



HOW

TO

CHOOSE

THE RIGHT COLLEGE FOR YOU

Why Go to College?

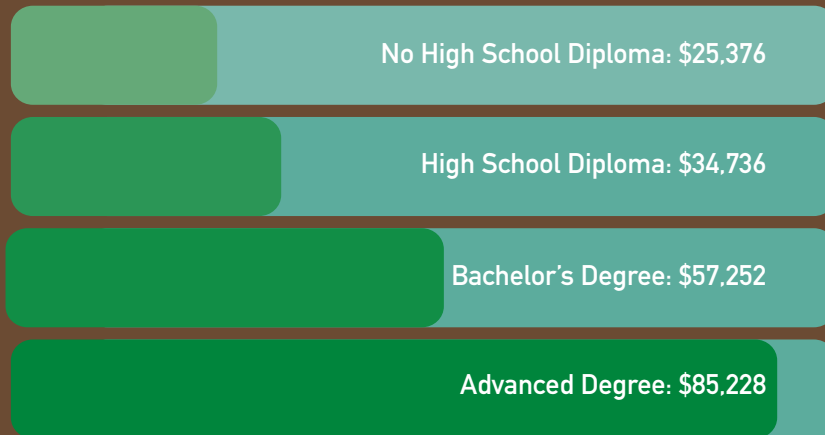
A college education is the key to the kind of life you want. College graduates earn more money and have access to a wider range of job opportunities. Even if you're not sure about what you want to study, you'll be able to pursue your interests through various clubs and activities and find a career direction. You also could discover a talent waiting to grow.



DID YOU KNOW?

The value of a college degree goes beyond job training and potential earnings. Studies show college graduates are happier and healthier than those who did not attend college.

U.S. Mean Annual Earnings by Education Level



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Study; issued April 2015

Choosing a College

Universities are as different as people. Each one has its own personality, size and shape. Taking a tour is the best way to get a feel for each campus. You may discover that you prefer a smaller campus or learn that you love the activity of a larger university. The only way to find out is to try it on for size.

Some of the things you'll want to think about as you tour colleges are:

UNT's Eagle Ambassador tour guides provide an honest student perspective and give you plenty of opportunities to ask questions. This half tram/half walking tour covers about 70 percent of campus, including academic areas, student life, student services, a cafeteria and the recreation center. Visit tours.unt.edu or call 940-565-4104 to schedule your campus visit.

Location

How far from home will I be? What entertainment, internship and job opportunities are available in town? There are pros and cons to consider when it comes to the city where you'll attend college. Things like climate, cost of living and crime rate are just a few things you should think about.

UNT is located in Denton, a progressive city of about 123,000 people, and one of the nation's fastest growing cities. Denton is part of one of the nation's largest metropolitan areas, Dallas-Fort Worth.

Size

How big is the campus? How many students attend? How many residence halls are available? The size of the colleges you're looking at makes a big difference in whether it will fit your needs.

UNT's 900-acre campus offers its 37,000 students the best environment in the region to pursue learning, research and creativity. The vibrant campus has 15 residence halls, Mean Green Village with its Athletic Center and surrounding athletic fields and the 300-acre Discovery Park research facility. Student and faculty art galleries and premier award-winning musical performance spaces provide cultural experiences for the campus and the North Texas region.

Majors

What degree programs are offered? Are there plenty of options if I want to change my major? Every university's degree program choices are a little different. It's important to find out if the colleges you're interested in offer your major and can help you meet your goals. If you're undecided about a major, make sure the college offers a broad range of options for students trying to figure it out.

UNT offers 99 bachelor's, 83 master's and 36 doctoral degree programs. Some of UNT's unique program choices include Aviation Logistics, Computer Gaming, Criminal Justice, Ecology for Environmental Science and Rehabilitation Studies.

Cost

How much does it cost to attend? What financial aid and scholarship options do I have to help me afford it? Let's face it — college isn't free. But financial aid, scholarships, campus employment and other funding options are available to help you get your degree — without racking up serious debt.

UNT provides the quality of a private university at an affordable cost. We also offer an innovative solution to rising tuition costs with the Eagle Express Tuition Plan, which locks in your tuition for four years, helping you better plan for college expenses. UNT students receive financial aid and scholarships totaling more than \$330 million annually.

