

HOW

TO

CHOOSE

**THE RIGHT COLLEGE
FOR YOU**

UNT

outreach.unt.edu

NOTES



Choosing the right college doesn't have to be stressful.

The information in this booklet will help you figure out what to keep in mind as you begin your college search, how to navigate the application process and how to pay for school once you find the perfect fit for you.

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Why Go To College??

A college education is the key to accessing a wider range of job and earning opportunities. College graduates tend to earn more money than their peers who did not complete a higher level of education.

If you're not sure what you want to study, that's okay! While attending college, you can explore a variety of interests through majors, clubs and activities that will help you find the career that's right for you.

You might even discover a whole new career path you never knew existed.



Do you like video games?

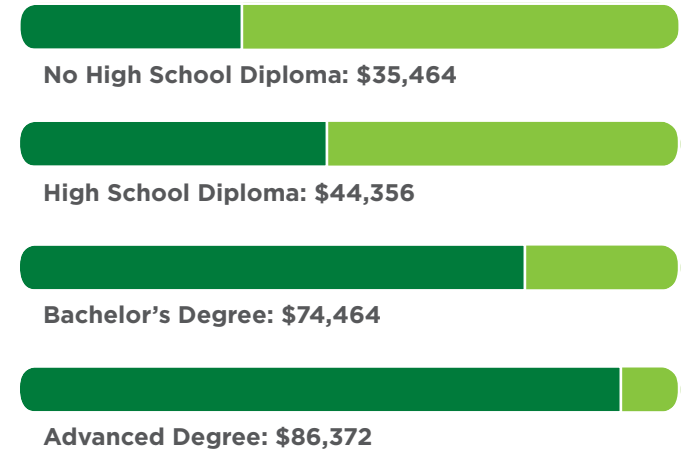
Maybe a Certificate in Game Programming is for you.

Maybe you love movies. A major in Media Arts sounds perfect for you.

Perhaps you really enjoy reading comic books or graphic novels. A double major in Creative Writing and Graphic Design could be just what you need to be the next Stan Lee.

If you can dream it, there's probably a major for it!

U.S. Median Annual Earnings by Education Level



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Education Pays, issued 2023

Choosing A College

LOCATION

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 atmosphere of a larger university. Here are some of the things you'll want to think about as you tour colleges:

- ✓ 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 the weather,

the cost of living and the safety of each location.

UNT is located in Denton, one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation, which is also part of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, one of the largest metropolitan areas and best job markets in the U.S.

SIZE

- ✓ How big is the campus?
- ✓ How many students attend?
- ✓ How many residence halls are available?

Just like you choose which size of shirt will fit you best, there are small, medium, and large size colleges.

Depending on your personal preference,

you can choose what college you think is right for you.

UNT would be considered a large school with its 1,000-acre campus, nearly 47,000 students, 14 residence halls, 300-acre research facility, student and faculty art galleries and award-winning musical performance spaces.

MAJORS

- ✓ What degree programs are offered?
- ✓ Are there plenty of options if I want to change my major?

Every university offers a wide range of degree programs, but it's important that the college you're interested in offers the major you need to meet your career goals. If you're undecided about what to major in, make sure the college you'd like to attend offers many options to choose from.

UNT offers 114 bachelor's, 97 master's, 39 doctoral degree programs. If you're looking for unique program choices at **UNT**, we have degrees in Aviation Logistics, Jazz Studies, Cybersecurity and Digital Retailing.

COST

- ✓ How much does it cost to attend?
- ✓ What financial aid and scholarship options do I have to help me afford it?

When thinking of the price tag for a college education, it may seem overwhelming. But you don't have to pay for everything out of pocket.

There are many resources to help you afford your education, including financial aid, scholarships, campus employment and many other funding options.

CAMPUS LIFE

- ✓ Do they offer clubs that interest you?
- ✓ What kind of athletic programs does the college have?
- ✓ What about concerts, plays and other entertainment on campus?

While you're at college to get a degree, you can't study all the time!

Clubs, organizations and events on campus are important opportunities to make friends, relieve stress and have fun.

UNT offers 450 student organizations, 42 fraternities and sororities and presents 1,500 performances, exhibitions and lectures annually. You can also check out **UNT's** Division I American Athletic Conference football team at our eco-friendly stadium or our NIT championship winning basketball team at the **UNT** Coliseum.

SUPPORT SERVICES

- ✓ What do I do if I get sick?
- ✓ What if I need extra help in one of my classes?

