

# Graduate Student Success Manual



**Toulouse Graduate School (TGS)  
University of North Texas (UNT)**

**Toulouse Graduate School**  
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Web: [www.tgs.unt.edu](http://www.tgs.unt.edu)

## Welcome

Congratulations on your admission to the University of North Texas and welcome from the Toulouse Graduate School!

This manual serves to answer important questions about becoming a graduate student at UNT, as well as to provide information about life in Denton and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. This guide contains information for all graduate students, as well as sections with information specifically for distance learners and international students.

The manual addresses the following topics:

- Enrolling in courses
- Financial assistance
- Housing information
- Student services
- Academic resources
- Living in Denton
- And much more....

A table of contents is provided on the next page for your convenience.

We very much hope that you enjoy your time at the University of North Texas. Let us know how we can help you as needs arise. We are dedicated to your success.

Sincerely,

Toulouse **Graduate School**

## Table of Contents

<b>Important Contact Information and Links</b> .....	1
<b>I've been admitted to UNT. What's next? Here's how to get started!</b>	
Obtain your bacterial meningitis vaccination .....	2
Make any necessary arrangements for disability accommodation .....	2
Plan to attend New Graduate Student Orientation .....	2
Access myUNT .....	3
Set up EagleConnect.....	3
Get a student ID.....	3
Contact your advisor .....	4
Register for classes .....	4
Fee payment .....	4
Clear account holds .....	5
Update contact information for Eagle Alert .....	5
Get a parking permit.....	5
<b>All about Funding</b>	
Federal financial aid .....	6
Out-of-state tuition.....	6
Fellowships, assistantships, and scholarships.....	7
Departmental funding .....	7
Research local and national funding opportunities .....	8
Receiving your financial aid/scholarship refund .....	8
Student Money Management Center .....	8
<b>UNT Student Resources</b>	
Bookstore.....	9
Campus Organizations .....	9
Career Center .....	9
College Optical Express.....	9
Counseling and Testing Services .....	9
Eagle Express Mail Center .....	10
Food Services.....	10
Graduate Student Council.....	10
Health Insurance .....	10
Health and Wellness Center.....	10
Learning Center .....	11
Legal Services.....	11
Libraries.....	11
Pharmacy.....	11
Pohl Recreation Center .....	12

## Table of Contents (cont.)

### UNT Student Resources (cont.)

Printing Services and Eagle Images.....	12
Research and Statistical Support .....	12
Transportation.....	12
Workshops .....	12
Writing Lab .....	12

### Have your plans changed?

I am no longer able to attend .....	13
Change of program .....	13
Undergraduate Leveling Procedure.....	13

### Moving to North Texas

Weather.....	14
Air Travel .....	14
Housing .....	14

### About Denton

Government and Economy .....	15
Education .....	15
Childcare .....	16
Transportation.....	16
Places to worship .....	16
Healthcare .....	17
Places to shop .....	17
Places to eat.....	17
Culture and recreation	
<i>Denton Square</i> .....	18
<i>Historic Fry Street Area</i> .....	18
<i>Festivals and activities</i> .....	18
Music .....	19

### Things to do in Dallas and Fort Worth

Dallas	
<i>Attractions</i> .....	20
<i>Arts and Culture</i> .....	20
<i>Sports</i> .....	20

## Table of Contents (cont.)

### Things to do in Dallas and Fort Worth (cont.)

#### Fort Worth

<i>Stockyards National Historic District</i> .....	21
<i>Museums and Galleries</i> .....	21
<i>Attractions</i> .....	21
<i>Performing Arts</i> .....	21

### UNT Traditions

University Seal .....	22
Mean Green Nickname .....	22
Spirit Bell .....	22
Scrappy, the Eagle Mascot .....	22
Eagle Claw .....	23
Homecoming Parade .....	23
Friday Pride Day .....	23
Boomer .....	23
Model A .....	23
Lighting of McConnell Tower .....	23
Friday Night at Clark Park .....	23
Alumni Awards .....	24
Alumni Appreciation Day .....	24
University Day .....	24
Honor's Day .....	24
Golden Eagles Luncheon and Reception .....	24

### Additional Information for International Students

Obtain your TB Screening .....	25
Update your passport and make arrangements to get your visa .....	25
Plan to attend and register for International Student Orientation .....	25
Review the UNT International website .....	25

