

EXCELLENCE

IN:

SCHOLARSHIP

LEADERSHIP



**PhD in Public Administration
and Management**

**Policies and Procedures Handbook
2024-25**

University of North Texas





COLLEGE OF HEALTH
& PUBLIC SERVICE
Department of Public
Administration

PhD STUDENT HANDBOOK

**Policies and Procedures for the
PhD Program in Public Administration and Management**

Academic Year 2024-25

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*All elements of this handbook are good faith descriptions of program operation. However, program policies and procedures may be changed to serve the interests of the program. Students may be subject to such changes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission Statement

The mission of the PhD program in Public Administration and Management is to prepare scholars who are dedicated to creating and disseminating new knowledge and to advancing the study and practice of public administration.

Goals and Objectives

The PhD in Public Administration and Management is designed primarily for those interested in scholarly careers as researchers and teachers. The PhD program emphasizes theory, methods and research in the field to enable its graduates to become effective teachers and contribute to the development and dissemination of public administration knowledge. Since students entering the PhD program are expected to have satisfied the core requirements for a NASPAA-accredited MPA degree, the curriculum for doctoral students emphasizes analytic tools and theoretical issues confronting the study and practice of public administration.

The Department of Public Administration is committed to providing each student with honest feedback about scholarly performance and potential. Our goal is to help students reach their academic and professional potential. Students who complete the PhD program should expect to achieve the following objectives:

1. Students will comprehend and critique the scholarly literature of public administration and management with a strong emphasis upon one subfield specialization.
2. Students will participate in class instruction, which may include serving as a teaching assistant, teaching fellow, lab assistant, or lecturer.
3. Students will present research at a scholarly conference and submit an article for publication.
4. Students will apply for external funding.

Institutional Setting

The University of North Texas (UNT) is the fourth largest educational institution in Texas and the largest and most comprehensive institution in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. UNT is classified as a Carnegie Tier 1 Research University, making it one of the top 115 universities nationwide in innovation, scientific research, and high-level scholarship. It is viewed as a leader among research universities in the United States for its diverse degree programs, quality research, and partnerships with public and private organizations. The university is comprised of twelve schools and colleges and is governed by its own Board of Regents. The Board of Regents also oversees the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth and the UNT Dallas campus.

UNT is located in Denton, a city with a population of 140,000, located 39 miles northwest of Dallas and 36 miles northeast of Fort Worth. The Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area has a population of 7.6 million. Denton is home to two state universities, the Region VI office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and FEMA's National Processing Center (a telephone based center to receive and process claims following a disaster declaration). Its proximity to the north Dallas suburbs and to DFW Airport (27 miles) has also affected its growth and economic prosperity.

The DFW area has a large and active council of governments that includes approximately 200 local governments, has district offices for all major state agencies, and has numerous local, regional, and national offices of nonprofit organizations. For doctoral students, the North Texas area constitutes a vast urban laboratory with many opportunities for research.

ADMISSIONS

Admission to the PhD program is a two-tiered process that requires applicants to make simultaneous application to the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies and to the department's PhD program. To be fully admitted to the PhD program, students must first be admitted to the Toulouse Graduate School (TGS) and once admitted, students must receive admission to the department's PhD program.

Admission Process and Requirements

1. Apply for admission to the Toulouse Graduate School (tgs.unt.edu)
 - a. Submit TGS application forms and pay associated fees.
 - b. Submit transcripts from all universities/colleges attended.
 - c. Meet minimum GPA requirements of TGS.
 - d. Submit TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo English Test to TGS (International students only).
2. Apply for admission to the PhD program in the Department of Public Administration.
 - a. Submit department application form and personal statement.
 - b. Submit a statement of purpose no more than a 1,000-word addressing the following questions:
 - i. Why have you decided to pursue a PhD degree in Public Administration and Management?
 - ii. What are the reasons for choosing UNT's PhD program in Public Administration and Management?
 - iii. How will completing an PhD degree enhance your career goals?
 - iv. Describe your area of research interest in pursuing in PhD program.
 - c. Submit three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's ability to complete doctoral-level studies and complete a dissertation.
 - d. Submit one solo-authored academic writing sample of approximately 5,000 words.
 - e. Submit a current CV or resume.

