## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS®

Exploring Grad School Week | Sep 23-27, 2024

### FIRST GENERATION TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Presented by: Precious Azobor, Desiree Padron





# MEET YOUR SPEAKERS











Desiree Padron

Director | Center for Belonging & Engagement

# MEET YOUR SPEAKERS









Precious Azobor

Graduate Admissions Recruiter | Denton

## MEET YOUR SPEAKERS





## **Desiree Padron**



Honors include: UNT Student Affairs Ambassador of the Year, Texas TRIO: TRIO Achiever of the Year, Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs Outstanding Service Award, Hispanic Women's Network of Texas Star of Texas Award, UNT Student Affairs Rodney Mitchell Spirit Award, and UNT President's Special Recognition Award.

Desiree Padron served as the Director of the First Generation Success Center and Emerald Eagle Scholars program at the University of North Texas. Before assuming this role, Desiree proudly worked with the federal TRIO programs Student Support Services, Upward Bound, and Talent Search. Having been a beneficiary of TRIO as a student, Desiree's passion is to support and advocate for first-generation college students as they navigate higher education and professional opportunities.

She is proud UNT alumna completing a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Secondary Education and master of Public Administration. Her experience advocating for TRIO programs in Washington D.C. over the past 13 years, set a foundation for leadership and learning beyond the classroom for first-generation students.

GoGRAD@UNT.EDU EGSW.UNT.EDU



## WHAT IS THE FGSC, AND HOW CAN WE HELP?

- FGSC is a resource center developed to better support firstgeneration students as they navigate college life
- The center works to collaborate with campus partners to design workshops and presentations addressing topics such as campus resources, financial aid, financial literacy, college terminology, career preparation, and academic coaching
- Graduate School Support: 1:1 Mentoring, Completion of Graduate School Comparison, Help with program research, Finding Financial aid resources, and most importantly, **belief**





### WHY AN ADVANCED DEGREE

- An advanced degree provides additional security within your field
- Obtaining an advanced degree also signals to employers that you are ready and able to take your skills and career to the next level
- Something Different/Change
- Most importantly ... increased earning potential!



## WHEN TO START THINKING ABOUT GRAD SCHOOL

- Typically, 6-18 months prior to your first semester or junior year of college; longer for international applicants due to Visa and travel applications
- Deadlines to apply are decided by each, separate program at UNT

Always check with your program of interest to learn when to apply by





### FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

It's important that your research interests and professional goals align with the university

 Make sure the schools you're applying to offer the specific degree that you're interested in

Our Interdisciplinary MA/MS program is a great alternative for students with many varying interests





### **HOW TO PREPARE**

- Don't wait until the last minute to begin applying
- Know your application deadlines and the departmental materials needed to submit application; GPA Requirements, LOR, SOP, GRE/GMAT Scores, Interviews etc...
- Follow up on your application
- Don't forget your basics: Time Management, Study Skills, Prioritization, Student Organizations
- Talking to others, like the FGSC, your professors, academic advisors or mentors



## BELIEF: YOU BELONG HERE

"I THINK THE BELIEF THAT GRADUATE SCHOOL IS POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CONVEY, AS ONE OF THE BIGGEST BARRIERS WE ENCOUNTER IS STUDENTS NOT THINKING THEY CAN DO IT."





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## Grad School 101









#### (From right to left):

- o Frazier Johnson, Senior Graduate Recruiter
- Dana Mordecai, Assistant Director, Graduate Recruitment
- Precious Azobor, Admissions Recruiter

You can find us at the <u>ESSC, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor</u>.

\*Construction\*

**UNT Frisco Office** 

o Ellen Klimpel, Admissions Recruiter

Not pictured

o Ruth Sytsma, Graduate Student Assistant





- Independent study
- Contribution to the field (publishing)

#### i.e.:

- Master's
- Doctorate
- Second Bachelor's
- Research
- Thesis (70-80 page paper)
- Dissertation (book-length project).



