



University of North Texas Grad Track Pathways – Overview, Protocols, and Process

Overview

A Grad Track Pathway leads to a graduate degree program that offers early provisional admission to exceptional undergraduate students. The Pathway is designed for these exceptional students to first earn a bachelor's degree, and to then progress on the path to earn a graduate degree. A Grad Track Pathway is defined by a set of graduate courses that apply towards the bachelor's degree and then to the graduate degree associated with the graduate courses. No more than 12 graduate credits may apply to the undergraduate degree. The maximum number of credit hours a student can complete in the Grad Track program is determined by the number of hours required to complete the graduate degree. Students can earn up to 9 hours for a graduate degree requiring between 30-35 hours, and 12 hours for programs requiring 36 or more hours.

Graduate course work taken for undergraduate credit will be considered advance credit, included in the student's undergraduate GPA, and assessed undergraduate tuition rates. Advanced credit includes any graduate level courses approved for use in Grad Track Pathways.

Graduate course work taken for undergraduate credit as part of a Grad Track Pathway applies to the associated graduate degree once the student has completed the bachelor's degree and has been unconditionally admitted to the associated graduate degree program.

Admissions

1. Faculty developing proposals must show that undergraduates who apply and are admitted to a particular pathway will be academically qualified for classes in the associated graduate degree.
2. Students must have a minimum UNT Cumulative GPA of 3.5¹.
3. The standards for admission must be at least the minimum for admission to the associated graduate degree. Programs may set higher standards for students participating in a pathway.
4. Students seeking admission to a pathway apply to the program offering the pathway typically in their junior year. Students must submit the Toulouse Graduate School's (TGS) "Conditional Admission and Advisor Course Approval Form" to the graduate coordinator of the Grad Track Pathway. The Pathway may require additional documents such as unofficial copies of transcripts, statements of purpose, letters of recommendation and standardized test scores. The signed "Conditional Admission and Advisor Course Approval Form" ensures the pathway courses will satisfy degree requirements for the students' bachelor's degree programs. An applicant must have successfully completed 75 or more credit hours of a bachelor's degree.
5. Students admitted to a pathway must complete 90 credit hours before taking the courses in the pathway. Students must complete the bachelor's degree within one academic year of their first pathway course² to have the graduate course credits transferred to their graduate plan of study.
6. Students actively taking pathway courses must apply formally for admission to the graduate program associated with the pathway. This requires submitting a formal Graduate Admission Application to the graduate degree program typically during the fall semester of their senior year.

Responsibilities

The full-time faculty member designated to provide oversight of Grad Track Pathway will:

¹ Program faculty may allow exceptions to the 3.5 GPA rule on rare occasions with appropriate justification provided to TGS.

² Academic Programs may allow exceptions to the one-year limit on rare occasions with appropriate justification provided to TGS.

1. Monitor the academic progress of all students admitted to the pathway.
2. Maintain the appropriate academic integrity and rigor of the graduate courses in the pathway.
3. Provide personal advising to all students in the pathway indicating to the participants that:
 - a. they are undergraduates until they meet all undergraduate degree requirements and their bachelor's degree has been posted to their transcript.
 - b. they are not eligible for most graduate prerequisites, including teaching and research assistantships and related health insurance, financial aid, or graduate award programs until their undergraduate degree has been posted.
 - c. they must make satisfactory academic progress.
 - d. they cannot use their honors theses for their master's theses if the graduate degree requires one.
4. Periodically review content and rigor of the pathway leading to the associated graduate degree program and adjust the curriculum as warranted (through appropriate curricular bodies) by their reviews (as is consistent with all academic programs).
5. Ensure that students are considered undergraduates until their bachelor's degrees are awarded (for all official university reporting purposes).

Awarding/Transfer of Credit

1. Grades earned in graduate level courses while officially registered as an undergraduate student will count towards the student's cumulative undergraduate GPA.
2. Credits earned in graduate level courses will be posted according to established UNT registrar procedures to the undergraduate transcript.
3. Once a student successfully completes all degree requirements for the bachelor's degree and is fully admitted to the associated graduate program, the credits from the pathway courses will be transferred officially as Pass/Fail credits to the student's graduate transcript.
4. Graduate courses taken as an undergraduate cannot be factored into the cumulative graduate GPA and will only count in the undergraduate GPA calculation.
5. Graduate credit will apply toward the student's undergraduate degree hours as needed to obtain the undergraduate degree and thus ensure all stated degree requirements are met.

Procedures

1. Faculty members prepare the *Admin Change Form* provided by University Accreditation.
2. The proposals follow standard departmental and college or school approval processes and procedures.
3. After following the college or school's approval procedures, the form is uploaded in Curriculog to proceed through the steps for review and approval of the degree linkage and course substitutions from the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UUCC).
4. Once UUCC has approved, the proposal moves to the Graduate Council for review and approval. This review is to ensure appropriate criteria for the associated graduate degree will meet the admission standards. Since pathways do not change the associated graduate degree requirements, the Graduate Council reviews may be expedited reviews / consent calendar issues.