Most universities have services and resources available to help you stay healthy and succeed in your studies. Look for things like health centers, libraries, tutoring labs and

personal counseling or mental health services.

At **UNT**, you can visit our Health and Wellness Center if you're feeling sick, study at our various libraries, get help with classes at The Learning Center and get free counseling through the Division of Student Affairs.

CAMPUS TOURS

The easiest way to get a feel for the university you want to attend is to take a tour.

UNT's tours are provided by current students called Eagle Ambassadors. They provide an honest, student perspective and give you plenty of opportunities to ask them questions. Visit tours.unt.edu to schedule your in-person visit or to experience our interactive virtual campus tour.

College Comparison Chart

Did You Know?

Colleges come in different “types” such as community, public or private. For definitions of these types of colleges, see the glossary of terms on pages 14-15.

CHOICE FACTOR

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS



COLLEGE B

COLLEGE C

LOCATION

Denton, one of the nation’s best college towns; about 40 miles North of Dallas and Fort Worth

SIZE

Nearly 47,000 students – most comprehensive university in the North Texas region

MAJORS

114 bachelor’s degree programs; many nationally recognized; special counselors for undecided majors; graduate study available

COST

State-assisted with low mandatory fees; named America’s Best Value College by *Forbes*

CAMPUS LIFE

16 American Athletic Conference Division I athletic teams; DATCU Stadium; Intramural sports; 450 student organizations; ranked one of the safest college campuses in the nation four years in a row by *Alarms.org*

SUPPORT SERVICES

Friendly, helpful staff; enrollment services grouped in one building (Eagle Student Services Center)

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Applying to College

HOW DO I APPLY?

Here's the application process for most universities:

- ✓ Learn the admission requirements for the schools you'd like to attend. Admission requirements vary by university or college.
- ✓ Submit your application for admission at applytexas.org or via commonapp.org.
- ✓ Submit official transcripts.
- ✓ Supply your class rank.
- ✓ Send entrance exam scores (SAT or ACT) if you have them. They may not be required.
- ✓ Pay the application fee.
- ✓ Check if the schools also require an essay, interview or references.

PRO TIPS:

- ✓ Fill out your application completely and have someone check your work.
- ✓ Submit your application by the priority dates listed for that university.
- ✓ Ask your high school counselor or reach out to the college admissions office via phone, email or even on social media with any questions.

At **UNT**, we encourage students to submit their application by March 1 for the fall semester. After this date, applications are still accepted but are subject to a late fee. Learn more about **UNT** admission requirements and our admission process at admissions.unt.edu.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Some universities require college entrance exams and, for some, placement tests as part of the college application. The SAT and ACT are the most common entrance exams. The SAT is the most widely accepted college entrance exam with evidence-based reading, writing and math questions. The ACT is an alternative college entrance exam with English, math, reading and science reasoning questions. However, at **UNT** and at many schools, these tests are optional and vary by the school's admissions requirements.

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL (ECHS)

If you choose to attend or are already attending an Early College High School, you're able to receive both a high school diploma and an associate degree or at least 60 credit hours toward a bachelor's degree. As an ECHS graduate, you can apply to college with coursework credits already under your belt. Make sure to reach out to your university for specific admission requirements for ECHS students.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Most high schools offer dual enrollment programs or courses that allow high school students to enroll in college courses and receive credit from both the college and high school. Students who complete dual enrollment courses may take fewer classes in college due to earning transferable college credit.

PLACEMENT TESTS

Advanced Placement (AP) courses/exams allow you to earn college credit while you're in high school. There are nearly 40 exams offered, and AP college credit is accepted by most universities worldwide.

These tests will enable you to get a jumpstart on your college course load, allowing you to finish school quicker.

The above programs are a great way to get ahead in your college career and save money on tuition.

They allow you to take fewer classes to graduate and might even help you to complete your bachelor's degree in two or three years.

Learn more about college exams and placement tests here:

SAT: collegeboard.com

ACT: actstudent.org

AP Tests: apstudent.collegeboard.com



Timeline for Success

6th-8th GRADE

- ✓ Sign up for AVID, CIS and Pre-AP classes.
- ✓ Learn about your GPA. What does it stand for and why is it important for your future?
- ✓ Enroll in high school credit courses if they are available at your school.
- ★ **Talk to your teachers about an ECHS high school in your area or what the difference is between dual enrollment and AP courses. Learn how these courses prepare you for college.**

9th GRADE

- ✓ Take courses such as Geometry and Algebra.
- ★ **Begin reading about possible careers in different fields. Explore topics that interest you!**
- ★ **Meet with your school counselor and discuss academic tracks and interests.**

10th GRADE

- ✓ Take AP or Dual Enrollment 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 (see pages 4-5).**



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 (GPA).