## **QUICK FACTS:**

- 87 master's
- 38 doctoral
- Median class size: 9
- Average age for grad student: 31
- Over 80 online graduate programs



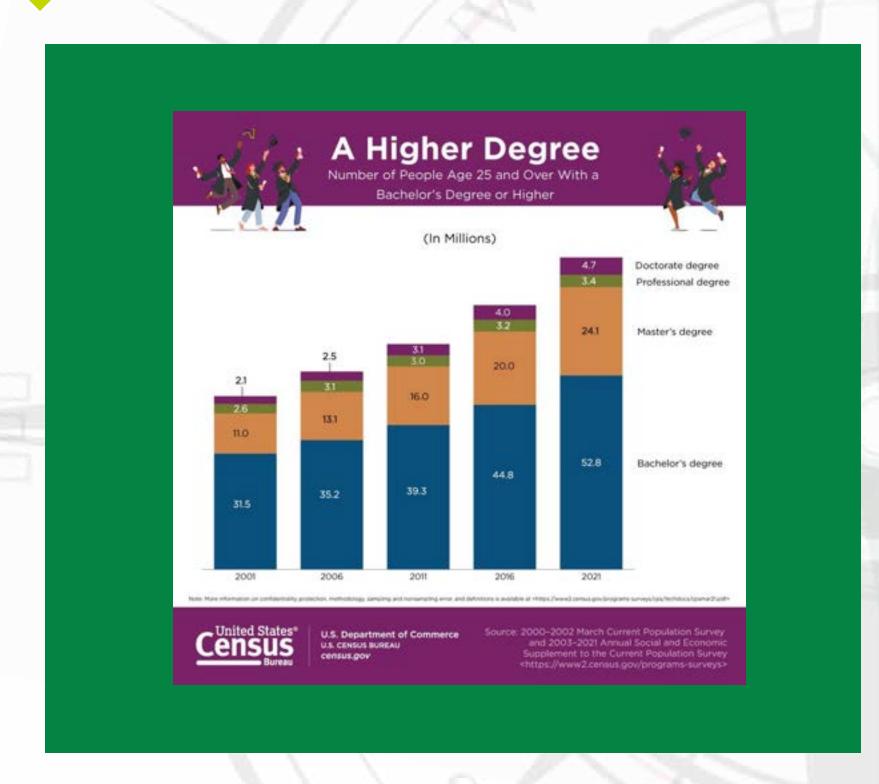
ACTS:

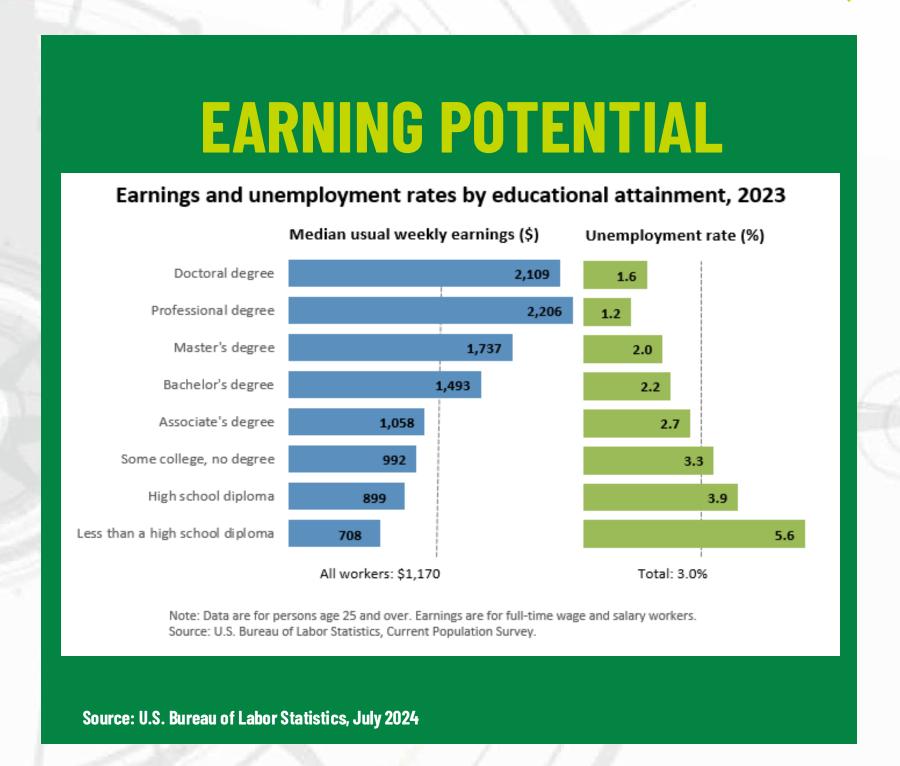
size: 9 or grad student: 31 graduate programs