### Additional Information for Distance-Learning Students .....

### Concluding Remarks .....

Important Contact Information and Links

Toulouse Graduate School  
University of North Texas  
1155 Union Circle Dr. #305459 (USPS)  
1147 Union Circle Dr., ESSC #354 (FedEx/UPS)  
Denton, TX 76203

Phone: 940.565.2383  
Fax: 940.565.2141  
Email: [graduateschool@unt.edu](mailto:graduateschool@unt.edu)  
Website: [www.tsgs.unt.edu](http://www.tsgs.unt.edu)  
Facebook: Toulouse Graduate School

**Student Services**

Registrar’s office:	<a href="http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/">http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/</a>	940.565.2113
Financial Aid:	<a href="http://financialaid.unt.edu">http://financialaid.unt.edu</a>	940.565.2302
Student Accounting:	<a href="http://essc.unt.edu/saucs/">http://essc.unt.edu/saucs/</a>	940.565.3225
Health and Wellness Center:	<a href="http://healthcenter.unt.edu">http://healthcenter.unt.edu</a>	940.565.2333
Counseling/Testing Center:	<a href="http://counselingandtesting.unt.edu">http://counselingandtesting.unt.edu</a>	
Pohl Recreation Center:	<a href="http://recsports.unt.edu">http://recsports.unt.edu</a>	940.565.2275
Office of Disability Accommodation:	<a href="http://unt.edu/oda/">http://unt.edu/oda/</a>	
Veteran’s Affairs:	<a href="http://veteranscenter.unt.edu">http://veteranscenter.unt.edu</a>	940.369.8021
Student Legal Services:	<a href="http://studentlegal.unt.edu">http://studentlegal.unt.edu</a>	940.565.2614
UNT-International:	<a href="http://international.unt.edu">http://international.unt.edu</a>	940.565.2197
UNT Police:	<a href="http://unt.edu/police">http://unt.edu/police</a>	940.565.3000
Parking & Transportation:	<a href="http://unt.edu/transit">http://unt.edu/transit</a>	940.565.3020

**Academics**

Academic Advisors:	<a href="http://tsgs.unt.edu/academics/advisors">http://tsgs.unt.edu/academics/advisors</a>	
Graduation:	<a href="http://tsgs.unt.edu/academics/graduation">http://tsgs.unt.edu/academics/graduation</a>	
Cross-Registration:	<a href="http://tsgs.unt.edu/federation">http://tsgs.unt.edu/federation</a>	
The Learning Center:	<a href="http://learningcenter.unt.edu">http://learningcenter.unt.edu</a>	940.369.7006
Graduate catalog:	<a href="http://unt.edu/catalog">http://unt.edu/catalog</a>	

**Graduate Life**

Graduate Student Council:	<a href="http://www.gsc.unt.edu">http://www.gsc.unt.edu</a>	
Graduate Workshops:	<a href="http://tsgs.unt.edu/graduatelife/workshops">http://tsgs.unt.edu/graduatelife/workshops</a>	
Writing Resources:	<a href="http://tsgs.unt.edu/graduatelife/writing">http://tsgs.unt.edu/graduatelife/writing</a>	
G*Step:	<a href="http://tsgs.unt.edu/GSTEP">http://tsgs.unt.edu/GSTEP</a>	

### I've been admitted to UNT. What's next? Here's how to get started!

After you have been admitted, you should make the following arrangements.

- o Obtain your bacterial meningitis vaccination/record (if applicable):

Effective January 1, 2012, state law requires students who are under the age of 30 and attending institutions of higher education to have received a bacterial meningitis vaccination or booster within the past 5 years and at least 10 days prior to the first class day of the semester for which the student has applied. The following students, under the age of 30, will be required to provide proof of a bacterial meningitis vaccination by the last day of regular registration:

- o All students who are new to UNT
- o Current or former students who were not enrolled at UNT in the previous long semester (Fall or Spring)

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 Toulouse Graduate School, the UNT Registrar, or the UNT Health and Wellness Center.

For more information, access the Meningitis Frequently Asked Questions at: <http://healthcenter.unt.edu/educational-resources/immunization-requirements>

- o Make any necessary arrangements for disability accommodation:

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.

- o Plan to attend New Graduate Student Orientation:

The Graduate School hosts New Graduate Student Orientation each semester. These sessions provide the opportunity to meet other graduate students and give an overview of on-campus resources. You will be invited to attend via email. Orientation is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended.

### Getting Started

Below is more helpful information to get your academic career off on the right foot.

