

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS®

Exploring Grad School Week | Sep 25-29, 2023

FIRST GENERATION TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Presented by: Precious Azobor, Desiree Padron, and Alexandria Mays

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MEET YOUR PANELISTS



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MEET YOUR PANELISTS



Desiree Padron

Director | First Generation Success Center



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MEET YOUR PANELISTS



Precious Azobor

Graduate Admissions Recruiter | Denton



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MEET YOUR PANELISTS

Alexandria Mays

Admissions Recruiter | B.S. Education – UNT |
Frisco

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Desiree Padron



Desiree Padron serves 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.

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.

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WHAT IS THE *FGSC* AND HOW CAN WE HELP?

- FGSC is a resource center developed to better support first-generation 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**

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WHY AN ADVANCED DEGREE

- An advanced degree provides additional economic 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!

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WHEN TO START THINKING ABOUT GRAD SCHOOL

- Typically, 6-18 months prior to your first semester; Longer for international applicants
- Deadlines to apply are decided by each, separate program at UNT
- Always check with your program of interest to learn when to apply by

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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

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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

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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

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WHO we are and WHERE we're located



(From right to left):

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

You can find us at the ESSC, 3rd floor.
Construction

UNT Frisco Office

- **Ellen Klimpel**, Admissions Recruiter

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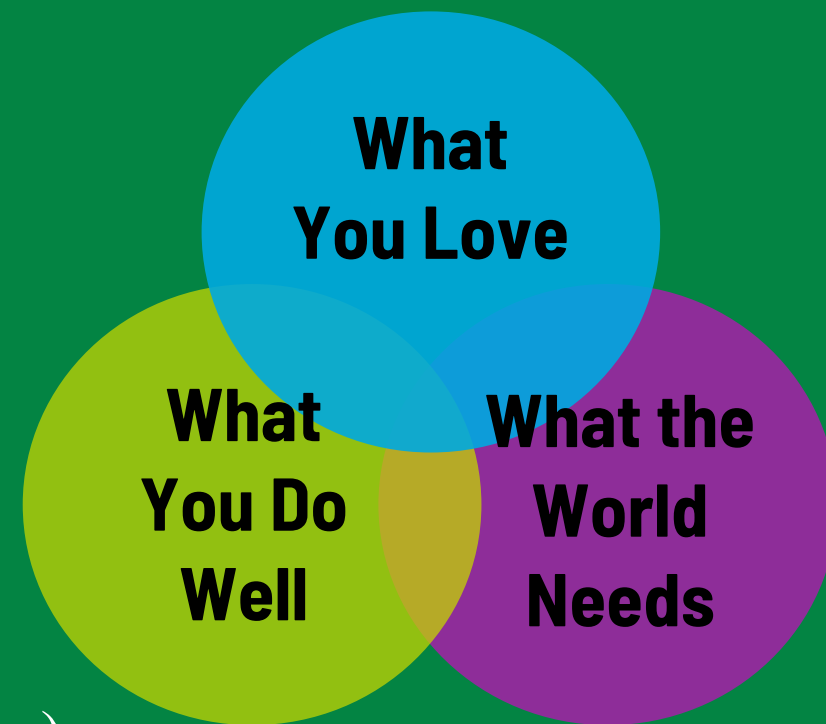


WHAT is Graduate School?

- More focused
- 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:

- 94 master's
- 36 doctoral
- Median class size: 9
- Average age for grad student: 31
- **Fall 2023: 13,268**
 - 15.4% Grow over Fall 2022
- Over 80 online graduate programs

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WHERE are We?