## **UNT's Application Process**





Better experience for our students.

Supplemental application materials

(letters of recommendation, statement of purpose)

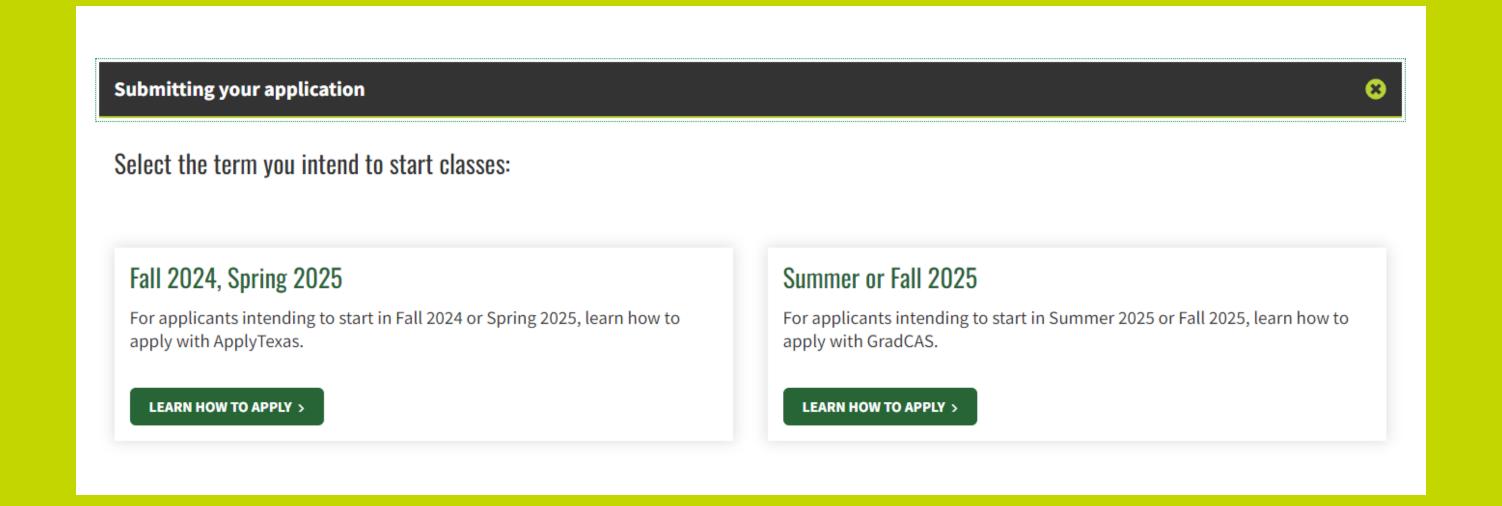
can now be <u>uploaded all in</u> <u>one place</u>, on GradCAS.

Overlap in application systems for 24-25 academic year.

Those applying to begin in <u>Fall</u>
<a href="#">2025</a> and later <u>must use</u>
<a href="#">GradCAS</a>.