The Department will review the portfolio of materials above to inform the admissions decision. Admission to the PhD program is based on an assessment of the applicant's academic ability and potential to meet the demands of a graduate program. The department uses multiple criteria to review each application. These criteria include, but are not limited to, the student's cumulative academic performance and potential as indicated by the quality of the student's undergraduate preparation for advanced study; the quality of their master's degree level of study; commitment to the study of public administration; potential to contribute significantly to the field of public administration through research, teaching, and service; and the extent to which the applicant's interests and professional goals correspond to those offered by the program and the faculty. Students may submit GRE scores if they believe the scores enhance their application. If self-reported GRE test scores are made on the application, students must submit the official test scores as a required component of their application.

There are two categories of admission to the program: unconditional and conditional admission. First, an applicant may receive unconditional admission to the program if the portfolio provides evidence that the applicant is highly likely to complete all requirements of the PhD program. Unconditional admission is only available to students who have completed an MPA degree or the core MPA course equivalents from an accredited college or university. If an applicant has not completed an MPA, but is otherwise qualified, then the applicant may obtain a conditional admission. Students accepted into the program under conditional admission must complete leveling coursework. In most cases, leveling coursework constitutes 9 to 18 hours of coursework to be completed before beginning doctoral seminars in the department.

The department does not offer a dual MPA/PhD option. Students admitted to the PhD program who subsequently elect to pursue an MPA degree at UNT must consult with the MPA Program Coordinator within the first 12 hours of enrolling in Master's-level courses to complete an MPA degree plan. That plan must be approved by the PhD Program Coordinator. Students opting to complete an MPA degree concurrent with the PhD degree should expect to add two years to their degree program.



Prospective students are welcome to apply at any time. Official transcripts and test scores must be sent directly to the Graduate School by the institution and ETS, respectively. Letters of recommendation, the resume and personal statement can be sent directly to the department at the following email account:

PHD.PADM@UNT.EDU

While applications may be submitted throughout the year, the program has Fall semester intakes only. Applications for the Fall semester will be considered until mid-July of each year or until the cohort is filled.

Applications received by **February 1** each year will receive preference for funding such as scholarships, teaching positions and research fellowships. However, applications are reviewed when received. Moreover, early applicants will receive stronger consideration for financial support.

International Students

In addition to the requirements for the degree program, international students must also submit (1) TOEFL scores (or IELTS, or Duolingo English Test), and (2) an affidavit of financial resources. For more information on international applications, review the TGS website, including the webpages for international applications: [TGS.UNT.EDU](https://tgs.unt.edu). International students must also complete UNT language testing to be eligible for teaching positions and associated financial support.

Transfer Students and Hours

Students may transfer into the PhD program from another institution. A student in the PhD program must complete all PhD core course requirements in the Department of Public Administration at UNT. A student may transfer a maximum of nine credit hours of elective course(s); the student is responsible for insuring that transfer courses fulfill UNT degree requirements. Students should submit appropriate information, such as a course syllabus, to the PhD program Coordinator for approval. Transferring of on-line credit hours will not be accepted.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The University of North Texas offers a PhD in Public Administration and Management tailored for those seeking excellence in scholarly research and advanced study in the field of public administration. The full-time, in-person program is highly successful at training student-scholars and helping them find high-profile positions in academia and related research fields. The program of study requires the student to undertake advanced study in the major area of public administration and management, one of four minor fields, social science methods, and non-dissertation research hours. The first two years of study provide the theoretical and methodological foundations for advanced research in the field. The third year of study includes qualifying examinations and successful defense of a dissertation proposal. The dissertation research should be defended by the end of the fourth year.

The PhD program requires 57 credit hours of course work beyond that received in completing the MPA degree. The PhD coordinator specifies the leveling courses after admission to the program. Course descriptions can be found in the Graduate Catalog.

1. **Major Field/Core Requirements (12 credit hours):** The Major Field/Core includes four doctoral seminars that are foundational to the study of public administration and management. The following courses are required and constitute the knowledge base for the major field component of the qualifying exam.
 - a. PADM 6010. Introduction to the Study of Public Administration
 - b. PADM 6015. Public Organization Theory and Research
 - c. PADM 6025. Institutional Context of Public Administration
 - d. PADM 6110. Public Management

2. **Research Methods (12 credit hours):** The doctoral program emphasizes the development of research skills that include statistical analysis and other methods appropriate for a student's field of study. The following courses are required as specified.
 - a. PADM 6035. Social Science Inquiry. (required of all students).
 - b. PADM 5510/6710. Administrative Methods II. Graduates of UNT's MPA program cannot use these hours on their degree plan. As a substitute, they must take two electives from the list in Section 2e below.
 - c. Six (6) hours (or nine hours if PADM 5510 is already taken in the case described in b) of research methods in consultation with major professor and advisory committee.

