



# University of North Texas leads with innovative pathway to prepare students for career success



Students need help connecting their high-impact experiences with the marketable skills they're developing. The University of North Texas (UNT) recognized this three years ago, during a campus-wide conversation to develop new student success initiatives associated with its re-accreditation process. UNT saw an especially valuable opportunity to strengthen connections across the university's student academic and co-curricular experiences.

### Demonstrating the career value of a UNT education

Most families ask UNT's Admissions Office: "Will attending UNT help my student get a job after they graduate?" The easy answer is "yes." However, UNT — like most public institutions — faces increasing pressure to articulate exactly how it will prepare students for meaningful careers.

Students already have a wide variety of rich, skill-building experiences during their time at the university. UNT decided to help students *collect, connect, and showcase* these experiences, identifying and drawing powerful connections among them. UNT also prioritized giving students valuable assessment and feedback on their skills to differentiate them from the competition.

Through this approach, UNT's well-rounded graduates can demonstrate their marketable skills with meaningful evidence that reflects what employers are seeking from candidates.

### Building a pathway to success

With these priorities established, UNT set out to increase undergraduate engagement with career planning by creating a meaningful pathway experience that was clear and accessible to students. The pathway integrates and organizes existing activities and offerings that align with institutional priorities, in the context of a new university-wide Career Connect pathway.

#### About the University of North Texas (UNT)

University of North Texas (UNT), Denton, TX (near Dallas) is a Public Tier One research university diverse in both ethnicity and gender.



Undergraduates: 28,000 (most full-time)



First-time/full-time degree seekers: 15 percent of undergraduates



Average graduation rate of first-time/full-time degree seekers: 52 percent



Graduates last year: 8,900, from 13 colleges and departments



University offerings: 103 bachelor's, 86 master's, and 38 doctoral degree programs



UNT faculty, staff, and administrators recognized that today's employers seek employees with clear evidence of work and digital credentials to demonstrate strong teamwork, communication, and critical thinking skills. It made sense to create a clear pathway that enabled students to measure their progress towards building these skills and achieving their goals.

The program guides students from enrollment through graduation, providing comprehensive instruction, information, tools, and strategies for choosing and successfully pursuing their career paths. Over the next four years, more than 20,000 UNT students will participate.

Supported by the entire university, the program is primarily administered by the Career Connect team in Academic Affairs, with strong partnerships from other divisions, including Student Affairs, the Career Center, University Advising, and many academic and co-curricular teams.

## Partnering on the path to innovation

UNT partnered with Pearson to power its Career Connect pathway program. For UNT, incorporating career-related activities required an infrastructure and a partner with interactive tools to help students reach important milestones.

This partnership has made it easier to create and deliver a program that helps students succeed. With support from Pearson and Career Success, UNT has customized a four-year pathway that supports key UNT institutional objectives, including promotion of teamwork, communication, and critical thinking, and increasing engagement with UNT Career Services. In supporting these institutional objectives, it's also promoting important public policies established by the State of Texas that make a vital contribution to the state's vibrant economic climate.

See how Pearson Career Success can help you build a pathway to career success for **your** students.

Visit [pearson.com/career-success](https://pearson.com/career-success)



*UNT Career Connect is based on the idea that every UNT student already has a wide range of real-life, high-impact experiences that can be from the classroom and co-curricular. Career Connect is a way to integrate all of the activities to really showcase student skills like communication, teamwork, and critical thinking. The ability to demonstrate these in-demand professional skills sets our students up for success and ensures their marketable skills are front and center for potential employers and graduate schools.*

— Mike Simmons  
Assistant Vice President  
for Academic Affairs, UNT



Pearson