FACTS:

100+ grad student: 31
 68
 12022
 graduate programs

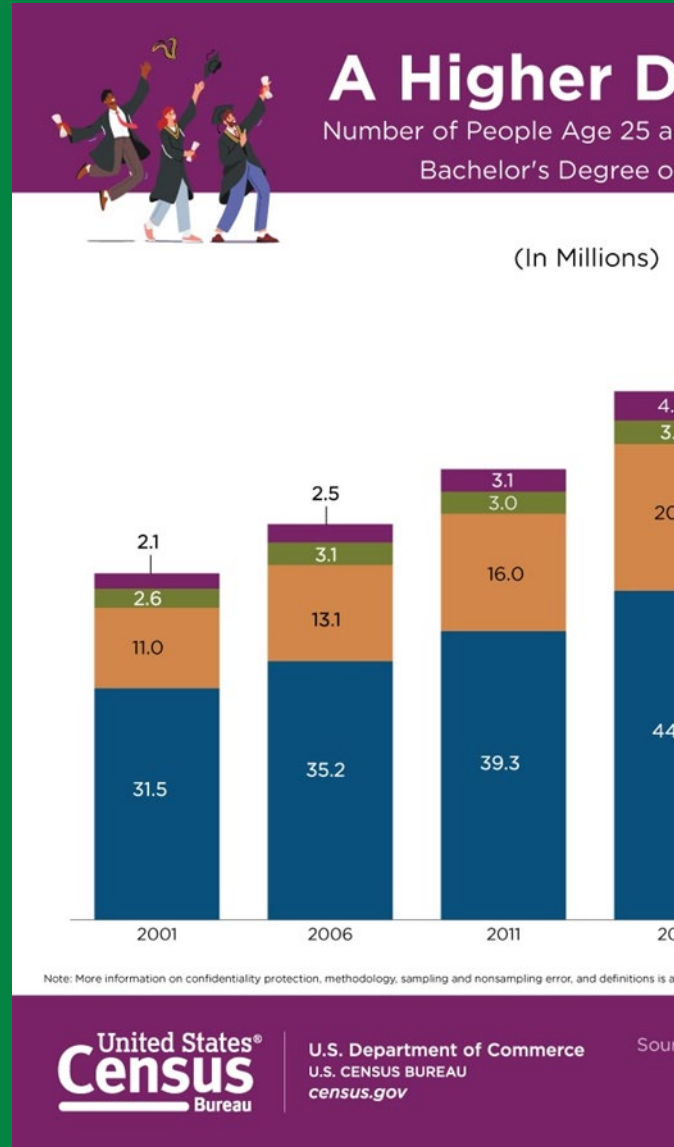