3. **Minor field (15 credit hours):** Four specializations or minor fields of study are available. Students are required to select one and only one minor field.
 - a. **Urban Management**
 - i. Required courses
 1. PADM 5100/6710 Local Government Management
 2. PADM 5300/6710 Introduction to Planning
 3. PADM 5700-001/6710 Regionalism
 4. PADM 5560/6710 Performance Measurement in Public/Nonprofit Sector
 - ii. Three (3) hours of elective determined in consultation with major professor and advisory committee
 - b. **Financial Management**
 - iii. Required courses
 1. PADM 5430/6710 Financial Accountability in Government
 2. PADM 5700-001/6710 Regionalism
 3. PADM 5700-002/6710 Nonprofit Financial Management
 4. PADM 5560/6710 Performance Measurement in Public/Nonprofit Sector
 - iv. Three (3) hours of elective determined in consultation with major professor and advisory committee
 - c. **Nonprofit Management**

- v. Required courses
 1. PADM 5040/6710 Nonprofit Theory and Management
 2. PADM 5700-004/6710 Fund Development for NPOs
 3. PADM 5700-003/6710 Public-Nonprofit Partnership
 4. PADM 5700-002/6710 Nonprofit Financial Management
- vi. Three (3) hours of elective determined in consultation with major professor and advisory committee

d. Emergency Management

- vii. Required courses
 1. EMDS 5010/6710 Emergency Management Theory and Practice
 2. EMDS 5110/6710 Disaster Research Method
 3. EMDS 6800/6710 EMDS seminar
 4. PADM 5700-005/6710 Economic Development and Disasters (only offered in the summer at instructor’s discretion)
- viii. Three (3) hours of elective determined in consultation with major professor and advisory committee

- 4. **Non-dissertation research (9 hours):** These are applied research hours designed to produce publishable scholarly work.
 - a. PADM 6700. Research practicum in which students assist faculty research projects and complete professionalization activities.
 - b. PADM 6700. Research practicum in which students produce a defensible manuscript independently or in collaboration with faculty. It is expected that the student would be the first author or major contributor when manuscript is submitted for publication. Students will also complete professionalization activities.
 - c. PADM 6940. Directed research in public administration. All students are required to take 3 hours of PADM 6940 in Fall semester of the third year with their dissertation or field exam chair. The course is a readings course to help the student prepare for field exams and dissertation proposal.
- 5. **Dissertation hours (9 hours minimum).** Students must complete 9 hours of dissertation research. Students are eligible to register for dissertation hours once they have completed the core and field exam process.

The program is designed to be completed in four years for students who have completed an MPA and no more than five years for those conditionally admitted. We strongly expect students to finish in this time frame.

Suggested Curriculum for Students Entering in Fall 2024

| Year | Fall Semester | Spring Semester | Summer Semester |
|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 st | PADM 6110 PADM 5510/6710 PADM 6035 | PADM 6015 Research Methods class Minor Field #1 | PADM 6700-1 |
| 2 nd | PADM 6010 Research Methods class Minor Field #2 | PADM 6025 Minor Field #3 Minor Field #4 | PADM 6700-2 Core exam = June |
| 3 rd | PADM 6940 Minor Field #5 Field Exam =by December | PADM 6950 – 3 hours Proposal defense = by May | |
| 4 th | PADM 6950 – 3 hours | PADM 6950 – 3 hours | |

Qualifying exam. Once all course work has been completed, the student then must satisfactorily pass a qualifying examination. This consists of both an examination over the core curriculum of public administration as well as a selected area of specialization. Successful completion of both components will lead to the student's admission to candidacy for the PhD degree.

Degree Plan. Once admitted to the doctoral program and prior to taking any graduate courses, a prospective student must seek advice from the doctoral program coordinator, who will serve as the advisor during the first nine hours of graduate study. Subsequent degree plan updates should be completed each year and are the responsibility of the student to complete and get appropriate signatures.

