr. Betty Berkeley Graduate Award** – This scholarship is open to one exceptional student pursuing a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.
- **Graduate Student Travel Grants** – Students in good standing may apply for these grants to support the costs of their travel to professional meetings during the academic year. There are grants available from the Graduate School, the Office of Research & Development, and the Graduate Student Council
- **Toulouse Dissertation Award** – This award recognizes individuals whose dissertation makes a significant contribution to their field of study. The award is open to recent doctoral graduates and doctoral students who have completed their dissertation for spring graduation.
- **UNT Graduate Student Research & Fellowship Support Program** – This program is open to Master's and Doctoral students who are interested in being mentored in applying for external research grant or fellowship opportunities. Selected students will receive proposal-writing training and a certificate of completion.

## University Funding

The Student Financial Aid and Scholarship department at UNT offers small scholarships for graduate students. They have an 11-page database of awards listed on the scholarship application page. Students must reapply for these scholarships each year. The application deadline is March 1 of each year.

## Departmental Funding

Ask your graduate advisor and department faculty and staff about financial support available specifically for your degree program. Many departments offer research assistantships, graduate assistantships, teaching fellowships, and scholarships. Most of these positions include 20 hours of work per week and include health insurance eligibility in addition to a stipend.

## Federal Financial Aid

Graduate students are eligible for state and federal financial aid, including student loans. To be eligible for financial aid, you must be enrolled at least half time (5 credit hours for graduate students). To be considered for this type of funding, you will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We recommend that you complete the FAFSA each year even if you do not intend to take out loans. Sometimes you will qualify for grants or scholarships that do not need to be re-paid. Apply by March 31 to receive priority consideration for the next fall semester. For more information please review the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships website.

## Out-of-State Tuition

UNT has been considered one of America's 100 Best College Buys for 15 years, but tuition is still expensive, particularly for students who are not Texas residents. There are several situations that allow non-residents to waive out-of-state tuition:

- Employment waivers: Out-of-state tuition waivers accompany 20-hour-per week teaching assistant (TA)/teaching fellowship (TF)/ research assistant (RA)/ and graduate student assistant (GSA) positions. Documentation must be submitted to the Toulouse Graduate School each semester.
- Competitive Scholarship Waiver: Non-Texas residents charged non-resident tuition and awarded a UNT competitive scholarship of at least \$1,000 may be eligible to receive a competitive scholarship waiver to waive the student's non-resident tuition charges.
- Establish residency: Non-resident students may want to consider establishing residency following the first 12 months at UNT. Requirements for establishing residency with the university can be found on the Registrar's website.

## Local and National Funding Opportunities

UNT's Office for Nationally Competitive Scholarships is available to assist you in identifying and pursuing externally funded research and study opportunities. Their website describes the scholarships that are considered the most prestigious. The office also invites students to inquire about preparation and credentials necessary to compete successfully for awards.

## Student Money Management Center

The Student Money Management Center is available to provide students with personalized financial and credit counseling sessions. They also have several loan programs available for Denton campus students. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.

## Financial Aid/Scholarship Refunds

UNT is contracted with Higher One, a financial services company focused solely on higher education to process financial aid refunds. You will need to select one of three options to receive your refund.

- **Easy refund** – Students who choose this option will receive their refund the same day that UNT releases the funds. The funds will be transferred to OneAccount and FDIC insured checking account that can be accessed using a Debit MasterCard. There may be fees associated with use of this debit card. Get more information at the UNT Debit Card website.
- **ACH** – Students who choose this option will have their refund money directly deposited into an existing bank account. Funds will be accessible in two to three (2-3) business days, however, you should check with your financial institution for more information about its electronic transfer process.
- **Paper check** – Students may also choose to receive a paper check. Checks typically arrive five to seven (5-7) business days after UNT releases the funds.

No matter which option you choose, you will receive a UNT Debit Card in the mail. When you receive the UNT Debit Card, you should log in to the UNT Debit Card website, enter the 16-digit card number, and select your refund option.



