

Graduate Council Minutes

<https://unt.curriculum.com/agenda:851/form>

July 2026

Electronic Voting – 7/17-7/23

Note: Course changes and additions will not take effect until they are listed in the graduate catalog. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board must be notified of any item marked with a double asterisk () and must approve any item marked with a single asterisk (*) before listing in the graduate catalog. Items marked with a plus (+) must be approved by the Department of Education before being listed in the graduate catalog.**

Graduate Council Voting Members: *Rose Baker, Ana Cleveland, Jessica Craig, Mariya Gavrilova Aguilar, Jaymee Haefner, Maurizio Manzo, Divesh Ojha, Olav Richter, Dalena Taylor, Anto Verghese*

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

II. MINUTES

ITEM II-1. APPROVED BY MAJORITY: 7 APPROVE

II-1. Approval of June 2026, minutes

III. CHAIR / TGS DISCUSSION ITEMS / ACTION ITEMS / INFORMATION ITEMS

Graduate Council members **acknowledged** the items under III-1. through III-3. (no vote required)

University of North Texas

College of Information & College of Science

Department of Data Analytics & Statistics

III-1. Department of Data Analytics and Statistics moves to the College of Information (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Effective with the 2026-27 catalog, the Department of Data Analytics and Statistics and all associated programs and courses will move from the College of Science to the College of Information. At the graduate level, this includes:

- Advanced Data Analytics with a concentration in Analytics Project Management, MS
- Advanced Data Analytics with a concentration in Applied Artificial Intelligence, MS
- Advanced Data Analytics with a concentration in Digital Retailing, MS
- Advanced Data Analytics with a concentration in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), MS
- Advanced Data Analytics with a concentration in Geospatial Intelligence, MS
- Advanced Data Analytics with a concentration in Health Data Analytics, MS
- Advanced Data Analytics with a concentration in Management, MS
- Advanced Data Analytics with a concentration in Sports, MS
- Advanced Data Analytics with a concentration in Statistics, MS
- Advanced Data Analytics, MS
- Analytics Project Management certificate
- Data Analytics certificate
- ADTA courses

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences & College of Public Affairs & Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

III-2. Department of Psychology moves to College of Public Affairs and Health Sciences (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Effective with the 2026-27 catalog, the Department of Psychology and all associated programs and courses will move from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences to the College of Public Affairs and Health Sciences. At the graduate level, this includes:

Behavioral Science, PhD
Clinical Psychology, PhD
Counseling Psychology, PhD
PSYC courses

College of Information & College of Public Affairs & Health Sciences

Department of Information Science

Department of Rehabilitation & Health Services

III-3. Health Data Analytics, MS move to Department of Information Science (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Effective with the 2026-27 catalog, the Health Data Analytics, MS moves from the Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services in the College of Public Affairs and Health Sciences to the Department of Information Science in the College of Information.

IV. REQUEST FOR NEW COURSES

College of Information

The Anuradha & Vikas Sinha Department of Data Science

ITEMS IV-1. THROUGH IV-13. APPROVED BY MAJORITY: 7 APPROVE

IV-1. DTSC 6505 - Advanced Machine Learning for Data Scientists (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Machine learning is one of the most fundamental knowledge areas for Data Science. Through a combination of advanced computing techniques, training techniques and architectural components of neural networks, it is now possible to create much more complex machine learning models to learn hierarchies of information in a way that is like the function of the human brain.

- Further details: <https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19296/form>

IV-2. DTSC 6506 - Advanced Statistical Analysis (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: This PhD-level course develops the theoretical and computational foundations of advanced statistical learning methods for data science. The course provides a rigorous treatment of regression and classification models, resampling and cross-validation techniques, model selection and regularization methods, nonlinear modeling approaches, tree-based and ensemble methods, support vector machines, and unsupervised learning techniques. Emphasis is placed on statistical risk, bias-variance tradeoffs, model complexity, and the challenges of high-dimensional settings. - Further details: <https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19298/form>

IV-3. DTSC 6508 - Algorithms and Optimization for Data Science (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: This doctoral-level course provides a comprehensive study of algorithms and optimization techniques fundamental to data science and machine learning. Students will explore classical optimization theory, the distinction between continuous and discrete optimization, convex and non-convex optimization, gradient-based methods, combinatorial optimization, metaheuristic algorithms, and nature-inspired optimization techniques.