All work to be credited toward the doctoral degree must be completed within a period of 10 years from the date doctoral credit is first earned. Thus, for a student who would like to transfer doctoral level courses completed in another institution before enrolling at UNT, the 10 years would start from the year the course was taken, not the year the student enrolled at UNT. To be eligible for transfer, coursework has to have been taken at an accredited school/college, must have received graduate credit (correspondence work cannot be used), and must have received a letter grade (classes taken as P/NP or S cannot be counted).

Responsibility for reading catalog requirements and for knowing when the program has been completed rests entirely with the student. Application for graduation must be filed in the office of the Toulouse Graduate School before the appropriate deadline date in that particular semester and year (see Graduate School calendar).

Residency Requirements. To have the degree plan approved, every candidate for the doctoral degree must complete the appropriate residence requirement at UNT as prescribed by the individual departments and schools. The minimum residence requirement consists of two consecutive long terms/semesters at UNT (fall and the following spring, or spring and the following fall), or a fall or spring term/semester and one adjoining summer session/term at UNT. During the long terms/semesters a minimum of 9 hours must be taken.

STUDENT ADVISING AND ASSESSMENT

All students will undergo an annual review which entails the submission of an annual report that is evaluated by the PhD Coordinator and an advisory committee. The function of the review process is to provide advice and feedback regarding student performance. The annual process is described below.

1. Year One

- a. Assessment
 - i. Complete informal degree plan with PhD Coordinator at New Student Orientation.
 - ii. Annual assessment. Submit a digital copy of the annual report to the PhD Coordinator and Advisory Committee by January 1st of the Spring semester. Students will meet with an advisory committee by January 30th of the Spring semester.
 - iii. Successful completion of PADM 6700-001 (summer term).
- b. Advisory Committee Selection
 - i. Student selects an advisory committee chair by October 25th.
 - ii. The PhD Program Coordinator selects one additional member of the advisory committee.
- c. Advisory Committee functions:
 - i. Review and advise student on progress.
 - ii. Modify degree plan, as needed.

2. Year Two

- a. Advisory Committee Selection
 - i. Student selects three faculty to serve on a field exam and advisory committee by October 25th. Student should complete the field exam selection form and submit to the PhD Coordinator.
- b. Assessment
 - i. Annual assessment. Submit a digital copy of the annual report to the PhD Coordinator and Advisory Committee by January 1st of the Spring semester. Students will meet with an advisory committee by January 30th of the Spring semester.
 - ii. Successful completion of PADM 6700-002 (summer term).
 - iii. Committee requires PhD Coordinator approval.
- c. Advisory Committee functions:
 - i. Advise students on field courses and exam preparation.
 - ii. Help student prepare for dissertation committee selection.

3. Year Three

- a. Assessment
 - i. Annual assessment. Submit a digital copy of the annual report to the PhD Coordinator and Advisory Committee by January 1st of the Spring semester. Students will meet with an advisory committee by January 30th of the Spring semester.
 - ii. Successful completion of qualifying exam.
 - iii. Successful complete of PADM 6940 readings course (fall)
 - iv. Successful defense of dissertation prospectus (spring)
- b. Dissertation Committee Selection
 - i. Students must submit documentation declaring a dissertation committee by January 30th of the Spring semester.
 - ii. The committee should be no larger than four (4) persons and three (3) must be PADM faculty with authorization to sit on dissertation committees and must be approved by the PhD Coordinator.
 - iii. Once selected, any change to dissertation committee membership or major professor/chair must be approved by the PhD Coordinator.



4. Year Four

- a. Assessment
 - i. Annual assessment. Submit a digital copy of the annual report to the PhD Coordinator and Dissertation Committee by January 1st of the Spring semester. Students will meet with an advisory committee by January 30th of the Spring semester.
 - ii. Successful defense of dissertation.
- b. Any change to dissertation committee membership or major professor/chair must be approved by the PhD Coordinator.

5. Beyond Year Four

- a. Annual assessment. Submit one hard copy and one digital copy of the annual report to the PhD Coordinator and Dissertation Committee by January 1st of the Spring semester. The dissertation chair will determine whether to convene a formal committee meeting, but all review materials must be routed to committee members and a formal assessment filed with the PhD Coordinator.
- b. Successful defense of dissertation.
- c. Any change to dissertation committee membership or major professor/chair must be approved by the PhD Coordinator

All students are expected to successfully defend dissertation by the end of Year Four. Continued study and enrollment in the program will be monitored closely to ensure that the student is making adequate progress. Students who fail to complete a dissertation within six years of starting the program are not making adequate progress, which is grounds for potential dismissal from the program.