# Academic & Career Resources



Library Mall

## Professional Development Graduate Workshops

Developing professional skills is an essential component of a graduate student's career. Whether it's preparing yourself for life in academia, learning how to deliver an award winning presentation, write a successful grant/fellowship proposal, publish your research, or ace the job interview, we have you covered. We offer an outstanding series of Graduate Professional Development Workshops to prepare you for success. Using the Planning, Resilience, Engagement, and Professionalism (PREP) model, created by Michigan State University, our workshop series covers all the essentials necessary for your success. Please visit our [website](#) for more information.

## Grad Writing Support

Graduate students needing help with course papers, publications, a thesis, or a dissertation may contact our graduate tutors at [GradWriting@unt.edu](mailto:GradWriting@unt.edu) to set up an appointment. Grad writing seeks to help you to be successful by providing excellent support to raise your writing to the next level. We do more than merely proofread; we teach you strategies and techniques to improve your writing for the long term.

## Research & Statistical Support

The mission of the Office of Research Consulting (ORC) is to support the research needs of faculty and graduate students with grants, research, dissertations, classwork, and statistical understanding. Advanced graduate students will work with you to determine the most appropriate research methods, approaches and statistical analysis (whether qualitative or quantitative) to enhance your research productivity. Please visit the [ORC's website](#) or contact them at [COE-ORC@unt.edu](mailto:COE-ORC@unt.edu) if you have any questions.

**Research and Statistical Support Services** provides support services on data acquisition and statistical analysis for faculty members and students at UNT. The data acquisition service includes access to data from the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and other downloadable data for political and social research. Other services include consultation, application support, survey design and analysis and instruction. Many research software tools and instruction on their use and application are available from the staff of RSS. RSS is located in Sage Hall Suite 336 and assistance and appointments are requested at their [website](#).

### The Career Center

The Career Center exists to provide services to all currently enrolled students as they seek to make career decisions, find part-time employment while in school and full-time employment following graduation. Staff at the Career Center is prepared to assist with resume/cover letter writing, interviewing, and job search strategies.

### Counseling & Testing Services

The Counseling Center provides professional counseling, career counseling, consultation, mental-health screenings, and educational programs. Enrolled UNT students are entitled to eight (8) free counseling sessions each academic year. Testing services include traditional admissions testing, computer-based testing, and career testing.

### The Learning Center

The Learning Center provides a wide-range of individual, group and self-help programs. Services include online tutoring, study skills labs, speed reading, supplemental instruction, and access to the academic resource library.

### Libraries

The UNT libraries house collections of over 7 million cataloged items, in a variety of formats in four libraries around campus.

- **Willis Library** – The Willis Library is the main library on campus and contains the art, education, humanities, sciences and social sciences sections of the General Collection, along with microforms and special areas such as the Music Library, Digital Libraries, and Special Collections. It also includes the University Archives.
- **Media Library** – The Media Library contains the UNT nonprint, audiovisual collections. The collection includes more than 12,000 DVDs, 11,000 videotapes, 250 video games, and 2,000 audio CDs. Graduate students are entitled to check out three (3) items at a time.
- **Eagle Commons Library** – The Eagle Commons Library focuses on government documents, law, political science, geography and business; it also houses the Collaborative and Learning Commons.
- **Discovery Park Library** – The Discovery Park Library houses the areas of engineering, library and information science and learning technology.

### Bookstore

The UNT Bookstore is a great resource for textbooks, UNT apparel and accessories, supplies, and technology. UNT students are eligible for significant discounts on hardware, software, and peripheral devices. Students also have the option to rent textbooks for an academic term rather than purchasing them.

### Student Veteran Services

UNT is dedicated to serving individuals who served in the armed forces. Student Veteran Services removes barriers for veterans to help them transition into college life. If you are a veteran, please reach out to the office.

### Graduate Catalog

You can view your degree requirements, course descriptions, and more in the graduate catalog.

### Student Tour of Information Technology Services at UNT

UNT offers a variety of IT services, applications and tools to help make your graduate career a success. [Take this online tour](#) of these services and bookmark the site for up-to-date news and links about free software (Office and virus protection products), email, IT Helpdesk assistance, online courses, computer labs and more.

# Health & Wellness Resources



Chestnut Hall, home to many health & wellness services

UNT offers many health and wellness resources and services for enrolled students. Most of these services are supported through student fees, and therefore, are available at little to no cost. Make sure to take advantage!