Campus Life

The main idea is to get a degree, but you can't study all the time! Clubs and organizations are an important way to make friends, relieve stress and have fun. What clubs are offered that interest you? What kind of athletics program does the college have? What about concerts, plays and other entertainment on campus?

UNT has 400 student organizations, including many intercultural organizations and 38 fraternities and sororities. Leadership and training opportunities are abundant. UNT competes in Conference USA. With seating for 31,000 fans, UNT's Apogee Stadium has eco-friendly features unlike any collegiate football venue in the nation.

Support Services

Look for availability of services and resources that will help you thrive, such as health centers, computer labs, libraries, academic and personal counseling and tutoring.

UNT's Health and Wellness Center doctors can help you when you're feeling sick and also provide services such as x-rays, lab tests and prescription refills. The center also has the first full-service optical office located on any college campus in the state. Need to pull an all-nighter to write a paper? UNT has 14 computer labs, including one open 24 hours.

College Comparison Chart

Bring this booklet with you on campus tours and take notes so you can compare important characteristics about the colleges you visit.

Choice Factor	University of North Texas	College A	College B
Location	Denton; about 40 miles north of Dallas-Fort Worth		
Size	37,000 students — most comprehensive in the Dallas-Fort Worth area		
Majors	99 bachelor's degree programs, many nationally recognized; special counselors for undecided majors; graduate study available		
Cost	State assisted with low mandatory fees; Eagle Express Tuition Plan		
Campus Life	NCAA Division I athletics; UNT's Apogee Stadium; intramural sports; 400 student organizations		
Support Services	Friendly, helpful staff; enrollment services grouped in one building (Eagle Student Services Center)		

NOTES

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DID YOU KNOW?

Colleges come in different “types” such as community or technical college, public, private, church-affiliated and minority-serving. For definitions of these types of colleges, see the glossary of terms on pages 16-17.

Applying to College

Most students apply between August and December of their senior year. It's best to apply as early as possible so that more scholarships are available and you have more options for orientation dates and housing preferences.

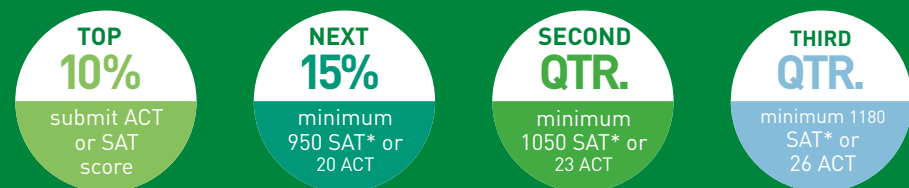
Admissions Policy:

Admission requirements vary if you're comparing Texas universities with ones out of state. But if you're focusing your college search on Texas, this is what you'll need to know: Texas Education Code 51.803-51.809, Uniform Admissions Standards (UAS,) requires applicants meet college readiness standards through completion of a recognized high school graduation program or through SAT or ACT score benchmarks. For detailed information on recognized high school graduation programs and SAT/ACT requirements, visit admissions.unt.edu/freshman/admission-requirements.

If you'll be applying from out of state, watch for UNT on the Common Application, coming in Fall 2016.

UNT Admission Requirements:

by high school class ranking



*SAT scores based on critical reasoning and math sections

Entrance Exams: Which One Should I Take?

The tests primarily used for admission to colleges are the ACT and the SAT. These tests are used with your high school record to evaluate your level of academic knowledge. Which test should you take? Find out which entrance exams are required by the colleges you are interested in — some schools accept either test. If you are undecided about where to go to college, you should consider taking both exams to keep your options open.

Whichever test you take, plan ahead. The registration deadline is about a month before each test, so you must schedule your test in time to get results back for college admission deadlines.

How Do I Apply?

Your college application, transcripts, class rank and entrance exam scores determine your acceptance to most colleges or universities. Some also may require an essay, interview or references. You can get applications by downloading them from the college's website. If you're applying to a Texas public university, you'll use the Apply Texas Application at www.applytexas.org. Your college application form will represent you to college admissions officials, so take the time to fill it out completely and correctly. Know the college's deadlines and complete your application in plenty of time.

