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Introduction to the University of North Texas Accounting Doctoral Program

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1..Accounting PhD Coordinator Contact Information

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2..Overview of UNT's Accounting PhD Program

The University of North Texas accounting Ph.D. program offers many attractions. Our program is characterized by rigor, breadth of scope, and opportunities for close interaction between students and faculty. Accounting doctoral students are exposed to a wide variety of disciplines before having to choose an area of concentration. We focus on developing close relationships between doctoral students and faculty, and students have many opportunities to do joint research with UNT faculty. Our students present research papers at American Accounting Association annual conferences on a regular basis.

The goal of the UNT accounting Ph.D. program is to prepare students for successful careers as academic scholars. Students are therefore required to demonstrate a high level of proficiency in quantitative areas (such as mathematics and statistics), and writing. Our program has been changing rapidly, reflecting the growing emphasis on rigorous research at UNT's College of Business.

3..Frequently Asked Questions

1..What is the desired educational background of the students entering your Ph.D. program?

A master's degree is strongly recommended. We have a 99 hour doctoral program for those without master's degrees. Students must demonstrate proficiency in calculus¹, linear algebra, and microeconomics at the time they begin their doctoral studies at UNT.

¹ Three semesters of calculus are generally required.

2..What type of work experience, if any, is required or recommended before admittance into your program? Are you willing to consider well prepared students who have little or no prior work experience?

Professional work experience is strongly recommended. We will sometimes consider exceptionally strong students who have little prior work experience.

3..What is the average GMAT score for your entering Ph.D. students? What minimum criteria do you specify for a Ph.D. student? What are your English language proficiency requirements?

Our program is competitive, and an applicant's GMAT score is an important factor in our admission decision. The average GMAT score for Ph.D. students starting the program this coming fall (2009) is 690. Although we do not specify a minimum GMAT score, individuals interested in our program should understand that we admit only the strongest candidates from the group of applicants that we consider highly qualified.

For English language proficiency requirements (including the minimum TOELF requirement for admission to UNT), refer to the following:

<http://www.international.unt.edu/offices/admissions/how-to-apply/grad/tests/english>

4..What qualities do you look for in students that are applying to your school?

We look for a very strong academic background, with a record that suggests the ability to become a successful scholar. Intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm, and a very strong work ethic are essential for success in our program.

5..Do you invite/require applicants in for campus or phone interviews?

We strongly recommend that interested applicants visit our campus for personal interviews. In the case of some applicants, particularly those from overseas, we may conduct phone interviews instead of personal interviews.

6..How many new Ph.D. students have you admitted and plan to admit from 2007 to 2011?

2007-2008 **3**___ 2008-2009 **1**__ 2009-2010 **3**__ 2010-2011 **4**_

7..What is the amount of your annual tuition and the typical financial package made available to new Ph.D. students in terms of cash stipends, tuition breaks and any other benefit provided?

Annual tuition: **roughly \$8,000 (Includes fees). Many scholarships and other types of assistance are available. Tuition breaks are highly variable and often significant.**

Average annual cash stipends: **at least \$20,000.**

Other financial assistance provided: **Highly variable but generally significant. We try to do whatever is needed to compete for the best students.**

8..How many full-time (FT) and part-time (PT) Ph.D. students do you currently have in your program in each of the following years of study (does not reflect incoming fall 2009 class of four students)

1st year (FT) 3 (PT) 0
 2nd year (FT) 2 (PT) 0
 3rd year (FT) 1 (PT) 0
 4th year (FT) 4 (PT) 0
 5th year + (FT) 1 (PT) 0

9..Over the past years, how many Ph.D. students have graduated from your program annually?
 2005-2006 1 2006-2007 2 2007-2008 1 2008-2009 1

10..On average, what percentage of your entering Ph.D. students graduate and how many years of study does it take on average to complete your Ph.D. program based on your last five graduates?

% Graduate **80%** number of years to complete: **Goal is four years, average is five years.**

11..Do you expect your students to teach during their Ph.D. program? Yes X No

If you expect students to teach, what is the expected number of classes per year?

We are considering changes in our teaching requirements, and offer a fair bit of flexibility in teaching assignments. Most students teach one section per semester, one prep during most of the student's PhD program.

12..List the schools where the last five Ph.D. graduates from your institution accepted employment.

Cal State San Bernadino, Clemson University, University of Missouri at St. Louis, University of Minnesota at Duluth, Abilene Christian University.

Our goal is to place most of our graduates at research-oriented institutions. As our program becomes more rigorous, and as we are able to compete successfully for stronger doctoral students, this will happen (and is already happening).

13..Of your current Ph.D. students, how many anticipate graduating with a research focus on each of the following areas?

<u>Topical area</u>	<u>Research methodology</u>
<u> 2 </u> Financial	<u> 4 </u> Behavioral
<u> </u> Managerial	<u> 4 </u> Archival
<u> 1 </u> Tax	<u> </u> Analytical
<u> 2 </u> Audit	<u> </u> Experimental
<u> 2 </u> Information Systems	<u> </u> unsure/undecided
<u> </u> unsure/undecided	
<u> 1 </u> Other (please explain) <u> History </u>	

14..Of your current accounting faculty (including those joining the school during summer, 2009), how many are directly involved in supporting your Ph.D. students in research in each of the following areas?