## Health & Wellness Center

Enrolled students are eligible for services at the Student Health and Wellness center. Licensed medical and support staff provide services including acute care, basic diagnostic x-rays, women's care exams, psychiatric assessment, nutritional consultation, flu shots, immunizations, pharmacy, laboratory testing, and allergy injections. Most services are available at little to no cost. Please note if you have a medical emergency, you should contact 911 and/or go to a local medical facility that can handle your emergency. You can read more about the hospitals and medical facilities in Denton in the *About Denton: Healthcare* section of this manual.

## College Optical Express

College Optical Express is a full service optometric practice located on campus. Services include comprehensive exams, contact lens fitting and evaluation, diabetic evaluations, and glaucoma evaluations and management. All UNT students are granted a substantial discount for services and products.

## Dental Services

UNT offers quality, affordable, and convenient dentistry to the University community. The brand new UNT Dental Office is a special service open to currently enrolled UNT students, faculty, and staff.

## Health Insurance

If you do not have health insurance, you can learn about the University endorsed student insurance policy by visiting

## Pharmacy

The UNT Pharmacy is a fully licensed pharmacy available only to UNT students.

## Pohl Recreation Center

UNT has a 138,000 square foot recreation center. Amenities include basketball courts, volleyball courts, weight and fitness rooms, indoor climbing wall, lap pool, leisure pool, aerobic rooms, 1/8 mile track, and outdoor basketball and volleyball courts. Group exercise, personal training, and outdoor pursuits are also available. Your membership is included for each semester you are enrolled.



Pohl Recreation Center



## Student Life Resources



Scrappy, UNT's mascot

### Campus Organizations

There are 400 registered student organizations at the University of North Texas, including academic organizations, club sports, cultural organizations, interest groups, political groups, professional groups, religious groups, leadership groups, and performing groups. Learn more about student organization at UNT by registering for [OrgSync](#).

### Graduate Student Council

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is the official voice and student government for graduate students at UNT. GSC is comprised of an elected Executive Committee and an appointed group of graduate student senators who represent each graduate program on campus. Together, these factions work to ensure that the opinions, needs, and interests of graduate students are heard by university administration. For information, you can contact your department senator, send us an e-mail at [gsc@unt.edu](mailto:gsc@unt.edu), and/or like us on [Facebook](#).

### Transportation

There are numerous options to get around Denton and the UNT Campus. The UNT Shuttle serves that campus and off-campus student housing. Students also have access to local bus service by presenting a valid UNT ID. The Denton County Transportation Authority A-Train provides service to Dallas and Lewisville. UNT is also a bike friendly campus. Many students use bicycles to commute to campus. More information about Transportation Services include routes and schedules is available on the website.

### Eagle Post Mail Center

UNT offers complete mail services including post office boxes, postage and shipping in the University Union. For more information please visit the Eagle Post website.

### Food Service

UNT Dining Services has campus restaurants to satisfy every taste, with convenient locations near your class or office. In addition to the retail locations, there are five (5) dormitories on campus with dining hall facilities.

Resident and commuter meal plans are available for students who plan to frequently eat on campus. Students with meal plans can save up to 49 percent on meals. More information about dining services, locations, and meal plans is available on the UNT Dining Services website.

### Legal Services

Student Legal Services provides UNT students with legal advice, assistance, representation and education. The services are 100 percent free to enrolled students. Walk-in hours and appointments are available; however you must go to the office in person to receive legal advice. Council is offered on a wide range of topics including issues related to landlords and tenants, personal injury law, debt collection, unpaid wages, employment discrimination, simple divorces, name changes, and notary public.

### Off-Campus Student Services

Off-Campus Student Services offers many options for off-campus, commuter, and non-traditional students, allowing you to balance your academic schedule around your other responsibilities. Services include a child care referral resource that can help you find discounted childcare anywhere in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, a hotline so you can stay updated on events you may be interested in, and off-campus connection that can help you find off-campus housing.



# About Moving to North Texas



Denton's historic county courthouse

Denton is a true college town and is a really fun place to live. In this section, you will find information about traveling to UNT, where to live, what to bring, and what to do after you move here.

## About Denton

Denton is the county seat of Denton County. According to the 2013 census, the population was approximately 123,000. Denton is located 39 miles northwest of Dallas and 38 miles northeast of Fort Worth.