ACADEMIC PROBATION, SUSPENSION, & PROGRAM DISMISSAL

All students must remain in good standing in the program. The Department retains the authority to dismiss students at any time if they fail to maintain good standing. Good standing is a function of academic performance, successful completion of program milestones, and student behavior. The determination of good standing will be made by the doctoral program coordinator with the advice and consent of a faculty review committee.

Academic Probation and Suspension. The Toulouse Graduate School will place students on academic probation if their cumulative GPA falls below 3.0. Please see the graduate catalog for further information about academic probation and suspension.

Program Dismissal. The Department of Public Administration can deny a graduate student continued enrollment in the PhD program for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Receipt of two C grades in PADM 5510 (or it's 6710 equivalent), PADM 6035, PADM 6010, PADM 6015, PADM 6025, or PADM 6110 results in automatic dismissal from the program.
- Failure to meet published departmental or University requirements.
- Failure to maintain satisfactory progress toward the PhD degree. This includes, but is not limited to, incompletes in course work, the failure to complete identified milestones in pre-dissertation research, or failure to make adequate progress in dissertation research.
- Failure in the qualifying examination.
- A recommendation for dismissal by an advisory committee or PhD coordinator on the basis that continued enrollment is not in the best interest of the program.

The process for program dismissal other than for Qualifying Exam failure begins with a recommendation for dismissal from a student's advisory committee or the PhD Coordinator made to a faculty review committee. Upon such a recommendation, the student will be notified, in writing, by the PhD Coordinator. The student will be invited to respond in writing and a meeting will be scheduled with the faculty review committee within 15 business days.

If, following these deliberations, the recommendation for dismissal is upheld, the student will be dismissed from the program. Alternatively, the faculty review committee may place the student on probation with recommendations for corrective action or reject the recommendation. The student's advisory committee will be responsible for monitoring the results of implementing the recommendations.



DOCTORAL EXAMINATION PROCESS

The qualifying examination tests student knowledge of the literature in the core courses and designated field. Passing the qualifying exam is required before a student is eligible to defend a dissertation proposal. The qualifying examination consists of two parts: a core curriculum exam and a field exam. The core curriculum exam consists of two 6-hour written exams in the substantive core at the University of North Texas. The core curriculum exam is taken in June of the second year of the program. The field exam includes a written and oral exam that is taken in December of the third year of the program. The form of the written field exam varies by field and is defined by a field exam committee. In each exam, the student will be expected to demonstrate the ability to recall important literature, critically evaluate the central issues and debates in each area, identify research gaps, and conceptualize trends and opportunities in future scholarship. All students must pass the core curriculum exam and field exam to be eligible to defend a dissertation proposal.

The Core Examination

Only students who have completed all core course work, have completed the first two years of the cohort, and are in good standing (with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better in the PhD program) may take the core examination. The student must resolve all incomplete grades in core courses prior to taking the core curriculum examination. The PhD coordinator will certify the successful completion of core course work and will administer the comprehensive examination. Students are not permitted to consult notes, books, photocopies, or any other materials during the examination.

The core exam is taken in June of the second year, at the discretion of the PhD Coordinator. The core exam consists of a two-day written exam. The exam covers the issues and material presented in the core courses. Each academic year, a four-member PhD Core Exam Committee (P-CEC) will be appointed by the department chair in consultation with the PhD coordinator to grade the core exam. The term of appointment for committee members is one academic year. At the conclusion of the exam, each member of the committee will submit a vote of pass or fail to the PhD coordinator, who will compile the results. Three of the four members of the Core Exam Committee must pass the student to complete the core curriculum examination successfully. A student who fails the core exam retakes the examination during August of the same year. If the retake is graded as failing, the student will be dismissed from the program without appeal.

The Field Examination

Only students who have completed all core course work, have completed the first two years of the cohort, are in good standing (with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better in the PhD program), and have passed the core examination may take the field examination. The student must resolve all incomplete grades prior to taking the field examination. The PhD coordinator will certify the successful completion of core exam and administer the comprehensive examination. The PhD Field Examination Committee (P-FEC) will consist of at least three public administration faculty members who have been selected by the student and certified by the PhD Coordinator. Field committees may include up to four members and one member may be outside the department.

