

UNT Information Science PhD Program
Geospatial Information Science Concentration
Admission and Application Information

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the UNT Toulouse Graduate School as well as additional requirements of the Information Science (IS) PhD Program. Admission to the program is based on a holistic review process that uses multiple criteria related to both academic history and potential for success in the research field. The following apply:

1. Completed master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.
2. Overall graduate grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.4 (4.0 scale).
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores including verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing (must be on file at the time the application is reviewed) or successful completion of UNT Graduate Preparation Course (GPC).
4. For international students, a satisfactory score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or successful completion of the UNT Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) through Level 6.
5. Three recommendations from former professors, employers, or others who can give evidence of applicant's aptitude for, as well as interest in, a research career in information science.
6. Personal statement (300–500 words) of career objectives, which may include doctoral research areas of interest; research, professional, or community experiences that demonstrate motivation, commitment, and potential for doctoral work; accomplishments (publications, presentations, awards); communication skills including multilingual proficiency; technology skills; and contribution to diversity of the field
7. Curriculum vita
8. Sample of formal/academic writing (published paper, major term paper, thesis chapter, etc.)
9. Interview, which is optional but strongly encouraged.

Admission Procedure

Admissions are highly competitive, depending on applicant qualifications and the availability of faculty members to mentor doctoral students. Not all qualified applicants can be accepted. An admission committee of interdisciplinary faculty members reviews applications. Members of the committee evaluate and balance a number of factors which, when taken together, provide evidence that an applicant possesses superior scholastic ability, has the potential for success in a rigorous graduate program of research study, and will perform well within the broad context of the information field. If additional information is needed to evaluate the admissibility of an applicant, the committee may request an interview.

Application Procedure

Students may enter the doctoral program in the fall semester. Prospective students must apply and be admitted first to the UNT Toulouse Graduate School and then to the Information Science PhD Program. To ensure full processing by all offices, including international admissions and financial aid if appropriate, all application materials are due by **November 1** of the year preceding the fall semester of initial enrollment. Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed

To apply to the UNT Graduate School:

1. Complete and submit a Graduate School application (www.tsqs.unt.edu) and pay fee.
2. Request that an official score report on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) be sent directly to the Graduate School from the Educational Testing Service (www.ets.org/).

3. Request that official copies of all transcripts be sent to the Graduate School.
4. If applicable, take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or complete the noncredit intensive course in English from the UNT Intensive English Language Institute.
5. If applicable, submit to the Graduate School proof of financial resources available.

To apply to the Information Science PhD Program Geospatial Information Science Concentration:

1. Complete the Information Science PhD Program Geospatial Information Science Concentration application form.
2. Enclose with the application the following additional materials:
 - Personal statement (300–500 words) as described above on p.1
 - Curriculum vita
 - Example of formal/academic writing (published paper, major term paper, thesis chapter, etc.)
3. Email all application materials to GISPhD@unt.edu.
4. Request recommendation letters from three former professors, employers, etc. Recommenders should state how long and in what capacity they have known the applicant and provide support for the applicant's ability to succeed in completing the years of challenging study and independent research necessary for earning a scholarly doctoral degree. Recommenders should email letters directly to GISPhD@unt.edu.

Further Information

For questions about the Geospatial Information Science Concentration or applying to the concentration, contact the concentration coordinator, Dr. Pinliang Dong, at GISPhD@unt.edu. Onsite and telephone meetings with academic advisors can be scheduled year around.