The North Texas region is one of the nation's largest metropolitan areas and most vibrant economies. A CNN Money analysis ranks Denton County as one of the nation's Top 10 best places to live for job potential, in part, because of UNT's impact.

Several state agencies have facilities in the city including a Texas Workforce Center (provides unemployment benefits), a Texas Department of Public Safety office (Driver's licenses, highway patrol, etc.), and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The Denton State Supported Living Center is the largest residential facility for people with developmental disabilities in Texas. Also, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has its Region VI headquarters in Denton.

Three educational institutions, UNT, Denton Independent School District, and Texas Woman's University are the largest employers, employing more than 12,000 people. Other notable businesses headquartered in Denton are Peterbilt, Sally Beauty Company, and Josten's.

## Air Travel

The closest airports to UNT are the [Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport](#) and [Dallas Love Field Airport](#).

## Denton Square

The Denton Square, bordered by Oak, Hickory, Locust, and Elm Streets, is a cultural hub of the city. At its center is the Courthouse-on-the-Square, which is now a museum showcasing area history. The downtown square is populated by numerous local shops, restaurants, and bars, some of which have been in business since the 1940s.

## Weather

With its hot, humid summers and cool winters, Denton's climate is characterized as "humid subtropical." Dry winds reach the area in the summer and can bring temperatures of up to 100 degrees F although the average summer temperature is in the 90s. January is typically the coolest month. Snow is relatively rare in North Texas and the average snowfall is only 2.4 inches. Denton is on the southern end of "Tornado Alley;" however tornadoes are rare. Flash floods and severe thunderstorms are more frequent during spring months. Clothing that can be easily layered is recommended for the climate.

## Housing

There are many off-campus apartments and rental homes close to UNT and in the city of Denton. [The Off-Campus Housing](#) website allows you to look for potential apartments, roommates, and different resources to make your transition to living in Denton easier.

If you need additional assistance securing off-campus housing, you can contact the [Office of Off-Campus Student Services](#). Graduate students can also elect to live in on-campus dormitories. More information, including rates, how to apply, and residence hall amenities, is available on the [UNT Housing website](#).

## Education

Denton is home to many public and private K-12 schools. The [Denton Independent School District](#) covers public education for the area. It includes over 30 schools that serve over 22,000 students.

Private schools in Denton and the surrounding area include, but are not limited to:

- [Selwyn College Preparatory School](#)
- [Immaculate Conception Catholic School](#)
- [Denton Calvary Academy](#)
- [Wellspring Christian Academy](#)
- [Liberty Christian School](#)
- [The Koan School](#)

## Childcare

UNT has formed a partnership - free of charge to UNT students, faculty, and staff - with Camp Fire First Texas' Child Care Network (CCN) to provide customized child care solutions. A specialist will work with you to identify your child care needs and provide you with a list of licensed programs that have availability and meet criteria specific to your family. Please visit the [Student Affairs website](#) for more information.

UNT offers a high quality preschool program through the College of Education. The [UNT Child Development Laboratory](#) is run by students under the supervision of degreed early childhood/child development specialists.

## Transportation

Denton is served by the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA). Services include local bus service in Denton, Highland Village and Lewisville, campus shuttles, and a commuter rail service connecting passengers to Downtown Dallas. Routes and schedules, fare information and news and events can be found on the website.



### Places to Worship

There are more than 150 places to worship in Denton. The [UNT Office of Spiritual Life](#) is here to promote the spiritual development of our students and can connect you to the place of worship of your preference. Additionally, there are more than 30 religious or spiritual life-affiliated student organizations on campus. These organizations would likely be able to direct you to an appropriate place of worship.

### Healthcare

There are two (2) major hospitals in Denton. [Denton Regional Medical Center](#) and [Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton](#) are both full service hospitals. Each hospital employs more than 800 employees and is licensed with more than 200 beds as well as emergency services.

Use your insurance provider to find physicians, dentists, and medical specialists in the area. For reviews of providers in the Denton area visit the [Health Grades website](#).

### Mind-Body Health

Denton is a hotspot for several yoga, pilates, and meditation practices throughout the city that offer a variety of student pricing and discounts. Free yoga classes vary by studio and are often donation based.

