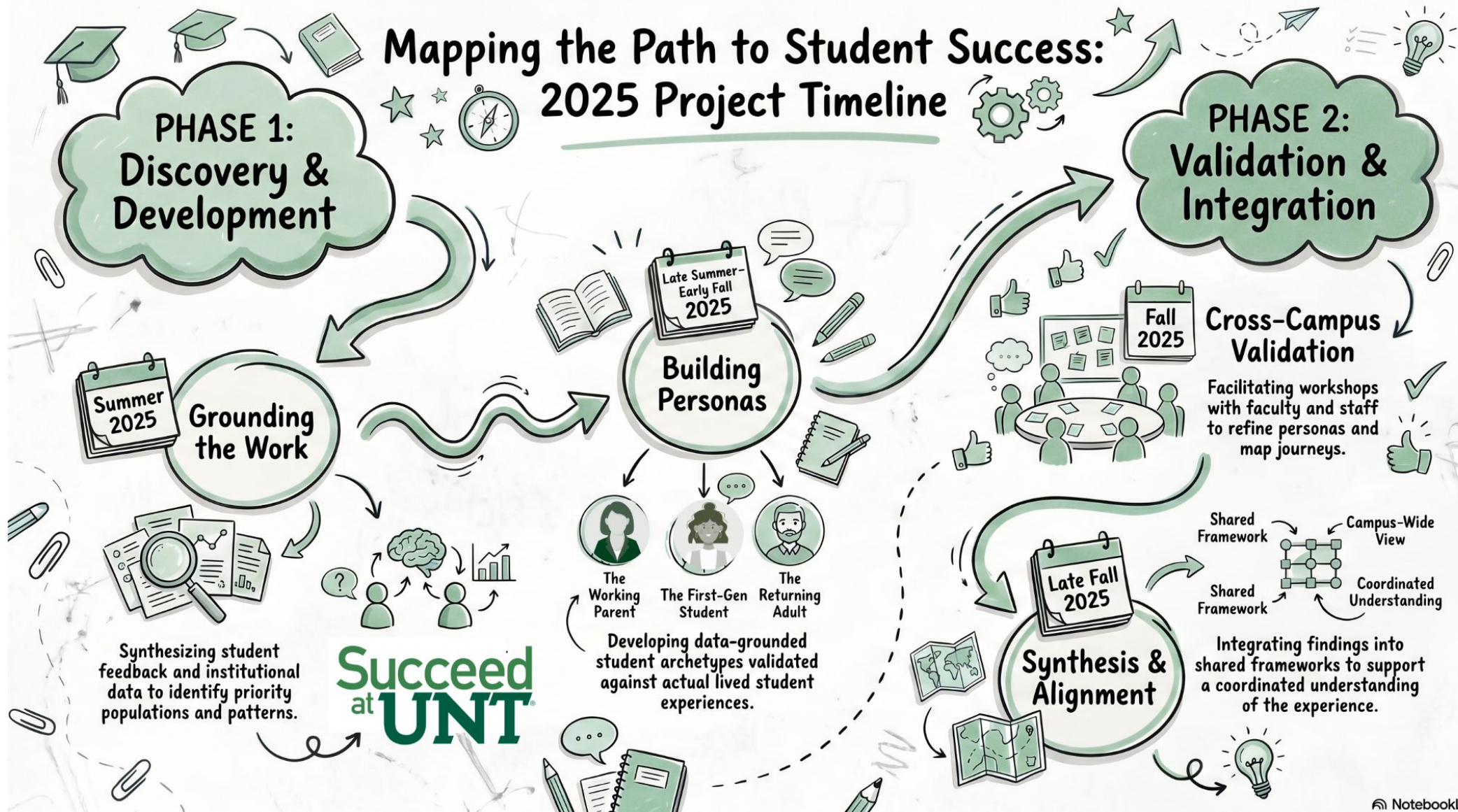




Taylor

*Doctoral Student, Research Focused
In-Person/On Campus*

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Age: 25

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Education Path: Chemistry PhD

Family & Cultural Background:

First-Generation Student

Sources of Information:

- Graduate School Website
- Financial Aid Website & Staff
- Chemistry Dept Faculty & Staff
- Faculty Advisor
- Other Graduate Students
- Professional Orgs (ACS, etc.)