<u>Topical area</u>	<u>Research methodology</u>
<u> 5 </u> Financial	<u> 6 </u> Behavioral
<u> 2 </u> Managerial	<u> 5 </u> Archival
<u> 2 </u> Tax	<u> 0 </u> Analytical
<u> 2 </u> Audit	<u> 2 </u> Experimental
<u> 1 </u> Information Systems	
<u> 1 </u> Other (please explain)_Theory/critical_____	

15..What is the url to your web site? <http://www.cob.unt.edu/programs/phd/>

16..What is your application deadline?

Feb. 15 for admission in the following fall. We urge prospective students to submit their applications well in advance of the application deadline, since the program might become full well in advance of the deadline. International applicants are especially urged to apply early, since application processing at the university level for international students takes at least three weeks.

17..Do you offer a part-time program? **No.**

4..Prerequisites

1..UNT College of Business prerequisites. Please refer to item 3 on the next page.

2..Accounting Department prerequisites

- a..Accounting courses as discussed in item 3 on the next page.
- b..Calculus up to and including vector-valued functions, multivariable functions and partial derivatives, and multiple integrals (This is the equivalent of UNT's Calc I [Math 1710], plus Calc II [Math 1720], plus Calc III [Math 2730]).
- c..Intermediate microeconomics – 3 credits. (This could be an upper level undergrad course in microeconomics, or a masters level course).
- d..Linear algebra – strongly recommended but not required. (At UNT the course is MATH 2700)

5..Example Course Plans (Accounting PhD program core courses are highlighted in yellow)

I. Example Course Plan for Behavioral Students

	Fall	Winter/Spring	Summer	
First Year	BUSI 6450 Bus Research Methods	ACCT 6290 Behavioral Research Seminar I	ACCT 6010 First year paper	
	BUSI 6220 Applied Reg'n Analysis	BUSI 6240 Applied Multivariate Stats		
	MSCI 6750 Probability Theory	MSCI 6750 Mathematical Statistics		

	Fall	Winter/Spring	Summer	
Second Year	ACCT 6390 Cap Markets Research I	ACCT 6010 Behavioral Research II	ACCT 6010 Second year paper	
	BUSI 6280 Structural Eqn Modeling	BUSI 6480 Experimental Design		
	Minor Course in Psych	Minor Course in Psych		

	Fall	Winter/Spring	Summer	
Third Year	ACCT 6010 Cap Markets Research II			
	MSCI 6000 Non-parametric Stats			
	Minor Course in Psych			

II. Example Course Plan for Archival (Capital Markets) Students

	Fall	Winter/Spring	Summer	
First Year	BUSI 6450 Bus Res Methods	ACCT 6010 Behavioral Research I	ACCT 6010 First year paper	
	BUSI 6220 Applied Reg'n Analysis	BUSI 6240 Applied Multivariate Stats		
	MSCI 6750 Probability Theory	MSCI 6750 Mathematical Statistics		

	Fall	Winter/Spring	Summer	
Second Year	ACCT 6010 Cap Markets Research I	ACCT 6010 Behavioral Research II	ACCT 6010 Second year paper	
	ECON 5600 Mathematical Econ	ECON 5650 Advanced Econometrics		
	Minor Course in Finance	Minor Course in Finance		

	Fall	Winter/Spring	Summer	
Third Year	ACCT 6010 Cap Markets Research II			
	ECON 5670 Nonlinear Models			
	Minor Course in Finance			

6..Prerequisites – Additional information

College of Business prerequisites

The UNT College of Business *PhD Handbook for Doctoral Students* (page 11) states that:

A student entering the doctoral program upon completion of a bachelor’s degree must complete the MBA core requirements and take 12 additional hours in the major and/or minor areas. (Note: this statement assumes that the entering student does not already hold an MBA.)

A student who holds a masters degree that does not contain courses equivalent to the MBA background courses must take these courses as “deficiencies” outside the doctoral program.

The MBA background courses typically include the following:

ACCT 5020	Accumulation and Analysis of Accounting Data (1.5 hours)
BCIS 5090	Intro to Business Computer Info Systems (1.5 hours)
BLAW 5050	Legal, Regulatory and Ethical Environment of Business (1.5 hours)
ECON 5000	Economic Concepts (3.0 hours)
FINA 5170	Financial Management (3.0 hours)
MGMT 5070	Management Issues – Creation of Goods and Services (1.5 hours)
MKTG 5000	Marketing Concepts (1.5 hours)
DSCI 5010	Statistical Analysis (1.5 horus)
DSCI 5180	Intro to Decision Making (3.0 hours)
	Computer competency – is assumed. Discuss with Accounting PhD Coordinator for additional information as appropriate.

Please note that the Accounting Department, with the approval of the College of Business Doctoral Programs Committee, can makes exceptions to the above requirements on a case-by-case basis.

Accounting course requirements

Although we generally require that incoming accounting doctoral students have the equivalent of an MS in Accounting, we evaluate incoming students’ academic backgrounds on a case-by-case basis. We generally require the equivalent of the following UNT College of Business accounting background courses:

- ACCT 3110 – Intermediate Accounting I
- ACCT 3120 – Intermediate Accounting II
- ACCT 3270 – Cost Accounting
- ACCT 4100 – Accounting Systems
- ACCT 4300 – Federal Income Taxation
- ACCT 4400 – Auditing – Professional Responsibilities