The field exam is taken in the Fall semester of the third year. The exam will cover the issues and materials defined by the field exam committee. The form of the field exam will be determined by the field exam committee, but all field exams must begin with a written exam and conclude with an oral exam. Students must work with the field exam committee to define the parameters of the field exam. The field exam committee will first review the written field exam to determine whether a student should proceed to the oral exam component. Once the field committee permits a student to proceed to the oral exam, the committee will determine whether the student passes the exam at the conclusion of the oral component. A student passes the field examination with passing votes from two field committee members. If the field exam committee believes that the written examination lacks sufficient quality to warrant moving on to the oral examination, the student can retake the written examination one time in the Spring semester of the third year. The field exam committee will then determine whether the student should proceed to the oral field exam.

Retaking of Field Exam

If the retaken written field exam is of insufficient quality to proceed to the oral field exam, then the student will be immediately dismissed from the program. Otherwise, the student will proceed to the oral field exam and the committee will determine whether the student passes as previously described. Once a student participates in the oral examination, he or she will either pass or fail the field exam with no option for a re-take. Failure of the Field Exam will result in immediately dismissal.



ADVANCEMENT TO PhD CANDIDACY

Prospectus and Dissertation

The doctoral candidate must then submit a prospectus which justifies the subject for the dissertation, reviews the academic literature on that subject, and describes the research agenda and methods for the study. Once approved, the student may conduct research and write a dissertation that contributes new knowledge to the field. The dissertation is prepared under the supervision of a major professor and a dissertation committee, selected by the student with the approval of the PhD coordinator, and then defended orally before the dissertation committee.

Following successful completion of the core and field examinations, students are admitted to degree candidacy. Students with this status are then required to write a dissertation and have it approved by a departmental dissertation committee. The committee for the dissertation will include the major professor (who serves as committee chair), two other professors from the department, and an outside committee member. The student's dissertation committee chair and other participating faculty can help the student hone ideas for the dissertation. The doctoral student should think seriously about performing original research in addition to academic interests, current events, status of the literature, state of the field(s), potential questions to address, research methods (e.g., qualitative or quantitative), and feasibility of the project among other things.

Once agreement on the topic is reached among the student and participating faculty, the process of writing a dissertation begins with the preparation of a dissertation prospectus. The prospectus identifies a problem to be explored, draws on relevant literature to show the significance of the problem for public administration, sets forth a line of argumentation to be pursued or hypotheses to be tested, and describes the approach or methods and the data that will be employed in conducting the research. The student will work with their major professor to devise a suitable prospectus which can include the following:

- Topic of dissertation and salience
- Research question(s) and hypotheses
- Literature review of the field(s) illustrating history and current state of research as well as gaps and unanswered questions
- Research methods, including justification and feasibility of chosen method
- Institutional Review Board paperwork and approval.
- Game plan for completing dissertation, including major milestones and dates for accomplishment
- Prospectus Approval from Dissertation Committee

While drafting the prospectus, the student should keep in mind the importance of this document. The prospectus is a vital part of the dissertation process because it can often be adapted to serve as the introductory chapters of the dissertation. In addition, the content, organization and argument of the prospectus are strong determinants of the student's ability to successfully complete a dissertation.

Once the prospectus is completed, it must be defended orally by the student and approved by the student's dissertation committee prior to proceeding with dissertation research. Two weeks prior to the prospectus defense, all members of the committee should be given a hard and electronic copy of the document for review. At this point, the prospectus defense is scheduled to allow for all members of the student's dissertation committee to be able to attend. The committee will meet behind closed doors to determine suitability of the prospectus. The dissertation committee must approve the prospectus defense with no dissenting votes and must then certify their acceptance in writing. If the candidate receives a grade of "unsatisfactory," the prospectus may be corrected. After passing the prospectus defense, the candidate will maintain continuous enrollment in dissertation hours each Fall and Spring semester until completing the research and writing of the dissertation. It will be the student's responsibility to ensure that the faculty

is apprised of the status of the dissertation during this period and complete the research in a timely manner.

Dissertation Defense

A final oral examination is scheduled for defense of the dissertation after the dissertation has been certified as ready for defense by the student's dissertation committee. The committee for the dissertation is the same committee for the prospectus. It includes the major professor (who serves as committee chair), and at least two other professors from the department. An outside committee member is optional. All members of

the committee shall have the right to full participation and voting. The dissertation committee must approve the dissertation and the defense with no dissenting votes and must then certify their approval in writing.