- [Inspire Yoga](#)
- [Authentic Yoga Life](#)
- [The Yoga Hut](#)
- [Twisted Bodies Pilates and Yoga](#)
- [Denton Yoga Center](#)
- [Karma Yoga](#)

## Places to Shop

Denton has several grocery store chains including:

- [Kroger](#)
- [Albertsons](#)
- [Brookshire's](#)
- [Wal-Mart](#)
- [Sam's Club](#)
- [Target](#)
- [Aldi](#)

There are also several organic and/or health food stores in Denton:

- [Dan's Meat & Produce](#)
- [Cupboard Natural Foods](#)
- [Denton Community Market](#)
- [Denton Natural Grocers](#)

Denton has other diverse shopping including places to purchase antiques and collectibles, food and wine, gifts, western wear, thrift shops, and specialty retail. Check out [Discover Denton](#) for more shopping options.

## Places to Eat

Denton offers a wide variety of local restaurants including Asian, barbecue, burgers, Cajun, Italian, Mexican, bistros, steakhouses, coffee houses, and tea rooms. Check out [Discover Denton](#), [Zomato](#), or [Yelp](#) for more information about local eateries.

## Fry Street

Fry Street is another popular hangout close to UNT's campus, referring to the area surrounding Fry Street between Oak and W. Mulberry. You can find restaurants, bars, music venues, and more on Fry Street.

## Music

Part of the music culture in Denton originates from the University of North Texas College of Music. Several notable bands and performers have attended UNT and signed to major labels including Norah Jones, Bowling for Soup, Don Henley, Meat Loaf, Roy Orbison, Midlake, Eli Young Band, and Neon Indian. The College of Music hosts hundreds of free concerts and recitals each year.

Additionally, the local music scene has emerged alongside Denton's academic music establishments. The local bars and recording studios in the Fry Street and Denton Square areas often host local performers. Denton music has an extensive fan base and therefore, a regular column in the Dallas Observer discusses the Denton music scene. Denton's music scene received feature attention from The Guardian, Pop Matters, and The New York Times.

## Festivals and Activities

Denton is home to several annual fairs and events that cater to residents and tourists. Below are several of the more popular events.

- **[Denton Arts and Jazz Festival](#)** – A free multi-day event held the last weekend of every April. It brings more than 200,000 people each year for live music, fine art, food, drink, and crafts. The festival features seven (7) stages, 2,300 artists and 250+ arts and crafts booths. Nationally recognized musicians headline each year.

- **Red Bud Festival** – An award-winning festival in honor of Arbor Day. This festival is an effort to educate and engage the community about keeping Denton beautiful.
- **35 Denton** – A walkable music festival programmed in the heart of downtown Denton. Each year nationally recognized bands attend the festival which includes 2 outdoor stages as well as most local venues.
- **Twilight Tunes** – Denton Main Street Association presents its award-winning concert series in downtown Denton every Thursday during warm summer months. Admission is free.
- **North Texas State Fair and Rodeo** – A volunteer-supported, non-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. Each year they hold a nine (9) day fair and rodeo in Denton.
- **Dog Days of Denton** – A festival where attendees can enjoy a canine fashion show, live entertainment, pet care information, and more.

### Keeping Up With Denton

To become engaged and connected to the Denton community, there are blogs, websites, and a newspaper to help you stay informed.

- **People of Denton** – A photo blog about interesting people in Denton.
- **We Denton Do It** – An arts and culture blog dedicated to keeping Dentonites informed of events, businesses, and Denton's inner-happenings.
- **Serve Denton** – A website to help citizens get involved and volunteer with organizations that matter most.
- **Denton Record Chronicle** – Our local newspaper and source of important daily information.

### About Dallas & Fort Worth

Dallas is the third largest city in Texas and Fort Worth is the fifth largest city in Texas. When combined, the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is the largest metropolitan area in the South and fourth-largest metropolitan area in the U.S. Thus, there are many other things to do within a short drive from Denton.

#### Dallas

Dallas is an ultra-modern, sophisticated city and is considered the No. 1 visitor and leisure destination in Texas. It is home to many attractions, museums, and activities. Dallas is also home to four (4) major sports teams: Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Mavericks, Dallas Stars, and Texas Rangers. Dallas is also known for restaurants and shopping.