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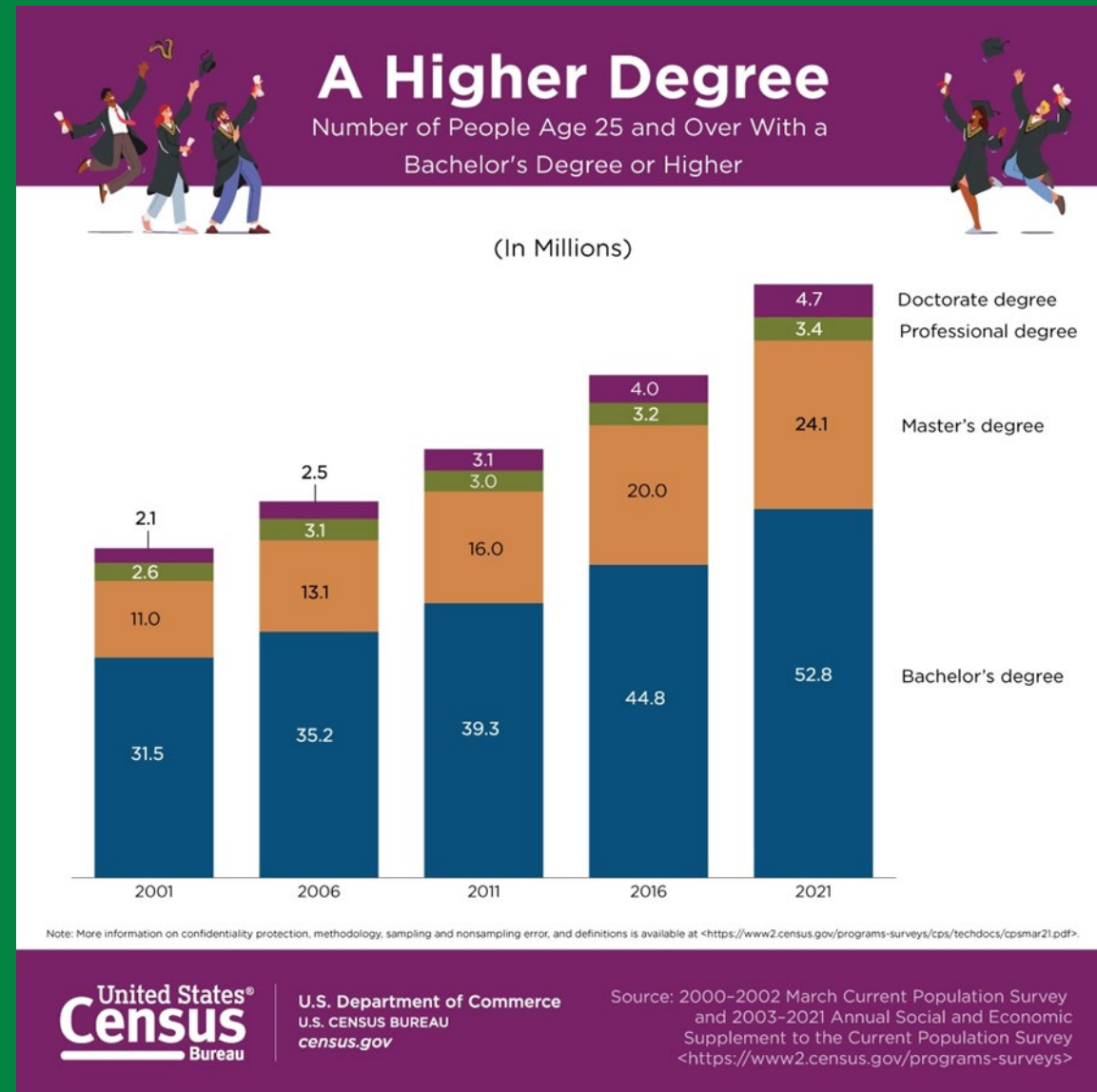
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