- o 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 <https://my.unt.edu> you will need your PIN and 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.

- o Set up EagleConnect:

EagleConnect (<http://eagleconnect.unt.edu>) 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.

- o 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. There are two ID card options. To read more about them visit <http://essc.unt.edu/saucs/id.html>.



### Getting Started (cont.)

- o Contact your advisor:

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.

<http://tsgs.unt.edu/academics/advisors>

- o Register for classes:

You can register for classes during your assigned registration period. 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:

- o Read the introduction to the Student Services Center  
[http://essc.unt.edu/eis/docs/Student\\_Services\\_Center.pdf](http://essc.unt.edu/eis/docs/Student_Services_Center.pdf)
- o Many programs require graduate students to get codes to register for courses. Contact your advisor for registration codes.
- o Login to myUNT
- o Clear any "Holds" on your account (see next page for more info)
- o Review the schedule of classes  
<http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.html>
- o Under the "My Page" tab," click on "Student Center/Register." Then, under "Academics" click "Enroll/Add/Drop" and follow the prompts to complete registration.
- o If you need assistance go to <http://essc.unt.edu/eis/>

- o Fee Payment:

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 & Cashiering Services. <http://essc.unt.edu/saucs/payments.html>

### Getting Started (cont.)

- o Clear account holds:

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.

- o 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.

- o Get a parking permit:

The UNT Parking and Transportation Services website provides information about obtaining a permit, parking maps, parking garages, and parking regulations. <http://www.unt.edu/transit/>

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.

### All about Funding

The following few pages contain tips about funding your graduate education.

- o 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) <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. 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 <http://financialaid.unt.edu>

- o 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:

- o 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 Student Accounting each semester.
- o Scholarship waiver: Some scholarships (at least \$1,000) will make a student eligible for an out-of-state tuition waiver. Documentation must be submitted to Student Accounting by the granting department.
- o 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. <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/residency.html>

### All about Funding (cont.)

- o Fellowships, Assistantships, and Scholarships:

There are numerous fellowships and scholarships available from the Graduate School including:

- o Master's and Doctoral Fellowship (MDF): The MDF is a multi-year funding package that provides a stipend, tuition and mandatory fees, and health insurance benefits. These are highly competitive awards for graduate students who show promise for conducting important research or creative activity.
  - o Thesis/Dissertation Fellowship (TDF): Master's or doctoral candidates who are in the last year of thesis or dissertation research and writing are eligible to be considered for this award. The award provides tuition and fees plus a monthly stipend.
  - o 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.
  - o McNair Scholars Fellowship Award: With this award McNair Scholars receive a stipend of \$9,500 for their first year and tuition assistance for the first two years of graduate study.
  - o Dr. Betty Berkeley Graduate Award: This scholarship provides \$2,000 to an exceptional student pursuing a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree in interdisciplinary studies.
  - o 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
  - o More information about all of these opportunities is available online. <http://tsgs.unt.edu/admissions/all-about-money>
- o 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. <http://tsgs.unt.edu/graduatelife/teaching-assistantships>

### All about Funding (cont.)

- Research 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 (<http://www.opgf.unt.edu>) 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.

- Receiving your financial aid/scholarship refund:

UNT is contracted with Higher One, a financial services company focused solely on higher education. 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 [www.untdebitcard.com](http://www.untdebitcard.com)
- ACH: Students who choose this option will have their refund money directly deposited into an existing bank account. Funds will be accessible in 2-3 business days.
- Paper check: Students may also choose to receive a paper check. Checks typically arrive 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 on to [www.untdebitcard.com](http://www.untdebitcard.com), enter the 16-digit card number, and select your refund option. More information is available about refunds at <http://essc.unt.edu/saucs/refunds.html>

- 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.

<http://moneymanagement.unt.edu>

### UNT Student Resources

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

- 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.  
<http://www.bkstr.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/StoreCatalogDisplay?storeId=10563>
- Campus Organizations:  
There are over 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. [www.orgsync.com](http://www.orgsync.com)
- 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. <http://careercenter.unt.edu>
- 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. <http://www.coeunt.com>
- Counseling and Testing Services:  
The Counseling Center provides professional counseling, career counseling, consultation, mental-health screenings, and educational programs. Enrolled UNT students are entitled to 8 free counseling sessions each academic year. Testing services include traditional admissions testing, computer-based testing, and career testing. More information is available at <http://counselingandtesting.unt.edu> .