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.

- ✓ Attend a college fair and begin gathering information on colleges you're considering.
- ✓ Take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT).
- ✓ Take the ACT and/or SAT exam.
- ★ **Begin taking campus tours of the universities that interest you.**
- ★ **Research scholarship opportunities at the colleges you'd like to attend.**
- ★ **Take AP exams.**

11th GRADE

- ✓ Take the ACT and/or SAT exam if you haven't already.
- ✓ 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) or the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA).**
- ★ **Submit your official transcripts.**
- ★ **Apply for scholarships.**

12th GRADE

Investing in Your Success

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!

70% of **UNT** students receive scholarships or financial aid.

FINANCIAL AID

Many students receive financial aid to help pay for college. As early as December of your senior year, you should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov. The FAFSA determines your eligibility to receive aid. If you're a resident of Texas and ineligible for federal aid through the FAFSA because of your immigration status, you can complete the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) at financialaid.unt.edu.

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. Many businesses, churches, foundations and community organizations offer scholarship funding as well. Your high school counselor and teachers can help you find these scholarships.

UNT annually awards \$450 million in financial aid, including more than \$70 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 Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- ✓ Texas Public Education Grant

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Getting a job on or off campus is another way to afford your education. Working on campus provides valuable work and learning experiences as well as the money you need to pay for tuition, books or other living expenses. Unlike jobs off campus, you don't need a car or transportation to get to work. You can work in one of the many offices on campus, assist a professor with research or take shifts at a residence hall or campus cafeteria. Check with the college student employment office for details.

UNT's Career Center helps students find jobs and internships with nearly 20,000 opportunities posted online annually. In addition, more than 5,000 students are employed on campus each semester. The award-winning Student Money Management Center provides workshops and confidential, personalized counseling sessions to help students manage their finances.

Glossary of Terms

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

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Your academic advisor provides support and counsel on which classes to take and when to take them.

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation signals that a school adheres to certain educational standards set by state, federal and non-government agencies.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

An associate degree requires two years of full-time study and is commonly offered by community colleges and vocational schools. You can also earn an associate degree at a four-year institution.

ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

A type of online education, asynchronous learning allows students to watch lectures and complete assignments on their own time rather than having to attend classes on a specific schedule.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

A bachelor's degree is an undergraduate academic degree that usually requires four years of full-time study to complete.

COMMON APPLICATION

Used by thousands of colleges around the country, the Common App allows students to apply to multiple schools by filling out one document rather than completing several applications.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Two-year colleges are also known as junior colleges. You can either transfer your courses to a four-year university or receive an associate degree in a certain field.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Within a degree program, core requirements refer to the classes that students must pass in order to graduate. Electives typically complement core classes.

COURSE NUMBERS

Numbers assigned to specific courses.

CREDIT HOUR

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

DEGREE PLAN

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

DOUBLE MAJOR

A program of study that allows a student to complete the course requirement for two majors at the same time.

FEES

In addition to tuition, students are charged fees for services such as facilities usage, technology and parking.

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT

To qualify as a first-generation college student, you must be the first individual in your immediate family to pursue higher education. These students often qualify for additional financial aid.

FRESHMAN

A student in their first year of study at a college or university.

FULL TIME

A full-time student must take a minimum number of credits per semester. At the undergraduate level, most schools require at least 12 credits to qualify.

GPA

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

HALF TIME

A half-time student takes a minimum of six credits per semester at the undergraduate level.

IN-STATE TUITION

Public colleges and universities allow students who reside in the same state as the institution to pay in-state tuition, a lower amount than what nonresidents pay. Most schools require that the students have lived in the state at least a year prior to enrollment.

INTERNSHIP

Internships give students the opportunity to gain relevant, hands-on work

experience before graduating. Most internships offer college credit.

JUNIOR

A student in their third year of study in a bachelor's degree program.

MAJOR

A student's chosen area of study, such as accounting or history.

MERIT-BASED AID/SCHOLARSHIP

Merit-based aid supports students who demonstrate academic and/or personal excellence but may or may not have limited finances.

MINOR

A student's secondary field of study.

NONRESIDENT

Students attending a college outside of their home state.