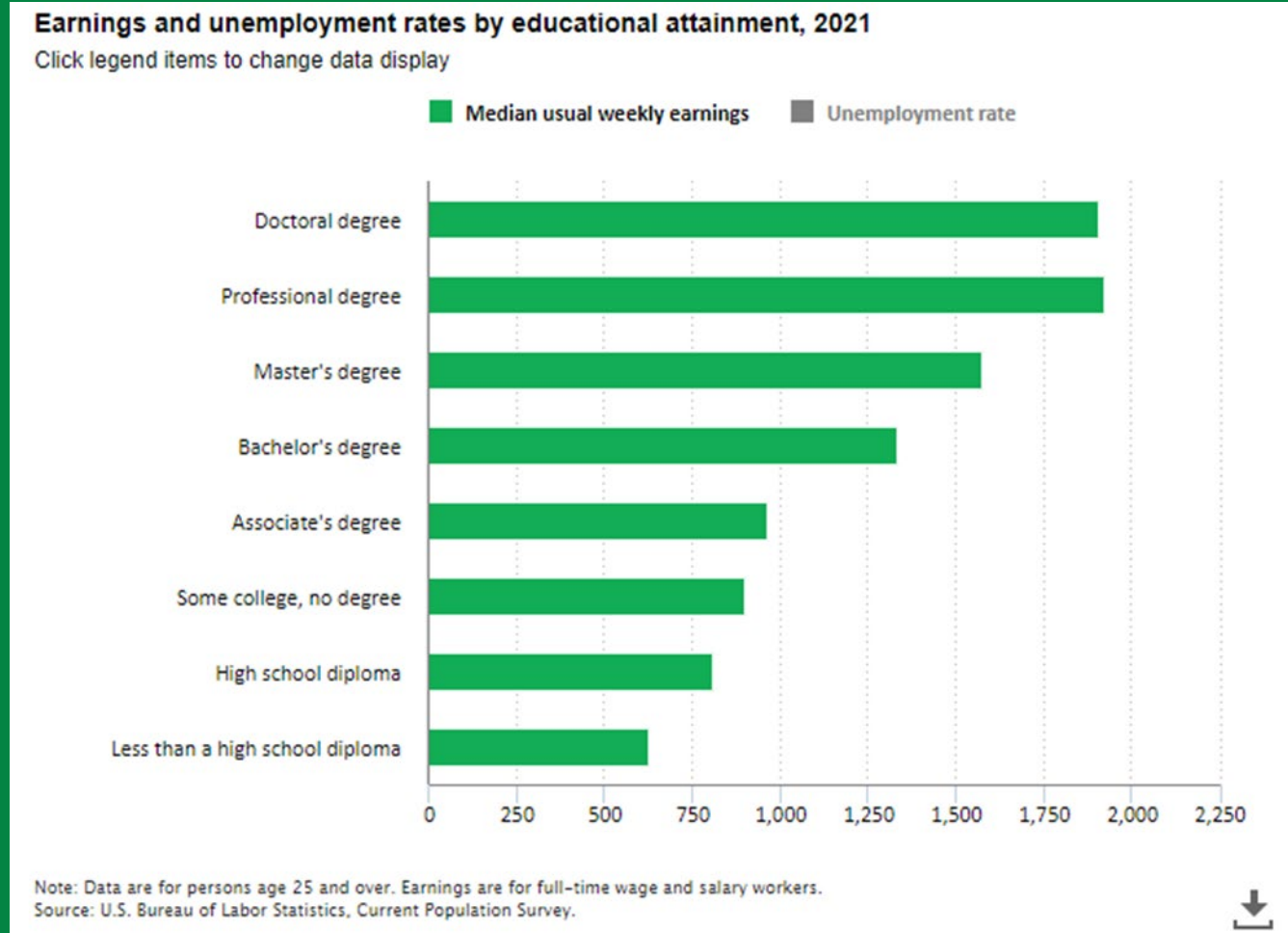
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WHY Graduate School?