### UNT Student Resources (cont.)

- Eagle Express Mail Center:  
UNT offers complete mail services including post office boxes, postage and shipping in the University Union. For more information call 940.369.8567
- Food Service:  
UNT Dining Services has campus restaurants to satisfy every taste, with convenient locations near your class or office. Retail locations in the University Union include Einstein Bros. Bagels, Southern Tsunami sushi, Taco Bell, University Burger Company, Chick-fil-a, Mia's Mediterranean, Boar's Head Deli, Beth Marie's Ice Cream, and Green Mountain Coffee. Avesta features casual fine dining available in the Union. In addition to the retail locations, there are 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% on meals. More information about dining services, locations, and meal plans is available on the website. <http://dining.unt.edu>

- Graduate Student Council:  
The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is a diverse body of graduate students representing the colleges and schools at UNT. The GSC serves graduate students by hosting social events, providing resources and representing graduate student concerns to the faculty, administration, and state government. More information is available on their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/UNTGSC>
- Health Insurance:  
If you do not have health insurance, university endorsed student insurance policies, underwritten by UnitedHealthcare, can be obtained online at <http://www.uhcsr.com>.
- Health and 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. <http://healthcenter.unt.edu>

### UNT Student Resources (cont.)

- 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. Learn more about their resources at <http://learningcenter.unt.edu>.
- Legal Services:  
Student Legal Services provides UNT students with legal advice, assistance, representation and education. The services are 100% 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 & tenants, personal injury law, debt collection, unpaid wages, employment discrimination, simple divorces, name changes, and notary public.  
<http://studentlegal.unt.edu/home>
- Libraries  
The UNT libraries house collections of over 6 million cataloged items, in a variety of formats in four libraries around campus. More information about each of these libraries, as well as electronic access is available at <http://library.unt.edu>
  - Willis Library – the Willis Library is home to the Business, Economics, Education, Microforms, Humanities, and Social Science collections. It also includes special areas such as Government Documents, the Music Library, the Rare Book and Texana Collections, and the University Archives.
  - Media Library – the Media Library contains the UNT nonprint, audiovisual collections. The collection includes over 12,000 DVDs, 11,000 videotapes, 250 video games, and 2,000 audio CDs. Graduate students are entitled to check out 3 items at a time.
  - Eagle Commons Library – The Eagle Commons Library contains the Science and Technology collections.
  - Discovery Park Library – The Discovery Park Library houses the Engineering and Library Sciences collections.
- Pharmacy:  
The UNT Pharmacy is a fully licensed pharmacy available only to UNT students. <http://healthcenter.unt.edu/pharmacy>



### UNT Student Resources (cont.)

- 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. <http://recsports.unt.edu>
- Printing Services and Eagle Images:  
Printing services and Eagle Images offer full service printing and mail service to the UNT community. They copy course materials, CDs/DVDs, and create large posters that are difficult to create with traditional personal printers. <http://printingservices.unt.edu>
- Research and Statistical Support:  
Research and Statistical Support is available to provide training and consultation in the appropriate use of statistical methodologies and computer software and to facilitate data collection and data management technologies. They are willing to consult with graduate students on research projects. <http://www.unt.edu/rss>
- 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 including routes and schedules is available on the website. <http://unt.edu/transit/transportation.html>
- Workshops:  
The Graduate School hosts numerous workshops to help graduate students develop professional skills. Workshops cover a wide-range of topics including preparing your first vitae, networking, and conference presenting. The schedule is updated at <http://tsgs.unt.edu/workshops>
- Writing Lab  
The Writing Lab offers free tutoring to all UNT students. The Writing Lab is a great resource to improve your writing, attend workshops, and consult with experts. <http://unt.edu/writinglab>

### Have your plans changed?

#### I am no longer able to attend:

If you decide that you will be unable to attend UNT this semester 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 at <http://tsgs.unt.edu/admissions/update>.

#### Change of program:

If you would like to change programs, you also have several options. If you are an active and enrolled student, you will need to submit a change of major form. You will need to be in good academic standing and have test scores on file (<http://tsgs.unt.edu/changeofmajor>). If you have not yet enrolled, you may be eligible to complete an application update form instead (<http://tsgs.unt.edu/admissions/update/unt>).

#### Undergraduate Leveling Procedure

If your department or the Toulouse Graduate School has arranged for you to participate in a 15-hour undergraduate leveling procedure (Graduate Prep), be advised that taking leveling 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. Things to consider:
  - 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.