#### Fort Worth

Fort Worth is home to an unmistakable mix of Western heritage and artistic offerings, such as Billy Bob's Texas, the world's largest honky-tonk, the Stockyards National Historic District, and National Cowgirl Museum. Fort Worth also has great museums and places to see live theater and music performances.



Crowd at a UNT vs. Rice University football game

Founded in 1890, the University of North Texas is the oldest and most comprehensive university in the North Texas region. With nearly 120 years of history, UNT has developed its own culture with traditions passed down through generations. Below is some information about UNT symbols, spirit, and history. You can read more detailed information about [UNT's Spirit and Traditions on our website](#).

### University Seal

Atop the seal is the lamp of learning, burning with an eternal flame representing academic achievement and excellence. The laurel represents honor, and the beveled lone star in the center symbolizes the state of Texas.

### Mean Green Nickname

A 1967 *Dallas Morning News* article titled "Mean Green on the Loose! Defense Swallows Foes for NTSU" described the plays of six (6) defensive players for UNT. One of these players, "Mean" Joe Greene went on to play for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1970s. He is arguably the most dominant defensive lineman to ever play in the NFL.

### Spirit Bell

The spirit bell was originally purchased in 1891 and used to signal class changes and evening curfew. In 1961, the Talons (UNT's student spirit organization) rescued the bell from the power plant roof and mounted it on a trailer. It was first rung at a game on 1962. The original bell was retired by 1982; however it remains in the Union near the One O'clock Lounge. The tradition of ringing spirit bells continues. The Talons have two small bells and one large bell mounted on wheels. These bells ring to promote spirit at games, pep rallies, and other university functions.

### Eagle Claw

The eagle hand sign is UNT's universal sign of pride and unity.



### **Scrappy, the Eagle Mascot**

The student body chose the Eagle as our mascot in 1922 for its keen eye, strength, independence and loyalty. In 1950, students named the first live bird mascot “Scrappy,” which later became the name of the human mascot. The Eagle was known by other names through the years, including “Eppy” in the 1980s. But in 1995, our modern-day Scrappy returned to the nest as the Mean Green’s biggest fan.

### **Homecoming Parade**

The parade is held the morning of the Homecoming game. The parade includes floats made by students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The route runs from campus to the downtown Denton Square, then back to campus.

### **Friday Pride Day**

Students, faculty, and staff wear green every Friday to show their university pride.

### **Boomer**

In 1970, a muzzleloader cannon was introduced to fire in order to signal touchdowns, kick-off, half-time, and the end of home football games. In Fall 2007 a cannon limber was added which now carries all essentials for firing Boomer and also serves as a seat for Scrappy in parades.

### **Model A**

The “Mean Green Machine” is a green 1929 Ford Model A Tudor Sedan built in 1931. In 2007, the Model was completely rebuilt using only original Ford parts. New upholstery was added and a new two tone paint job displays the UNT spirit marks.

### **Lighting of McConnell Tower**

After North Texas varsity team victories, the Tower is lit green to showcase the team’s win. The Talons, who strive to keep and make known the traditions for UNT, lead victory marches from Apogee Stadium, after home football games, to the tower to sing the UNT Fight Song & “Glory to the Green” as the tower is lit.

### **Graduate Student Appreciation Week**

Every year in the month of April, Graduate Student Council organizes a week-long series of FREE events for graduate students to recognize their efforts and contributions to the UNT community.

### **Alumni Awards**

Every April, UNT honors alumni at the annual black tie Alumni Awards Banquet. Alumni awards recognize outstanding alumni achievement and go through a nomination process, a selection committee, and the president. They are the highest awards given to individuals outside of an honorary doctorate degree. You can read about past recipients on the [Alumni Awards website](#).

### **Alumni Appreciation Day**

The university and many academic departments set aside a day to recognize successful and dedicated alumni.



### **Thank you for reading the Graduate Student Success Manual!**

We hope this manual will be a helpful resource for you as you transition into being a UNT graduate student. There are many opportunities and resources available for you through UNT, the Toulouse Graduate School, and your department. Make sure to use your resources - odds are, you are paying for them! If you have any questions at all, please contact us. We will be glad to help!

#### **Toulouse Graduate School**

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We wish you the best of luck, and we look forward to hearing of all your success at UNT!

With green pride,

