



Dear New Cockrell School Graduate Student:

Welcome to the Cockrell School of Engineering and the University of Texas at Austin!

The purpose of Graduate Engineering Council (GEC), a registered student organization officially sponsored by the Cockrell School of Engineering, is to serve the needs of engineering graduate students at the University of Texas at Austin. The GEC organizes many events that support students including the annual **Graduate And Industry Networking (GAIN) Conference**, **Academic Seminar series**, and **Emerging Tech Talks**. We also provide **travel grants** which support a portion of students' conference travel costs. Besides these academic activities, GEC also hosts various **social events** such as taco/pizza breaks, mixers, the super bowl party, and the semesterly pub crawl/happy hour. To stay connected with GEC, like our Facebook page, **UT GEC** (<http://www.facebook.com/utgec/>), and subscribe to our events to receive notifications about upcoming activities. GEC is the voice of Cockrell School graduate students, so if you have any questions, concerns, or issues, we encourage you to contact us at UTexasGEC@gmail.com.

This Orientation Packet contains useful information that helped us out a lot when we first started. We hope that you find it helpful as you begin your career as a graduate student in the Cockrell School and as a new resident of Austin, TX.

Please visit our website at <http://sites.utexas.edu/gec/> to find more information about engineering graduate school and us. Our officer team and members look forward to meeting you soon at the upcoming GEC events this fall. Hope to see you there ☺.

Sincerely,

Enakshi Wikramanayake

President, Graduate Engineering Council (enakshi.wik@utexas.edu)

Officers

Vice-President: Philip White (philip.white@utexas.edu)

Finance Chair: Manoj Lokanathan (manoj.l@utexas.edu)

Secretary: Julia Lamb (jlamb313@utexas.edu)

Activities Coordinator: Liam Connolly (liam.connolly@utexas.edu) & Scott Snarr (ses4676@utexas.edu)

Helpful Links and Resources

UT Graduate School Home Page

<https://gradschool.utexas.edu/>

UT EID Card

ID Center is centrally located at the Information Desk on the first floor of the Flawn Academic Center (FAC)

University Email

<https://get.utmail.utexas.edu/>

Textbooks

You can purchase all of your textbooks, as well as other supplies, from the University Co-op. Founded in 1896, the idea behind the Co-op was to create a bookstore that was an association owned by students, faculty and staff to furnish books, supplies and clothing at reasonable prices to its members. The Co-op continues this mission today with a focus on advancing the educational interests of the university.

Additionally, the University Co-op also runs a membership program. Follow the link for more information: <https://www.universitycoop.com/membership-program>

The Co-op's main store is at 2246 Guadalupe St., across from the West Mall. You can find out what textbooks are required online and order them for pick up at the Co-op.

<https://www.universitycoop.com/textbooks>

Other useful websites: www.longhornbookexchange.com www.amazon.com www.half.com
www.addall.com www.abebooks.com

Parking and Shuttle

As a new graduate student you are eligible for a "C" campus parking permit, as well as others depending on your needs. Follow this link for more info on student parking:

<https://parking.utexas.edu/parking/student-parking>

If you are employed as a teaching assistant, graduate research assistant or an assistant instructor, you may be eligible for the "A" employee parking permit. Follow this link for more info on staff parking:

<https://parking.utexas.edu/parking/faculty-staff-parking>

The UT Shuttle System is the largest university shuttle system in the country, with 13 routes and more than 5.2 million passengers annually. The shuttle system provides an easy and cost-effective way for students, faculty, staff and visitors to access the UT campus. UT Austin students, faculty and staff may ride the shuttles at no charge with a valid UT ID.

Shuttle map: <http://www.utexas.edu/parking/transportation/shuttle/map.html>

Your UT ID also gets you free access to all Capital Metro buses and trains that will take you all over Austin and surrounding areas.

Cap Metro Trip Planner: <http://www.capmetro.org/planner/>

Cap Metro System map as of June 2018:

https://www.capmetro.org/uploadedFiles/New2016/Plans_and_Development/Service_Changes/CAP_Ms_pc_Msys-Jun-18.pdf

Engineering Computer Labs

ECJ 3.402 is open to ALL Engineering students. More info on other department's labs:

<http://www.engr.utexas.edu/itg/facilities/virtualdesktop/78-itg/labs/438-labs>

ITS Software

Provide free software such as Anti Virus, FireWall Protection, SSH secure shell, etc. For more information, see <https://it.utexas.edu/students>

Engineering Software Licensing (and more “free” software and OSes)

- MATLAB
- Wolfram's Mathematica
- National Instruments Multisim
- National Instruments LabVIEW
- Microsoft Imagine Premium

For more information, see <http://www.engr.utexas.edu/itg/products>

Discounted Computer Products

The Campus Computer Store provides low academic pricing on hardware, software and accessories from top manufacturers. Take advantage of these savings as well as the store's convenient location on the first floor of the FAC.