<http://tsgs.unt.edu/changeofmajor>

### Moving to North Texas

Below find information about traveling to UNT, where to live, and what to bring.

- o 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°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.

- o Air Travel:

The closest airports to UNT are the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field Airport.

- o Housing

There are many off-campus apartments and rental homes close to UNT and in the city of Denton. Apartment Guides are available online at [www.collegeapartmentguide.com](http://www.collegeapartmentguide.com). Other helpful apartment locators include:

[www.aptselector.com](http://www.aptselector.com)  
[www.move.com](http://www.move.com)  
[www.rent.com](http://www.rent.com)  
[www.moveforfree.com](http://www.moveforfree.com)  
[www.dentonrent.net](http://www.dentonrent.net)

If you need additional assistance securing off-campus housing, you can contact the Office of Off-Campus Student Services at 940.565.3807.

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. <http://reslife.unt.edu>

### About Denton

Denton is the county seat of Denton County. According to the 2010 census, the population was approximately 113,000. Denton is located 39 miles northwest of Dallas and 38 miles northeast of Fort Worth. In 2006, *Money* magazine named Denton one of the “Top 100 Best Places to Live in America.”

- o Government and Economy:

The current mayor of Denton is Mark Burroughs. The city is also represented by Rep. Michael C. Burgess and Sen. Craig Estes.

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.

- o Education:

The Denton Independent School District covers public education for the area. It includes 30 schools that serve over 22,000 students.

[www.dentonisd.org](http://www.dentonisd.org)

Private schools in Denton and the surrounding area include:

- o Selwyn College Preparatory School  
([www.selwynschool.com/selwyn/site/default.asp](http://www.selwynschool.com/selwyn/site/default.asp))
- o Immaculate Conception Catholic School  
([www.catholicschooldenton.org](http://www.catholicschooldenton.org))
- o Denton Calvary Academy ([www.dentoncalvary.org](http://www.dentoncalvary.org))
- o Wellspring Christian Academy  
(<http://wellspringchristianacademy.com>)
- o Liberty Christian School (<http://www.libertychristian.org>)

### About Denton (cont.)

- o Childcare:

Below is a partial list of childcare centers in or around Denton.

- o Children’s Lighthouse Learning Center ([www.childrenslighthouse.com](http://www.childrenslighthouse.com))
- o Tender Loving Care Christian Preschool ([www.tenderlovingcaretexas.com](http://www.tenderlovingcaretexas.com))
- o Alpha Academy at Oakmont ([www.alphaoakmont.com](http://www.alphaoakmont.com))
- o Countryside Montessori ([www.montessoripreschooldenton.com](http://www.montessoripreschooldenton.com))
- o First Baptist Church of Denton – Child Development Center ([www.firstdenton.org/schools](http://www.firstdenton.org/schools))
- o Wellspring Christian Academy ([www.wellspringchristianacademy.com](http://www.wellspringchristianacademy.com))
- o Springbok Academy ([www.springbokacademy.com](http://www.springbokacademy.com))
- o Faith Baptist School – Denton (940.243.7484)

UNT offers a high quality preschool program through the College of Education. This program is run by students under the supervision of degreed early childhood/child development specialists. More information is available at <http://childdevelopmentlab.unt.edu>.

You may also be eligible to apply for a Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant. CCAMPIS is a program that encourages the completion of degrees by providing funding for students’ child care expenses. For more information, to view eligibility and apply visit <http://childcare.unt.edu>

- o 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. <http://www.dcta.net>

- o Places to worship:

There are over 150 places to worship in Denton. They are listed on the following website with links to more information.

<http://wimgo.com/denton-tx/community/churces-places-of-worship>

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.

<http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/campuslife/spirit>

## About Denton (cont.)

### o Healthcare:

There are 2 major hospitals in Denton. Denton Regional Medical Center ([www.dentonregional.com](http://www.dentonregional.com)) and Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton ([www.texashealth.org](http://www.texashealth.org)) 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 different providers in the Denton area check out [www.healthgrades.com/family-practice-directory/texas/denton](http://www.healthgrades.com/family-practice-directory/texas/denton)

### o Places to Shop:

Denton has several grocery store chains including:

- Kroger – [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com)
- Albertsons – [www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com)
- Brookshire's – [www.brookshires.com](http://www.brookshires.com)
- Wal-Mart – [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com)
- Sack-n-Save – [www.sackandsavedenton.com/index.html](http://www.sackandsavedenton.com/index.html)
- Target – [www.target.com](http://www.target.com)