About

Taylor is an ambitious 25-year-old graduate student from Arkansas who moved to Denton to pursue a PhD in Chemistry. Taylor is a first-generation college graduate and thus will continue to navigate the complexities of higher education with limited family support. Taylor is passionate about chemistry research and plans on staying in academia even after completing the program. While highly motivated to succeed, Taylor is quite concerned about financial stability. Taylor seeks community and resources that can help bridge the gap between academic pursuits and professional aspirations.



Goals

- Secure a research faculty position at an R1 institution after graduation
- Get published and contribute to other research papers, developing a strong academic portfolio
- Achieve financial stability and security, taking out little to no loans as a graduate student



Wants/Needs

- Clear guidance on securing a graduate assistantship/teaching fellowship, and information about other funding sources
- Comprehensive onboarding with opportunities to connect with other graduate students, faculty, and alums
- Practical tools and professional development focused on budgeting/financial planning, academic writing, and conference presentations



Concerns

- Feeling isolated and alone on this journey. There don't seem to be many first-generation students in the program and can't expect family to relate to the experience (though they are very supportive and proud!)
- Finding affordable housing close to campus
- Lacking resources that address the needs and experience of first-generation graduate students

Alex

*Non-Degree Seeking, Short-Term
Credential/Continuing Ed
Part-Time Student with Agnostic
Coursework Modality*

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Age: 32

Hometown: DFW Metroplex, TX

Occupation: Senior Account Coordinator

Family & Cultural Background:

Married with one child

Sources of Information:

- UNT's official website, FB, IG
- UNT Student Portal and App
- Google, YouTube, LinkedIn
- UNT Staff



About

Alex is a motivated professional living in the DFW area who has been working in the logistics industry for a decade. While Alex has a successful career, moving into a management position is a near-term goal. Meeting this goal requires new skills and a formal certification. Alex chose a non-degree certificate program at UNT because it would provide the skills and knowledge needed to move up. Alex is pragmatic and values a blend of online and in-person learning, as this modality fits best with a demanding full-time work schedule and family commitments. Alex is confident that being a part-time student is doable but has a healthy dose of apprehension given it's been 10 years since finishing a B.S. and stepping foot in a classroom.



Goals

- Complete a short-term certification and gain a promotion/higher salary with current employer
- Develop new skills and knowledge in data analytics and project management
- Complete coursework while remaining a high performer at work and being present for family
- Connect with faculty, UNT alumni, and other working students to expand professional network



Wants/Needs

- Complete certification that leads to new job opportunities or salary increase
- Easy-to-use and comprehensive online portal and orientation tailored to adult learners
- Network connections and career advice from staff, faculty, and alumni



Concerns

- Navigating new technology and online platforms
- Unexpected fees/additional out-of-pocket costs and potential course prerequisites
- Feeling isolated as a part-time, non-traditional student
- Juggling full-time job, family responsibilities, and coursework

Jordan

*Master's Student in
Professional Program
In-Person/On Campus*



Age: 26

Hometown: Charlotte, NC

Education Path: Master's in Data Science
(B.S. in Computer Science completed)

Sources of Information:

- UNT's official website and LinkedIn
- UNT Student Portal and App
- Career Services website
- Faculty Advisor, Program Coordinator, UNT Staff
- Other Graduate Students



About

Jordan is a motivated graduate student who, after two years of work experience, felt it was time to go back to school and get a Master's in Data Science. Jordan chose UNT's College of Information for its strong Data Science program and the opportunity to live in a new city. While excited about the academic challenge, Alex's focus is on completing the degree efficiently, gaining practical experience through an internship, and securing a post-graduation job at a company with a presence in a large southern city.