### **WEBSITE UPDATES**



Updated information about our application systems.



## **APPLYTEXAS APP PROCESS**



#### **Step one (Admissions)**

- Fill out ApplyTexas and pay the app fee.
- Submit all transcripts.
- (For INTL) submit English language test scores.



#### Step two (Program)

- Submit supplemental materials to your department (letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, resuem, etc.).
- \*This step varies; each program has a different procedure and/or platform for uploading their materials.

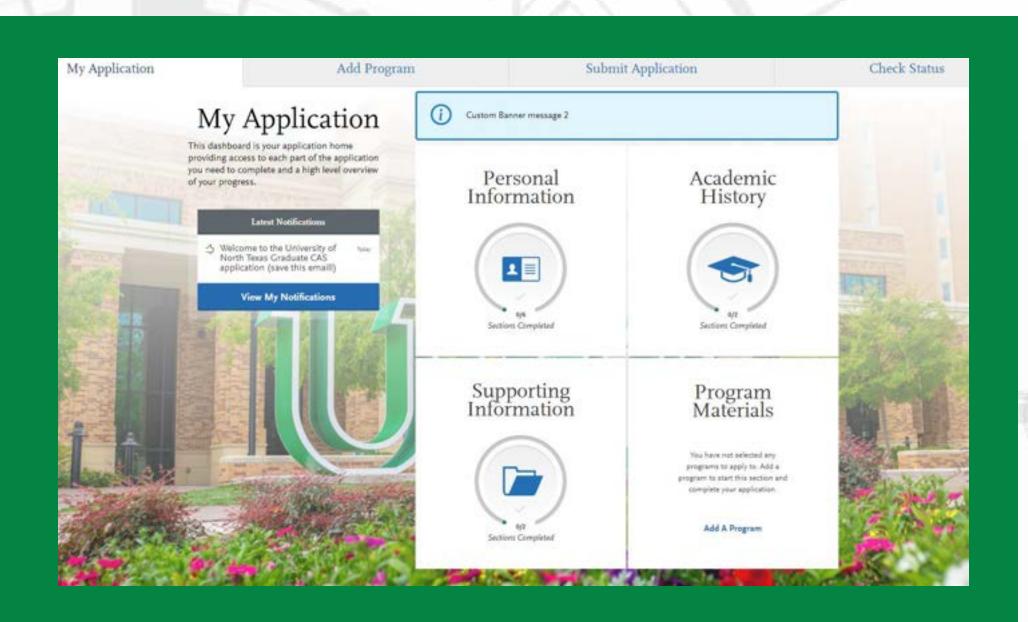
Admission decision: made by the program!



## **APPLYTEXAS APP PROCESS**

## Step one (Admissions and Program)

- Fill out GradCAS application
- Upload: letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, resume, and more—onto the GradCAS platform!
- Request transcripts through GradCAS.



Admission decision: made by the program!



## SO WHO DECIDES HOW I GET ADMITTED?

## TWO ADMISSIONS DECISIONS?

- Not really.
- We (Toulouse / general admission) just verify your GPA.
- The *program* decides if you get admitted.