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

- Dan's Meat & Produce – [www.dansmeatandproduce.com](http://www.dansmeatandproduce.com)
- Ken's Produce – [https://dentonwiki.org/Ken's\\_Produce](https://dentonwiki.org/Ken's_Produce)
- Cupboard Natural Foods – <http://www.cupboardnaturalfoods.com>
- Denton Community Market – <http://dentonmarket.org>

Denton has other diverse shopping including places to purchase antiques and collectibles, food and wine, gifts & accessories, western wear, thrift shops, and specialty retail. Check out [www.discoverdenton.com](http://www.discoverdenton.com) for a more complete list of shopping available in Denton.

### o 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 [www.discoverdenton.com](http://www.discoverdenton.com), <https://dentonwiki.org>, [www.urbanspoon.com](http://www.urbanspoon.com), [www.uptake.com/texas/denton.html](http://www.uptake.com/texas/denton.html), and <http://dentonmainstreet.org/home> for more information about local eateries.

## About Denton (cont.)

- o Culture and Recreation:

There are several popular areas in Denton for culture and recreation.

- o 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. More information about The Square is available on the Denton Wiki page ([https://dentonwiki.org/The\\_Square](https://dentonwiki.org/The_Square))

- o Historic 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. A list of restaurants, bars, and other business on Fry Street as well as the history of the area is available on the Denton Wiki page ([https://dentonwiki.org/Fry\\_Street](https://dentonwiki.org/Fry_Street))

- o 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 2 ½ day event held the last weekend of every April. It brings over 200,000 people each year for live music, fine art, food, drink, and crafts. The festival features seven stages, 2,300 artists and 250+ arts and crafts booths. Nationally recognized musicians headline each year ([www.dentonjazzfest.com](http://www.dentonjazzfest.com)).
    - *35 Denton:* A walkable 4-day 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. (<http://35denton.com>).
    - *Thin Line Film Festival:* An international documentary film festival held in Denton. The festival typically includes more than 20 feature length films and 40 short films (<http://thinlinefilmfest.com>).
    - *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 9 day fair and rodeo in Denton ([www.northtexasstatefair.com](http://www.northtexasstatefair.com)).
    - *Dog Days:* During the festival, attendees can enjoy a canine fashion show, live entertainment, pet care information, and more (<http://dentondogdays.com/main>).

### About Denton (cont.)

- o 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 (<http://music.unt.edu/calendar/>).

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. In 2007 and 2008 Denton's music scene received feature attention from *The Guardian*, *Pop Matters*, and *The New York Times*. *Paste Magazine* named Denton's music scene the best in the United States in 2008.

For more information about Denton see:

[www.discoverdenton.com](http://www.discoverdenton.com)

<https://dentonwiki.org>

<http://dentonmainstreet.org/home>

<http://www.cityofdenton.com>



COURTESY: CITY OF DENTON



### Things to do in Dallas and 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.

- Attractions:
  - Dallas Zoo – [www.dallaszoo.com](http://www.dallaszoo.com)
  - Fair Park – [www.fairpark.org](http://www.fairpark.org)
  - Museum of Nature & Science – [www.natureandscience.org](http://www.natureandscience.org)
  - Dallas Arboretum – [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)
  - Dallas Aquarium – [www.dwazoo.com](http://www.dwazoo.com)
  - Sixth Floor Museum – [www.jfk.org](http://www.jfk.org)
  - State Fair of Texas – [www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com)
- Arts and Culture:
  - Dallas Museum of Art – [www.dm-art.org](http://www.dm-art.org)
  - Dallas Opera – [www.dallasopera.org](http://www.dallasopera.org)
  - Dallas Summer Musicals – [www.dallassummermusicals.org](http://www.dallassummermusicals.org)
  - Meyerson Symphony Center – [www.dallasymphony.com](http://www.dallasymphony.com)
- Sports:
  - Dallas Cowboys – [www.dallascowboys.com](http://www.dallascowboys.com)
  - Dallas Mavericks – [www.nba.com/mavericks](http://www.nba.com/mavericks)
  - Dallas Stars – <http://stars.nhl.com>
  - Texas Rangers – <http://texas.rangers.mlb.com>

Dallas is also known for restaurants and shopping. See [www.visitdallas.com](http://www.visitdallas.com) for more ideas.