Goals

- Complete the Data Science Master's Program within 2 - 2.5 years, while maintaining a high GPA
- Participate in at least one internship experience, in Texas or neighboring state
- Meet new people in Denton to create a sense of belonging in the area



Wants/Needs

- Guidance on securing an internship, as well as a graduate assistantship and/or other funding source to off set the cost of out-of-state tuition
- Comprehensive onboarding with opportunities to connect with other graduate students
- Practical skill-building workshops and structured mentorship from faculty
- Robust alumni network to leverage for job opportunities and ongoing career support



Concerns

- Manage living expenses and student loans
- Find affordable housing close to campus
- Balance coursework with finding time and opportunities to connect with the UNT community and alumni

Jamie

*Undergraduate, Transfer Student from
CC in DFW Area, Commutes from Home,
Hybrid Coursework Modality*

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Age: 24

Hometown: Dallas, TX

Education Path: Public Health BS

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Sources of Information:

- UNT's official website and other social media
- UNT transfer student services
- Student forums (Reddit, Discord, Facebook, etc.)
- Public Health Dept Staff



About

Jamie is a 24-year-old transfer student and Public Health major at UNT's College of Health and Public Service. Jamie is from Dallas and recently completed an associate's degree at a local community college. Jamie still lives at home and will commute to campus, taking a mix of in-person and online classes. Jamie is hard working and resilient, and while excited about the future, feels the weight of balancing academic and personal responsibilities.



Goals

- Gain future career-relevant experience and develop professional skills through an applied- or experiential- learning opportunity
- Find a job in Public Health immediately after graduation, or go to graduate school for an MPH
- Build a professional network and find a sense of belonging, even as a commuting student
- Make meaningful connections with peers and faculty in the Public Health Department



Wants/Needs

- Make connections with peers on campus and build community if possible
- Seamless transition from CC to UNT
- Opportunities to participate in research projects/internships and build a professional network
- Graduate within 2.5 years



Concerns

- Unsure if all CC credits will transfer and apply toward UNT degree, and unsure who to ask
- Not prepared for upper-level coursework
- Commute time from Dallas, traffic, and parking availability
- Balancing work, school, and life without being exhausted all the time

Avery

Undergraduate, First Time in College (FTIC), Living on Campus

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Age: 18

Hometown: Houston, TX

Education Path: Psychology BS

Family & Cultural Background:
First-Generation Student

Sources of Information:

- UNT's official website and IG
- UNT Student Portal and App
- Canvas LMS
- Navigate App
- Emails from UNT Staff
- Housing/Res Life Staff



About

Avery is a driven 18-year-old from Houston who has always dreamed of attending college. Avery chose UNT for its location, which offers a change of pace and scenery from Houston, while still being in Texas. Avery feels prepared to begin college, having taken a few AP courses in high school. Avery is excited start classes and explore campus life but is also nervous about living on campus, having a roommate, and being away from family and friends. Avery is focused is on succeeding academically, making new friends, and ultimately graduating in four years to start a career or go to graduate school.



Goals

- Graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 4-years
- Secure a full-time job in Texas after graduation—as a social worker, counselor, or in human resources; open to considering graduate school if that makes most sense for career path
- Build a strong sense of community and belonging at UNT: make friends, get involved in student organizations, and build community/career connections in the DFW or Houston area



Wants/Needs

- Clear guidance from UNT staff re: applying AP credits, financial aid, course selection, career advising, etc. throughout the journey
- Access to in-person and digital resources (e.g., office hours, study groups, student orgs, job board, etc.)
- Support with job search, resume, and interviewing skills



Concerns

- Social isolation; finding friends on a campus of over 46,000 students
- Transition to college as a first-gen student
- Balancing coursework, finding a part-time job on campus, and getting involved in campus orgs and social activities
- Worried about accumulating excessive student debt and hoping to avoid it