When the dissertation committee accepts the completed dissertation and all degree requirements have been met, the department will schedule the dissertation defense. A minimum of two weeks will be allowed to verify requirements and publicize the examination date and time. Interested members of the university community will be encouraged to attend the final oral examination and will be permitted to question the candidate but shall have no voting rights as the committee will meet behind closed doors to determine suitability of the work. If the candidate receives a grade of "unsatisfactory," the defense may be repeated one time. Under no circumstances will the student be allowed to defend it more than twice.

Once a dissertation has been approved, defended, corrected, and edited as necessary, it is submitted by the student to the Graduate School. Students must be careful to prepare their dissertation in conformity to all Graduate School specifications, as defined by the Graduate School. Other pertinent information about dissertation and related subjects can be found on the Graduate School website.

Graduation Requirements

Students are responsible for picking up a graduation packet and applying for graduation. Students should check the deadlines for graduation application (in the UNT catalogue or on the UNT website) and ensure that their information is submitted several months before the anticipated graduation ceremony.



FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS

The Department will work with prospective students to identify and apply for financial aid. In addition to Department and University sources, students are encouraged to explore funds that are available from federal and other sources.

Department of Public Administration Doctoral Teaching Assistantship and Fellowship:

The Department of Public Administration provides a limited number of teaching assistantships (TAs) and teaching fellowships (TFs) for doctoral students. These positions are open to students in the first or subsequent years of graduate study and are awarded on a competitive basis. TFs will be expected to teach assigned courses at the undergraduate level and perhaps the MPA level; TAs are expected to work for 20 hours a week under the supervision of a faculty member to whom he/she is assigned. Each position carries a stipend. Graduate assistants and fellows are expected to perform their duties satisfactorily and to remain in good academic standing during the tenure of their appointments and must be in good academic standing to qualify for a renewal.

The following Principles will guide the work assignment of Graduate Assistants.

1. Departmentally funded PhD students must complete these co-curricular activities:
 - a. Attend all departmental colloquiums, except when other professional activities interfere.
 - b. Participate in at least three approved workshops per year (in person or online).
 - c. Complete UNT's Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Program (G-STEP) prior to serving as a TF.
2. Departmentally funded PhD students include teaching fellows (TFs), teaching assistants (TAs), research assistants (RAs) and graduate student assistants (GSAs). The job description used by the Graduate School for these graduate assistant positions will be used by the department when making work assignments. Funded PhD students are expected to work 20 hours per week. Assignment of graduate assistants as RAs, TAs, TFs, or GSAs is dependent on departmental needs.
3. RAs are funded by faculty with external funding. Normally, RAs will be assigned to faculty for the duration of the external funding. Faculty who are assigned an RA are encouraged to produce a research product.
4. TAs are assigned to faculty taking into consideration faculty teaching loads and class sizes for both undergraduate and graduate classes. TAs are expected to assist the faculty by (1) regularly attending the faculty member's classes, (2) serving as guest speaker on limited occasions, (3) grading papers and exams where appropriate, (4) proctoring exams, and (5) other instructional duties that expose the student to the instructional duties of the professoriate. TAs may also have responsibility for research activities.
5. GSAs are expected to assist the faculty member to whom they are assigned by (1) regularly attending the faculty member's classes, (2) helping students with the technology used in the classroom, (3) helping with the upkeep and maintenance of the lab computers, (4) proctoring exams, and (5) keeping the lab open for students working on homework and group projects as required by the faculty.
6. TFs are expected to teach up to two courses per semester. As the instructor of record for the course, TFs must demonstrate all the qualities of classroom instructors including: (1) preparing a syllabus (in consultation with a faculty member in that area of specialization), (2) being well-prepared for class, (3) engaging students in the course content, (4) evaluating student performance, (5) providing student with frequent feedback on mastery of the course material, and (6) complying with university requests for information. TFs will be observed and evaluated by a tenure-track faculty member during the first semester. Non-native speakers must be certified for language proficiency in the classroom per state law.

7. At the end of each semester, faculty will be expected to complete an evaluation of the RA, TA, TF or GSA on a form provided by the chair.
8. Graduate assistants may be reassigned for cause such as instructional deficiencies in the classroom, failure to deliver adequate research assistance, or otherwise failure to meet expectations.
9. The allocation of graduate assistants in the Department of Public Administration is the responsibility of the department chair in consultation with the program coordinators and faculty.