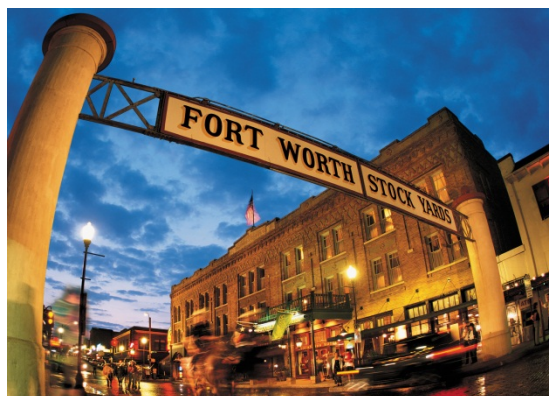
## Things to do In Dallas and Fort Worth (cont.)

### Fort Worth:

Fort Worth offers an unmistakable mix of Western heritage and artistic offerings.

- Stockyards National Historic District: Includes attractions such as the Fort Worth Herd, a twice-daily cattle drive, Billy Bob's Texas, the world's largest honky-tonk, and live rodeo every weekend at the Cowtown Colliseum.  
[www.fortworthstockyards.org](http://www.fortworthstockyards.org)
- Museums and Galleries: Fort Worth has world-famous museums including:
  - *Amon Carter Museum of Modern Art* – [www.cartermuseum.org](http://www.cartermuseum.org)
  - *Kimbell Art Museum* - [www.kimbellart.org](http://www.kimbellart.org)
  - *Modern Art Museum* – [www.themodern.org](http://www.themodern.org)
  - *National Cowgirl Museum* – [www.cowgirl.net](http://www.cowgirl.net)
  - *Museum of Science & History* – [www.fwmuseum.org](http://www.fwmuseum.org)
- Attractions:
  - *Bureau of Engraving and Printing* – [www.moneyfactory.gov/tours/fortworthxtours.html](http://www.moneyfactory.gov/tours/fortworthxtours.html)
  - *Fort Worth Botanic Gardens* – [www.fwbhg.org](http://www.fwbhg.org)
  - *Fort Worth Water Gardens* – [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Worth\\_Water\\_Gardens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Worth_Water_Gardens)
  - *Fort Worth Zoo* - [www.fortworthzoo.org](http://www.fortworthzoo.org)
  - *Texas Motor Speedway* – [www.texasmotorspeedway.com](http://www.texasmotorspeedway.com)
- Performing Arts:
  - *Bass Performance Hall* – [www.basshall.com](http://www.basshall.com)
  - *Casa Manana Theatre* – [www.casamanana.org](http://www.casamanana.org)
  - *Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra* – [www.fwsymphony.org](http://www.fwsymphony.org)
  - *Fort Worth Opera* – [www.fwopera.org](http://www.fwopera.org)
  - *Texas Ballet Theater* – [www.texasballettheater.org](http://www.texasballettheater.org)

For more information about Fort Worth, including where to eat, where to shop, and where to hear good music, visit [www.fortworth.com](http://www.fortworth.com).



### UNT Traditions

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.



#### University Seal:

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

#### Mean Green Nickname:

A 1967 *Dallas Morning News* article entitled "Mean Green on the Loose! Defense Swallows Foes for NTSU" described the plays of six 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 9/26/1962. 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 are rung to promote spirit at football games, pep rallies, and other university functions.

#### Scrappy, the Eagle Mascot:

Students voted for an official mascot name and on 2/1/1922 decided on the Eagle. The eagle mascot was first brought to life at a NT-Oklahoma Tech football game in 1950 when a Denton resident presented a live golden eagle (later discovered to be a Southeast Asian Sea Eagle). A contest was offered to name the new mascot and Scrappy was the winning name. Scrappy made special appearance at UNT from 1952-1959. Two other birds were offered to NT in the 50s and 60s, but problems arose with live mascots. In 1963, Mr. Eagle became the first human eagle mascot provided by the marching band. By 1969 the Talons became the caretakers of Scrappy the Eagle. Although his name has changed several other times through the years, Scrappy returned to service as the official North Texas mascot in 1995.