Read all the instructions that come with the application, and follow them closely. If you have questions, ask your high school counselor or call the college admissions office for clarification. It's a good idea to have a parent or other adult double-check your application when you're finished. Be sure to include the application fee, if required.

The ApplyTexas Application, official transcripts and required entrance exams are due to the UNT Office of Admissions by March 1 for the fall semester.

SAT

Measures writing, reading and math skills

Ten separately timed sections lasting about four hours

Range of score is from 200 to 800 on each section

Perfect score is 2400 — the national average is 1509

Find out more at collegeboard.com.

ACT

Evaluates English, math, reading and science reasoning

Three separately timed sections lasting about four hours

Highest possible score is 36 — the national average is 21

Find out more at actstudent.org.

Other Testing Options

These include the CLEP test and Advanced Placement (AP) test. The CLEP exam may allow you to "place out" of certain required courses in college based on what you already know about certain subjects. There are 33 different CLEP exams and they are usually administered on college campuses. Check with the colleges you're looking at before taking the test to make sure they accept the test scores. Find out more at clep.collegeboard.org. The Advanced Placement or AP Program consists of 30 college-level courses and exams students take while they're still in high school. Check with your high school to see what AP courses are offered. If you pass the AP test at the end of the school year, you may get course credit in that subject when you enroll in college. Find out more at apstudent.collegeboard.org.

Timeline for Success

8TH grade

- Talk to your teachers about high school courses that will prepare you for college.
- Develop good study and organizational skills.
- Take a foreign language course.

9TH grade

- Take courses such as Geometry and Algebra. Studies show that students who take these courses early are more likely to go on to college.
- Begin reading about possible careers in different fields. Explore topics that interest you!
- Meet with your school counselor and discuss your desire to attend college.

10TH grade

- Take Advanced Placement courses.
- Take part in school clubs and organizations or a summer camp program.
- Pursue leadership roles now that will help you later with scholarship applications!
- Start thinking about what's important to you in a college or university.

11TH grade

- Attend a college fair and begin gathering information on colleges you're considering.
- Take the PSAT.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT exam.
- Begin taking campus tours of the universities that interest you.
- Take Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

12TH grade

- Retake the ACT and/or SAT exam.
- Narrow your list of potential colleges and take a campus tour if you haven't already.
- Make sure you are aware of the application deadlines for the schools on your short list.
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Apply for scholarships.

**AP COURSES + EXPLORING CAREERS +
BEING A LEADER + SAT/ACT = SUCCESS**

What's a Transcript?

As part of the application process, you will need to request an official transcript, or record of your grades, from your high school to be sent to the college(s) of your choice. If you have graduated, your transcript will list your class rank and grade point average. You may have to pay a small fee for each official transcript; unofficial transcripts or photocopies are not acceptable because of the possibility of grade tampering.

Paying for College

Where Do I Start?

Your education is one of the most important investments you'll ever make. Knowing what costs to expect and what funding options are available is key to figuring out which college is best for you. College costs should not be a barrier to opportunity. You have options!

UNT offers you an innovative solution to rising college costs with the Eagle Express Tuition Plan. With Eagle Express, you can lock in your total academic costs for four years, earn your bachelor's degree sooner and save up to \$3,000 when you graduate on time. Learn more at unt.edu/eagleexpress.

Financial Aid

Many students receive financial aid to help pay for college. In January of your senior year, you and a parent should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA determines your eligibility to receive aid.

To apply for federal aid (including grants and loans) you need to complete the FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov. Some universities may require you to complete additional financial aid forms.

Loans

Many types of loans are available to students and their parents to help pay for college, including federal, state and private loan programs. Borrowing for your education is a serious commitment. Talk to your parents about your options and how you plan on repaying your college loans.

Scholarships

In addition to financial aid, you can apply for scholarships to help cover costs. Merit-based, need-based and athletic-based scholarships are usually available. Check with the college financial aid office for scholarship information. In addition to scholarships awarded by the college you attend, many businesses, churches, foundations and community organizations offer scholarship funding. Your high school counselor and teachers can help you find these scholarships. There's also some great information at gentx.org/financialaid.