ONLINE COURSES

Classes held online instead of in a traditional classroom.

OUT-OF-STATE TUITION

Students attending public colleges or universities outside their home state typically pay out-of-state tuition, which is higher than in-state tuition.

PREREQUISITE

A course that must be taken prior to enrolling 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.

REGISTRAR

The college or university official responsible for registering students and keeping their academic records, such as transcripts.

REGISTRATION

The process of enrolling in courses each semester.

RESIDENT

A student who meets state residency requirements.

ROLLING ADMISSION

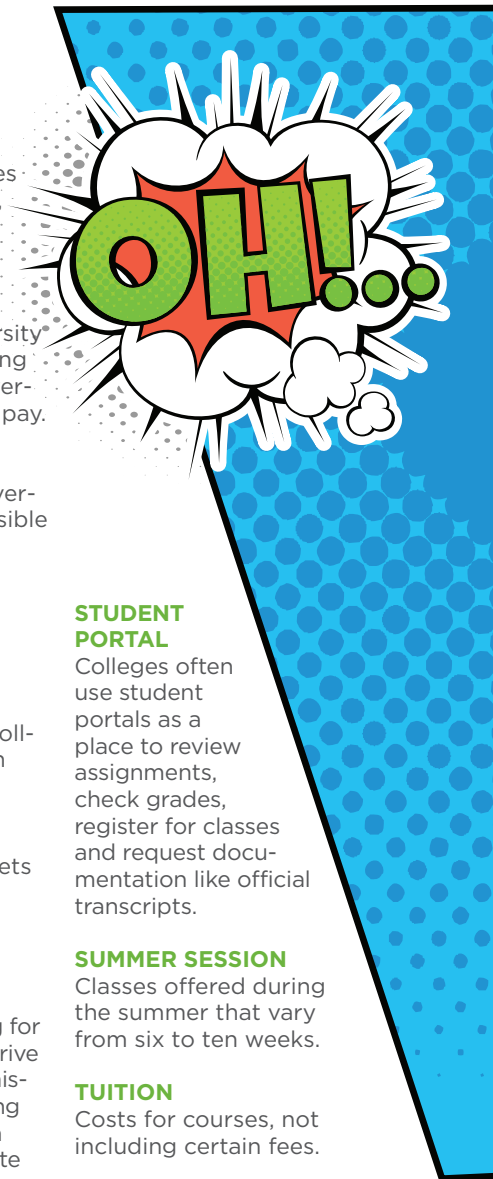
Rather than waiting for all documents to arrive before making admission decisions, rolling admissions allows a university to evaluate applications as they come in and send out acceptance letters as they are accepted.

SENIOR

A student in their fourth and final year of undergraduate study.

SOPHOMORE

A student in their second year of undergraduate study.



STUDENT PORTAL

Colleges often use student portals as a place to review assignments, check grades, register for classes and request documentation like official transcripts.

SUMMER SESSION

Classes offered during the summer that vary from six to ten weeks.

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.

WAITLIST

If a school neither approves nor rejects your application in the first round, you will be placed on a waitlist. Depending on the number of students who accept offers of admission, you may still be admitted at a later date.

Helpful Websites

AIE.ORG

The Adventures in Education site offers resources on a range of higher education topics, such as studying for entrance exams, filling out your college application and budgeting for college costs.

APPLY.UNT.EDU

Discover all that **UNT** has to offer, from our 250 high-quality degree programs to our American Athletic Conference Division I football team. Go Mean Green!

CAREERONESTOP.ORG

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, this website provides tools to help you explore careers and match your strengths with occupations.

COLLEGEBOARD.ORG

This website offers resources to help you prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and success.

FINANCIALAID.UNT.EDU

Learn the financial aid basics for **UNT** and how to apply for it and various scholarships.

UNT.EDU


Find all of the helpful information in this booklet online! You can also download a digital copy so you have access to it anywhere, anytime.

TRELLISCOMPANY.ORG

Trellis Company offers resources to help students and families plan and prepare for college, learn the basics of money management and prepare to repay their federal student loans.

TOURS.UNT.EDU

Touring the **UNT** campus is a great way for you to learn a lot about us in a short amount of time, and you'll get information directly from our experts — current **UNT** students!



WOW!

Did You Know?

Most college graduates earn about \$1 million more in their lifetime than people without a bachelor's degree.

NOTES



Get Social



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instagram.com/unt



twitter.com/untsocial



youtube.com/universitynorthtexas



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