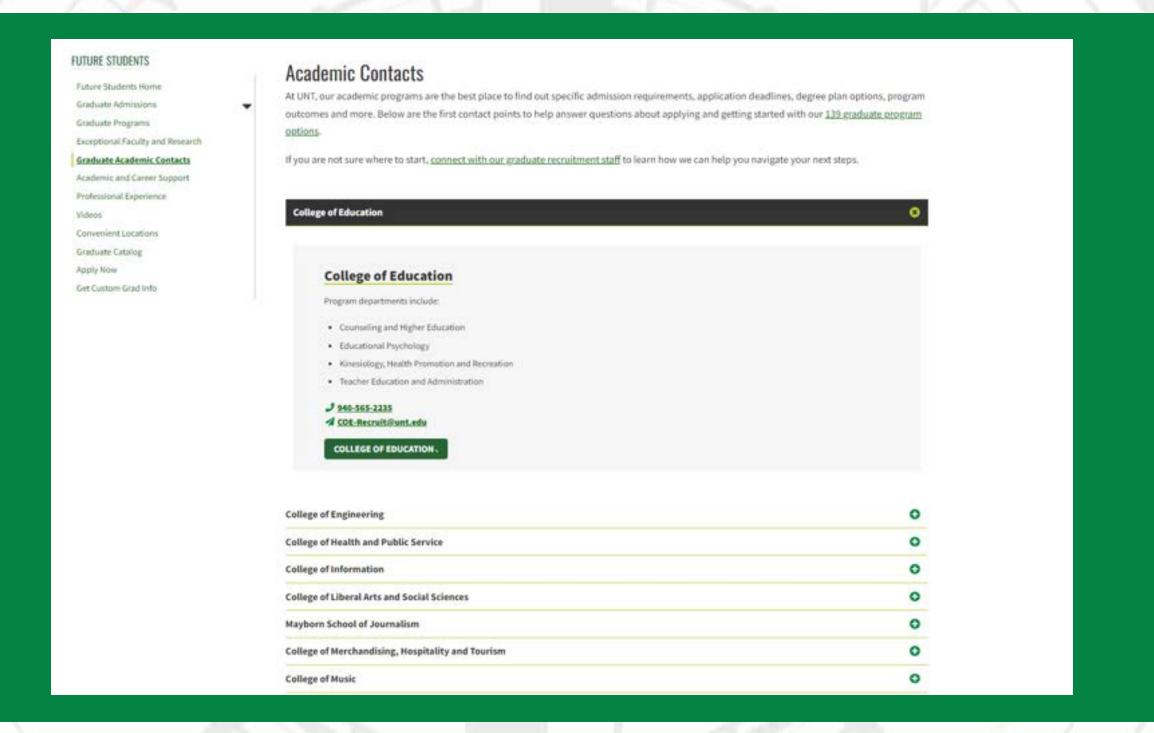




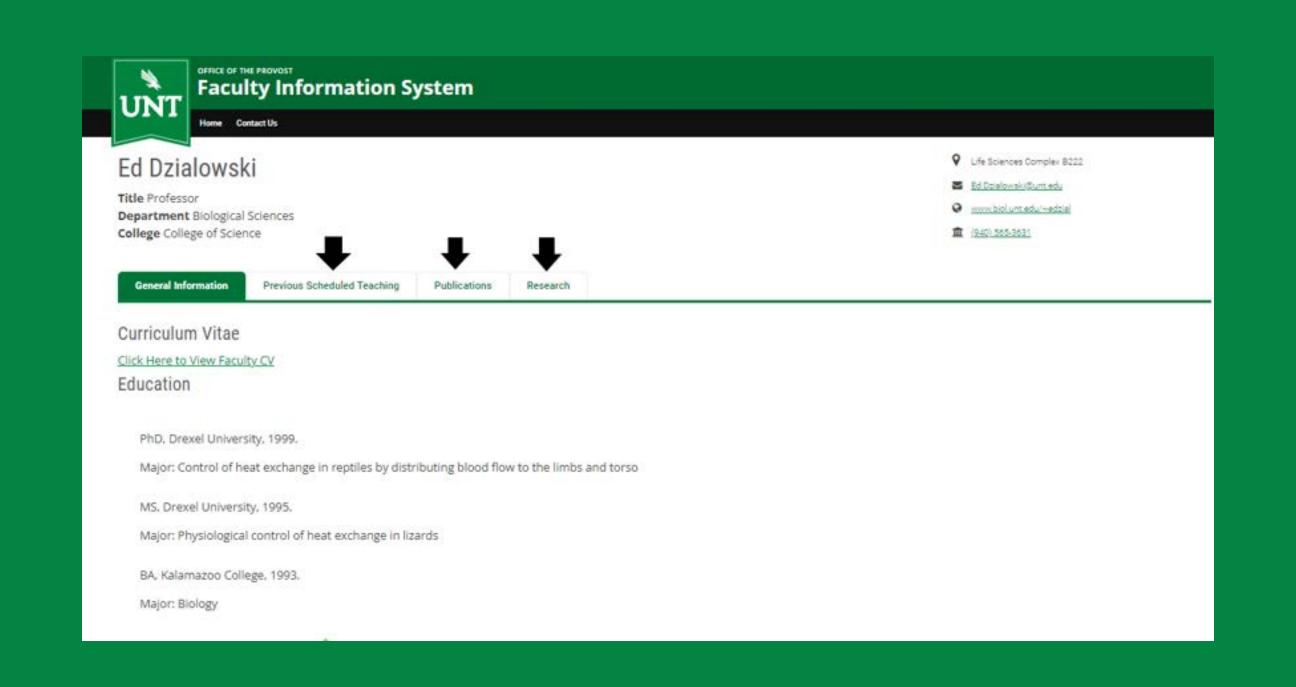
## How do I find out more?