- Further details: <https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19301/form>

IV-4. DTSC 6510 - Advanced Deep Learning for Data Science (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Provides a comprehensive understanding of deep learning through research paper analysis, coding exercises, and practical assignments. Students grasp deep learning neural networks' principles, familiarize themselves with prevalent architectures, and their uses and achieve proficiency at constructing, evaluating, and deploying deep learning models with industry-standard software. - Further details:

<https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19299/form>

IV-5. [DTSC 6707 - Advanced Data Modeling](#) (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Provides a rigorous treatment of data modeling theory and practice across the full spectrum of modern storage paradigms. Topics include conceptual, logical, and physical data modeling; relational schema theory and normalization; - Further details: <https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19300/form>

IV-6. [DTSC 6709 - Advanced Data Visualization](#) (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Explores advanced data visualization concepts combining hands-on projects, research paper analysis, and AI-enhanced visualization techniques. Students develop interactive dashboards, conduct research-driven evaluations, and critically assess visualization methods for accuracy, interpretability, and ethical application. Domains include libraries, museums, healthcare, cybersecurity, and urban analytics. - Further details:

<https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19304/form>

IV-7. [DTSC 6737 - Data Privacy and Security](#) - (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Introduces the principles and methodologies of data privacy, with a focus on designing systems that respect user privacy and comply with legal regulations. Students explore privacy by design, risk management, privacy-preserving technologies, and global privacy frameworks. - Further details:

<https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19302/form>

IV-8. [DTSC 6738 - Data and AI Governance](#) - (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Examines governance frameworks for managing data and artificial intelligence systems responsibly within organizations and public institutions. Topics include data governance structures, AI ethics, regulatory compliance, privacy protection, algorithmic accountability, and risk management. - Further details:

<https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19303/form>

IV-9. [DTSC 6901 - Directed Research](#) - (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Provides doctoral students with the opportunity to conduct independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. Students explore advanced topics in data science, develop research skills, and investigate potential dissertation research directions. - Further details: <https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19306/form>

IV-10. [DTSC 6903 - Seminar in Data Science](#) (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Organized research lectures and seminar presentations. Course will include a written component. - Further details: <https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19305/form>

IV-11. [DTSC 6909 - PhD Qualifying Exam](#) (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Prepares doctoral students for the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination in Data Science. Students review foundational concepts, theories, methodologies, and analytical techniques across the core areas of data science or conduct a comprehensive literature review in a selected research domain. - Further details:

<https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19307/form>

IV-12. [DTSC 6911 - PhD Research Proposal](#) (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Guided development of a doctoral research proposal. Students identify research problems, conduct comprehensive literature reviews, formulate research questions and hypotheses, develop methodological approaches, and prepare a dissertation proposal. Emphasis is placed on research design, scholarly communication, and proposal defense preparation. - Further details: <https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19308/form>

*Indicates THECB approval required

IV-13. DTSC 6950 - Doctoral Dissertation (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: Course supports doctoral candidates in conducting and completing their dissertation research under the supervision of a faculty advisor and dissertation committee. - Further details:

<https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:19309/form>

College of Public Affairs & Health Sciences

Department of Public Administration

ITEMS IV-14. AND IV-15. APPROVED BY MAJORITY: 7 APPROVE

IV-14. PADM 5230 - Negotiation and Dispute Resolution

Description: Master the art of conflict resolution and negotiation in this dynamic course tailored for public administration settings. Enhance skills through engaging readings, assignments, videos, and interactive online discussions. Build practical strategies for resolving disputes and fostering collaboration without litigation.

IV-15. PADM 5240 - Workplace Conflict Resolution

Description: Navigate workplace conflict with confidence in this practical course on resolution strategies. Explore methods to address intrapersonal, interpersonal, and inter-group conflicts, from problem-solving and negotiation to mediation and arbitration. Gain hands-on experience through case studies and role-playing to master the skills needed for effective conflict management.