EARNING POTENTIAL

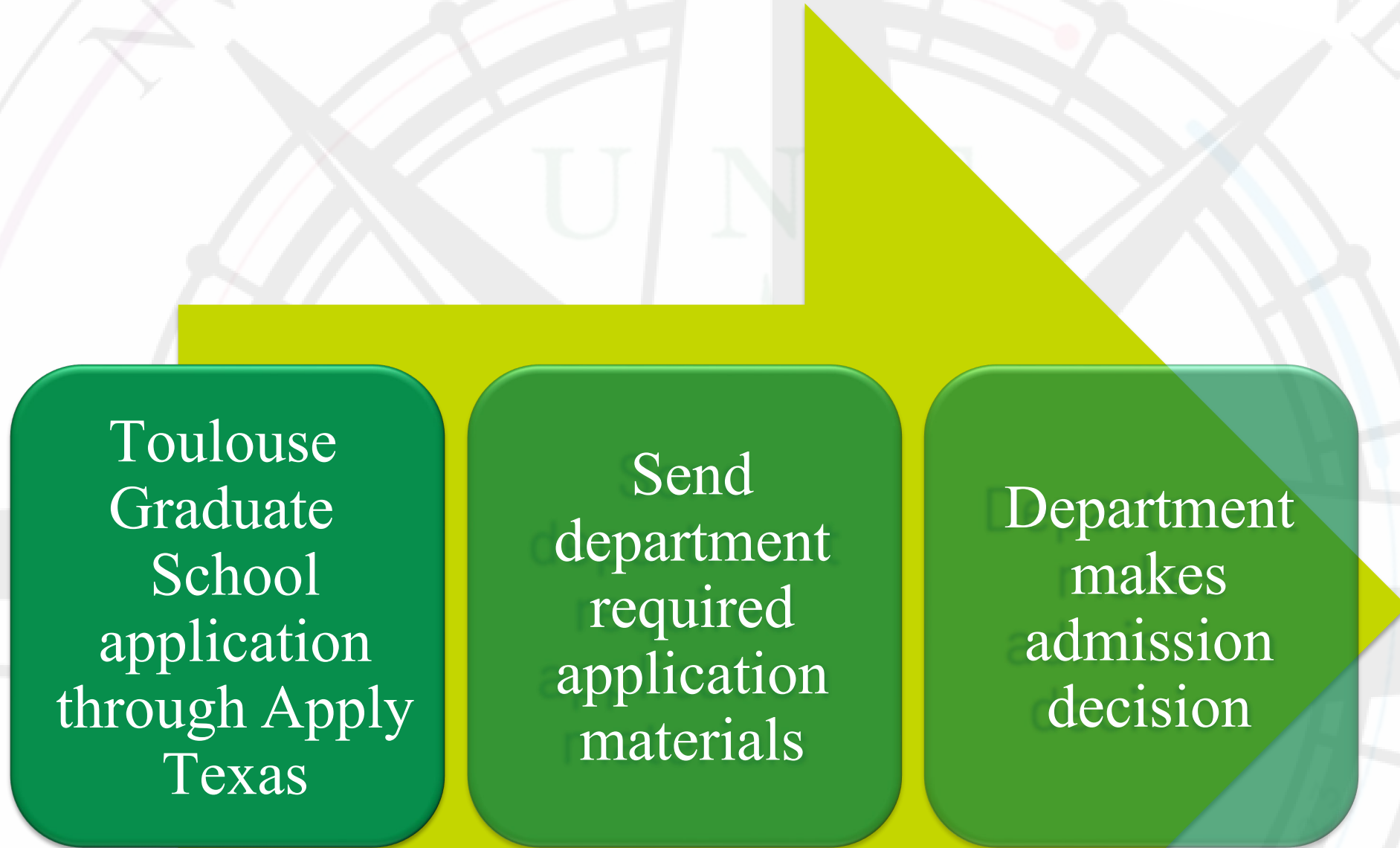


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2022

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UNT's Application Process



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Two-Step Application Process

I. Apply to the Toulouse Graduate School (General Admissions)

- a. Submit General Application on ApplyTexas.org.
- b. Submit copies of your transcripts.
- c. ***Additional international Student Requirement***

II. Apply to your academic program

- a. Contact your program.
- b. Programs require materials like letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, resume/CV, or portfolio of sample work.
- c. GRE/GMAT test as required by your department

**ONE OF THE
NATION'S TOP
GRADUATE
SCHOOLS
--
ABOUND.COLLEGE**

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Two Admission Decisions?

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

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How do I pay for it?