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Academic Achievement Scholarships for New Doctoral Students

In recognition of their outstanding academic accomplishments, the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies will award a competitive \$1,000 Doctoral Academic Achievement Scholarship for the academic year to each qualifying new student who begins his or her study in a doctoral program at the University of North Texas during the academic year (Fall or Spring semester). Because these scholarships are competitive, international students and non-resident students who receive them will be entitled to pay Texas resident tuition for the term of their scholarships.

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Nationally Competitive Scholarships

The Graduate School encourages its students to work with Dr. James Duban, Director, Office for Nationally Competitive Scholarships, to locate external scholarships and fellowships. Dr. Duban's office will work with interested students to determine which of the 650 national scholarships they may qualify for and help them develop the application materials to compete for the awards.

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Graduate Fellowships for McNair Scholars

The purpose of the fellowship program is to provide McNair Scholars with financial support through their first year of graduate study at UNT until they qualify for admission and/or funding for doctoral work. The fellowship award is competitive and is open to Scholars in any of the McNair programs in the United States who complete their bachelor's degrees as a McNair Scholar and who have not yet begun graduate study. McNair Scholars must apply and be admitted to a graduate degree program at UNT to qualify for the fellowship. The competition is open to McNair Scholars seeking admission to a UNT master's degree program or to a UNT doctoral program immediately upon the completion of a bachelor's degree.

Graduate Student Travel Grants

Travel grants are offered by the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies, the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, and the UNT Graduate Student Council offer travel grants for qualified graduate students. Enrolled students in good standing who are pursuing master's or doctoral degrees may apply for Graduate Student Travel Grants to support the costs of their travel to national or international professional meetings this academic year. Funds will be available to support graduate students who:

- will be presenting peer-reviewed and accepted research or creative activity which the student authored/co-authored, created/co-created;
- are conducting or participating in workshops or professional development activities that will *substantially* enhance their professional skills or capabilities;

Students who receive any type of travel grant from the university must schedule a presentation of their paper with the faculty in order to receive necessary mentoring prior to the academic conference in question. Students who will present papers at conferences (but do not obtain university funding) are also strongly encouraged to schedule a meeting with faculty to improve content and presentation.

Craig Raupe Scholarships

Available for students in the Student Government Office Union 216B. This scholarship is for students attending a conference requiring fees or traveling expenses. All applications will be reviewed by a committee and each winner may be awarded up to \$250.

College of Public Affairs and Community Service Travel Money for Graduate Student

The College of Public Affairs and Community Service offers travel money to graduate students each year. The amount and number of grants vary by year.

Wachira Endowment for Public Service

The purpose of this award, named for Dr. David Wachira, its primary benefactor and a 2013 graduate of the PhD program in Public Administration, is to provide financial support to doctoral students in Public Administration and Management. Awards are available to currently enrolled PhD students for conference travel to present a paper. Students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 and be in good academic standing. Students must have the endorsement of their major advisor or major professor when applying for an award.

Outstanding PhD Student Award

Given annually by the faculty to a doctoral student who has achieved an exemplary academic record and who has contributed to the advancement of their chosen field of study through their scholarship, teaching, and public service.

Eligible students must have:

- Been enrolled in the PhD program in the Department of Public Administration during the current academic year. Students graduating in the current calendar year are eligible.
- Advanced to ABD status, i.e. have passed the field exam.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.50 for the doctoral program including any transferred hours.
- Made contributions to their field of study or to the general study of public administration through (1) presentations of papers at colloquia and academic conferences, (2) publications, (3) awards, (4) teaching evaluations, (5) grants, (6) service to the department, university, or professional associations, or (7) other activities that have advanced the study and practice of public administration.

The selection process proceeds as follows:

1. Each April, the PhD Coordinator identifies those PhD students who are eligible for the award;
2. Eligible students are invited to submit their CVs in support of their nomination;
3. For each nominee, the PhD Coordinator circulates to the faculty their name, their cumulative GPA, CV, and teaching scores for each course taught while in the doctoral program;
4. No later than the May faculty meeting, the PhD Coordinator reviews the candidates and the faculty select a recipient. The award is normally presented in August at the inaugural fall event to welcome new and returning doctoral students;
5. The recipient receives a plaque and the addition of their name to a perpetual plaque maintained in the department office.





COLLEGE OF HEALTH
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Public Administration