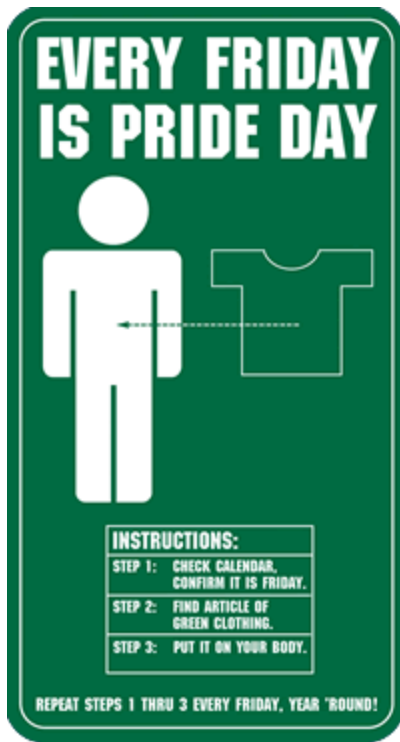
## UNT Traditions (cont.)

### Eagle Claw:

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

### 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. Students can win prizes for showing their pride – [www.unt.edu/greenpride](http://www.unt.edu/greenpride)

### Boomer:

The Talons introduced a muzzleloader cannon in 1970. The cannon is fired to signal touchdowns, kick-off, half-time, and the end of home football games. In 1996 Boomer was deemed unsafe and the Talons quickly purchased a new one from Dixie Gun Works. In Fall 2007 the Talons added the limber 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. It was donated by UNT alumnus Rex Cauble in 1974. 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:

The Talons turn on the lights after all North Texas varsity team victories. After evening home football games, Talons lead the victory march from Fouts Field to the tower. Upon arriving at the Administration building the Talons lead the crowd in singing the alma mater and the UNT Fight Song.

### Friday Night at Clark Park:

Friday Night at Clark Park is the North Texas Pep Rally. Each Friday night before home games, a pep rally featuring live music, cheerleaders, dancers, marching band, players, and coaches takes place in Clark Park at 7:30 pm.

### UNT Traditions (cont.)

#### Alumni Awards:

Every April UNT honors alumni at the annual black tie Alumni Awards Banquet. Alumni awards 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 at [www.unt.edu/development](http://www.unt.edu/development).

#### Alumni Appreciation Day:

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

#### University Day:

University Day is celebrated each spring with games, music, and food. The Mayor of Denton reads the document proclaiming the campus as a university. University Day is always the first Friday of April.

#### Honor's Day:

Honor's Day is co-chaired by the Division of Student Affairs and the Honor's College. Individual colleges, schools, and departments select their most outstanding members for recognition on Honor's Day.

#### Golden Eagles Luncheon and Reunion:

The Golden Eagles Luncheon and Reunion is an annual event honoring those who graduated 50 years ago. The event is the Friday of Homecoming weekend.

You can read more detailed information about UNT's Spirit and Traditions at <http://www.unt.edu/traditions>



## Additional Information for International Students

### I've been admitted to UNT. What's next?

1. Obtain your Tuberculosis (TB) screening/testing record:

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 under the age of 30 are also required to get a bacterial meningitis vaccination.

More information is available on the UNT Health and Wellness Center website:

<http://healthcenter.unt.edu/educational-resources/immunization-requirements>

2. Update your passport and make arrangements to get your visa:

Check the expiration date on your passport and update it if necessary.

Make arrangements to get a visa. The U.S. Department of State provides all the information you need to apply. <http://travel.state.gov/visa/>

3. Plan to attend and register for International Student Orientation:

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 or email at [welcomecenter@unt.edu](mailto:welcomecenter@unt.edu) with any questions.

4. Review the UNT International website:

The UNT International website contains information about the Intensive English Language Institute, international admissions, international student services, and study abroad. <http://international.unt.edu>

### 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. <http://untecampus.com>

There is also a directory of UNT offices and services for online students. The directory is listed alphabetically by department or service. <http://www.untecampus.com/default.cfm?p=OfficeContacts>

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 [vista@unt.edu](mailto:vista@unt.edu).

### Concluding Remarks

We hope that you have found this manual helpful while trying to get oriented to graduate school, UNT, and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Please let us know how we can improve this document. We plan to update it regularly based on student feedback. You can send us suggestions to [graduateschool@unt.edu](mailto:graduateschool@unt.edu).

If you are struggling with any aspect of your program, please let the Graduate School Student Success Coordinator know. She will work with you to trouble-shoot and develop strategies to help you get back on track.

### Student Success Coordinator

Pat Spencer

[Patricia.spencer@unt.edu](mailto:Patricia.spencer@unt.edu)

940.565.4600

Once again, welcome to UNT and best wishes for your future academic and career success!