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

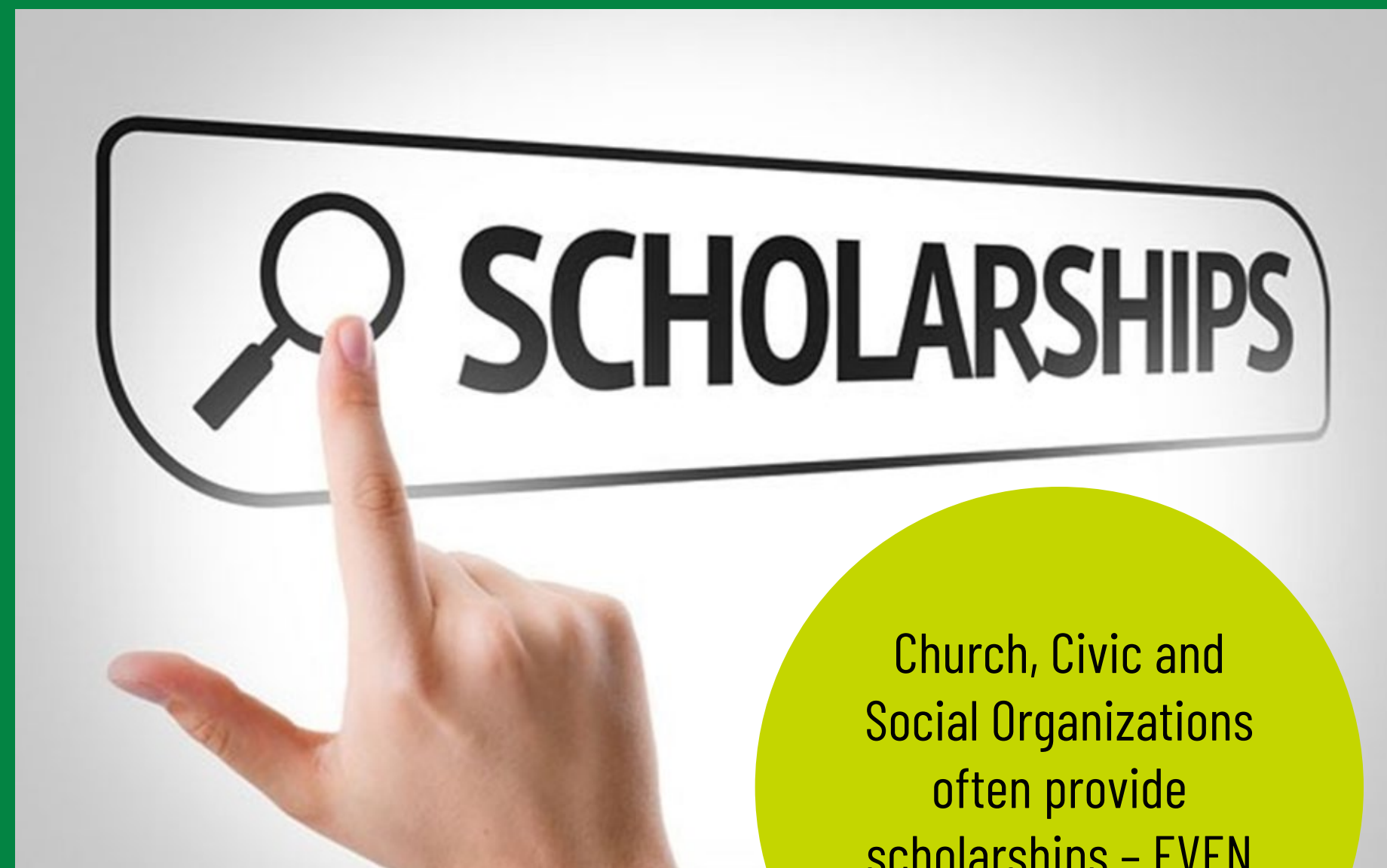


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- **UNT General Academic Scholarships**
 - Through Student Financial Aid and Scholarships (SFAS)
 - Reapply each year for FALL semester
 - March 1st deadline
 - FAFSA required
- **Financial Aid**
 - FAFSA required
 - Loans
 - Grants (no Pell Grant—sorry!)
- **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



Church, Civic and Social Organizations often provide scholarships - EVEN for grad students!!

- Departmental employment –20 hour/week salaried positions
 - Teaching Fellow - instructor of record
 - Teaching Assistant –assist with instructional process
 - Research Assistant –engaged in research activities
 - Graduate Services Assistant –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*

**Departments
support
opportunities**

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REMEMBER TO...



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

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LIFE HAPPENS!

- Sometimes it's not the right time.
- Your application is good for one year.
- Update Form.



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Alexandria Mays



Alex Mays currently serves as an Admissions Recruiter at the University of North Texas at Frisco. She is a proud alumni of UNT having graduated with her B.S. in Education in December of 2022. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Education in Higher Education in hopes to further support students as an Academic Advisor. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and binging a good Netflix series.

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QUESTIONS?

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THANKS FOR JOINING US TODAY!



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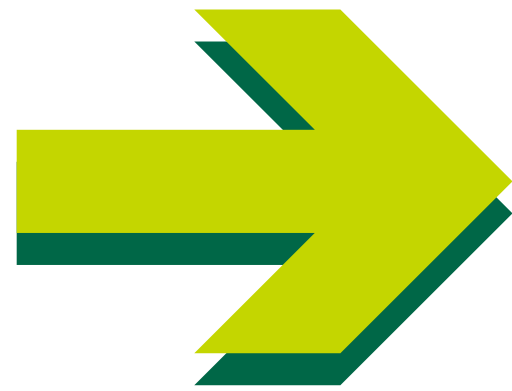
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LOOKING FOR MORE? CHECK OUT OUR FULL SCHEDULE HERE!



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