Looking beyond the program website













# HOW do I pay for it?



- 1. General UNT Scholarships
- 2. Financial Aid (loans/grants)
- 3. Departmental Funding
- 4. External Options
- 5. Toulouse Graduate School







#### UNT General Academic Scholarships

- Through Student Financial Aid and Scholarships (SFAS)
- Reapply each year for FALL semester
  - March 1st deadline
- FAFSA required

#### Financial Aid

- FAFSA required
- Loans
- Grants (no Pell Grant—sorry!)

#### Departmental Funding

- Departmental employment
- Department-specific scholarships

#### External Scholarships

- Scholarship Library in Financial Aid Office
- SFAS List of external scholarships
- Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships

#### Toulouse Graduate School Scholarships

- Travel Grants
- Academic Achievement Scholarship
- Robert B. Toulouse Scholarship
- Dr. Betty Berkeley Graduate Fellowship in Interdisciplinary Studies
- Externally funded doctoral student scholarship





- Departmental employment 20 hour/week salaried positions
  - <u>Teaching Fellow</u> instructor of record
  - <u>Teaching Assistant</u> assist with instructional process
  - Research Assistant engaged in research activities
  - <u>Graduate Services Assistant</u> carries out activities not directly related to teaching or research
    - These positions can also qualify for the Tuition Benefit Program
    - Employment waiver towards in-state tuition rates
- Other on campus job listings through the career center







## REMEMBER TO...



- Check deadlines early and often
- Various deadlines and qualifications
  - Stay organized!
  - Most will require admission to program before the deadline



## LIFE HAPPENS!

## LIFE HAPPENS

- Sometimes it's not the right time.
- Your application is good for one year.
  - \*After Spring 2025 students will be required to pay second app fee.
- Update Form.





## **Update Your Application**

#### **GRADUATE ADMISSIONS**

Graduate Admission

Traditional

International

Other Graduate Opportunities

If you need to make changes to your admissions application, select from the options below.

- Update your application to the same program for the Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 term: Submit the following request to update your application.
  - · Application updates for entry to Summer 2025 or Fall 2025 will require a new application. Please follow these steps for applying.

**Please note:** Updating your application does not guarantee admission to a future term. Your department will review your application again and enter a new decision for the updated term.

- Apply for a different program: Complete a new application. Please follow these steps for applying.
- Withdraw your application: Submit the following request.

If you have any questions about updating your application, please contact us.









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## THANKS FOR JOINING US

TODAY!



Desiree Padron | <u>firstgen@unt.edu</u> 940-369-5251 | The Union, Suite 376



Precious Azobor | <u>Precious.Azobor@unt.edu</u> 940-565-2383 | ESSC 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor



## LOOKING FOR MORE? CHECK OUT OUR FULL SCHEDULE HERE!



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