V. REQUEST FOR ADD NEW OR DELETE EXISTING MAJOR/PROFESSIONAL FIELD, CONCENTRATION, OPTION, MINOR, CERTIFICATE (excluding GACs), OR SPECIALIZATION

College of Information

Department of Learning Technologies

ITEM V-1. APPROVED BY MAJORITY: 7 APPROVE

V-1. Learning Technologies PhD Minor (add minor)

Justification: We are adding a Learning Technologies PhD minor

VI. REQUEST FOR ALL GRADUATE ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES

College of Engineering

Department of Mechanical Engineering

ITEM VI-1. APPROVED BY MAJORITY: 7 APPROVE

VI-1. Graduate Academic Certificate in Engineering Project Management ()** (add certificate) (requested exception yr: 2026-27; rationale: project management is a critical area with broad demand across engineering disciplines and represents a significant skills gap among students. Thus, Dept. of ME and CENG is eager to initiate the GAC as of Fall 2026. (add new GAC)

Justification: The purpose of the proposed certificate is to establish a focused academic offering in engineering project management, a critical area with broad demand across engineering disciplines. This field also represents a significant skills gap among students. The program will equip participants with practical, industry-applicable project management competencies that are transferable across sectors, thereby strengthening career readiness and enhancing long-term professional advancement.

VII. REQUEST FOR NEW GRADUATE TRACK PATHWAYS

VIII. REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN PROGRAM, MAJOR, MINOR, DEGREE, OPTION, CONCENTRATION OR REQUIREMENTS

A. In Grad Track

College of Science

Department of Physics

ITEM VIII-1. APPROVED BY MAJORITY: 7 APPROVE

VIII-1. Physics, BSPHY with grad track option leading to Physics, MS (change in requirements)

Justification: Allows students more options (added course choices) for completing the grad track program.

IX. REQUEST FOR DUAL OR JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

X. CONSENT CALENDAR

ALL ITEMS UNDER CONSENT CALENDAR FROM X-1. THROUGH X-5. - APPROVED BY MAJORITY: 7 APPROVE

A. Course Changes

College of Engineering

Department of Mechanical Engineering

X-1. EMGT 5230 - Risk Management for Engineers

Course Title: Risk Management for Engineers

Short Course Title: RISK MGMT

Description: Review of the concepts of risk and uncertainty in engineering applications and their impact on management decisions in the broader engineering field with specific emphasis on manufacturing and construction, and a study of the systems, tools and techniques used in engineering project risk management. Subjects also include the development of risk mitigation procedures, safety planning and execution, and the role of insurance and bonds in the industry.

College of Information

The Anuradha & Vikas Sinha Department of Data Science

X-2. DTSC 6565 - Advanced Software Engineering for Data Scientists - change in course number (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Course Number: 6565

Department of Learning Technologies

X-3. LTEC 6121 - Adult Learning and Leadership Concepts and Theories

Course Title: Adult Learning and Leadership Concepts and Theories

Short Course Title: Adult Learning

B. Course Deletions

C. Information Item - THECB Delete

D. Information Item - Documenting Changes

G. Brint Ryan College of Business

Department of Information Technology & Decision Sciences

X-4. Business Analytics, MS - requirements clarification (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: The Business Analytics, MS program had a proposal approved at the July 2025 Graduate Council meeting: <https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:16925/form>

This proposal had two areas where requirements were listed. There were some discrepancies between the two areas - this clarifies the following:

In the Electives, 15 hours section, the following verbiage should be removed: "Students will choose 9-15 hours from the following list. Up to 6 hours may be taken outside the department with prior consent."

In the Additional Information section, the following verbiage should be included: "MS Business Analytics students must enroll in courses in the sequence outlined by the Department of Information Technology and Decision Sciences to ensure orderly and timely degree progression."

The Note "*DSCI 5800 may be repeated for credit and may be used as a support course with prior ITDS departmental approval if three hours are taken" should be included after the Electives section.

College of Information

Department of Information Science

X-5. Information Science, MS - requirements clarification (catalog effective yr. 2026-27)

Description: The Information Science, MS had a program change approved by the Graduate Council at the March 2026 meeting: <https://unt.curriculog.com/proposal:18465/form>

The department rescinds the addition of the School Librarianship concentration.

The following note should be added to the bottom of the Concentration courses section:

Note: Students may pursue requirements for the school library certification alone or as part of the master's degree program in the Department of Information Science.