UNT annually awards more than \$330 million in financial aid, including more than \$39 million in scholarships. Scholarship and other financial aid information can be found at financialaid.unt.edu.

Grants

The best news about grants is that they don't have to be repaid! Your eligibility to receive grants is based on your FAFSA application. There are many types of grants available. Here are a few common ones:

- ▶ Federal Pell Grant
- ▶ Federal Supplement Educational Opportunity Grant
- ▶ Texas Public Education Grant

Student Employment

Getting a job either on or off campus is another way to afford your education. An added bonus for on-campus jobs is you can walk to work! Most colleges offer student employment for administrative, research and technical tasks. You could work in an office on campus, assist a professor, or work in a residence hall or a campus cafeteria. Check with the college student employment office for details.

About 80 percent of UNT students work while in school. UNT's Career Center helps 11,500 students to find on-campus and off-campus employment each year. The Student Money Management Center provides workshops and confidential, personalized counseling sessions to help students manage their finances.

FINANCIAL AID

GRANTS

SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Investing in Your
SUCCESS

Glossary of Terms

You'll see many of these terms as you choose a college. The definitions may vary slightly.

Accreditation: An endorsement given to universities or academic degree programs by an organization that reviews qualifications.

Associate's degree: A two-year degree from a community or junior college.

Audit: To attend a class without receiving credit for the class.

Bachelor's degree: A four-year degree from a college, university or professional school; usually requires at least 120 credit hours.

Church-affiliated university: Some private colleges have a religious affiliation. Students at these colleges often must attend chapel or religious classes of some kind.

Community college: Two-year college also known as junior college. You can either transfer your courses to a four-year university or receive an associate's degree in a certain field.

Course numbers: Numbers assigned to specific classes.

Credit hour: Credit given for attending one lecture hour of class each week for 15 weeks or equivalent. Most college classes are three credit hours, meaning their total meeting time for a week is three hours.

Degree: A certificate of completion of a course of study.

Degree plan: A specific list of required courses and electives to be completed for a degree.

Doctoral degree: The most advanced degree that can be earned.

Fees: Course-related costs to attend college.

Four-year university: Four-year colleges award bachelor's degrees. Many offer graduate-level courses leading to master's and doctoral degrees.

Freshman: A student who has completed fewer than 30 hours of college credit.

Full time: 12 or more credit hours per semester for undergraduate students.

GPA: Grade point average; the average of your class grades, generally based on a 4.0 scale.

Grants: Financial assistance that does not require repayment.

Half time: Six credit hours per semester for undergraduate students.

Internship: A job in a student's field of study; may be required in some academic programs and may include salary and college credit.

Junior: A student who has completed 60 to 89 college credit hours.

Junior college: See Community college.

Loans: Financial assistance that must be repaid.

Major: A student's concentrated field of study.

Master's degree: A graduate degree that usually requires two or more years of study beyond the bachelor's degree.

Minor: A student's secondary field of study.

Minority-serving institution: Colleges or universities whose primary mission is to serve African American, Hispanic, American Indian or Asian American/Pacific Islander students.

Nonresident: Any student who lives out of state or does not meet specific state residency requirements.

Online courses: Classes held online instead of in a traditional classroom.

Prerequisite: A course that must be taken prior to enrollment in another course.

Private university: A non-state-assisted college or university that relies on private funding, tuition and fees.

Public university: A college or university that receives funding from the state, lowering costs students pay.

Registration: Enrollment in classes.

Resident: A student who meets state residency requirements.

Rolling admission: A policy in which a college's admissions office sends out acceptance letters to students as they are accepted.

Scholarships: Financial assistance based on merit; do not require repayment.

Semester hour: See Credit hour.

Senior: A student who has completed 90 or more hours of college credit but has not received a bachelor's degree.

Sophomore: A student who has completed 30 to 59 college credit hours.

Summer session: A summer term of approximately six weeks.

Three-quarter time: Nine credit hours for undergraduate students.

Tuition: Costs for courses, not including certain fees.

Undergraduate: A student at a college or university who has not yet earned a bachelor's degree.

Web-based classes: See Online courses.

Web registration: Online registration for classes.

Work-study program: A federal financial aid program that allows students to work on campus.



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