You can obtain SAS or SPSS statistical software at a reduced cost from Software Distribution and Sales (SDS). SDS also can help you with special software orders. SDS is located on the second floor of the FAC.

University Health Services (UHS)

UHS is here to keep you healthy. You can expect the same services offered by your own family doctor.

UHS is in the Student Services Building (SSB) at 100 W. Dean Keeton St. (W. 26th)

<https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/>

Blue Cross Blue Shield Student Health Insurance Plan

https://myahpcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2018-2019-AB_TX_UT_Austin_PHF-FINAL_original.pdf

Blue Cross Blue Shield UT Select Health Insurance Plan (employees—including TAs and GRAs)

<https://www.bcbstx.com/ut/coverage>

Counseling and Mental Health

The Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) helps students with their personal concerns, so they can meet the daily challenges of student life. CMHC provides short-term individual counseling, psychiatric services, and group counseling.

The Center regularly offers group meetings designed for graduate students and older students, and has a self-guided MindBody Lab to help students learn relaxation techniques and biofeedback.

You can contact CMHC at 512-471-3515. CMHC also offers 24hr telephone counseling: 512-471-CALL (2255). <http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/>

University Police Department (UTPD)

Phone: 512-471-4441 www.utexas.edu/police/campuswatch From crime prevention and safety programs to providing security for special events, UTPD stands ready to assist faculty, staff, students, and visitors. If they can't help, they probably know who can.

Housing

The University Apartments, located off-campus on Lake Austin Boulevard, are reserved for married students, families, graduate students and undergraduates with at least 30 hours credit and in good standing with the university. Shuttle bus service is readily available from the University Apartments to campus. The Division of Housing and Food Service provides information about off-campus housing options, which include postings for rental properties and a roommate search. <http://housing.utexas.edu/>

Child Care

As a graduate student you are eligible to use the University of Texas Child Development Center. The program provides excellent care and programs for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age.

You must apply for the service and will be placed on a waiting list according to the date of your application. Apply as soon as possible because the waiting list is long. Siblings of currently enrolled children receive priority. <https://childcenter.utexas.edu/>

You may also want to consider visiting the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) at <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>. DFPS provides a list of all licensed child care providers by zip code.

If you need financial assistance for child care you can contact Work Force Austin at 512-597-7191 or go to their website at <http://www.wrksolutions.com/for-individuals/financial-aid/financial-aid-for-child-care>

Legal Services

Student Legal Services aims to provide quality legal counseling and representation to all currently enrolled students at The University of Texas at Austin that will enable the students/clients to assess the merits of their concerns and determine the most appropriate responses.

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/lss/>

Public Notary

Students may have legal documents notarized for free in the Student Government offices on the 4th floor of the Student Services Building (SSB).

Office of Graduate Studies Fellowships

<https://gradschool.utexas.edu/finances/fellowships>

The Office of Graduate Studies Annual Fellowship Fair Usually held the beginning of October in the Texas Union Ballroom, the fair is an opportunity for students seeking financial opportunities to learn of available fellowships and speak one-on-one with previous winners at fellowship booths.

Student Financial Services

The Office of Student Financial Services (OSFS) provides many services for graduate students looking for assistance financing their educations. OSFS provides services and information regarding funding sources such as grants, scholarships, waivers, short- and long-term loans, emergency loans, and much more. The Office provides financial counseling to students to help explain the process of receiving aid, as well as to help students make the best decisions about financial assistance while in graduate school. OSFS is located on the third floor of the Student Services Building. You can contact OSFS at 512-475-6282.

<http://finaid.utexas.edu/>

Austin Life

- Search Music, Art and Other Events: <https://thingstodo.austin360.com/home>
Local music calendar: https://www.songkick.com/metro_areas/9179-us-austin
- Hike, ride, climb and swim parts the Green Belt
<http://www.texasoutside.com/bartongreenbelt.htm>
- Alamo Drafthouse is everyone's favorite movie theater in Austin. Check out their quote- along, sing-along, and feast events. <https://drafthouse.com/austin>
- Austin Sports and Social Club fulfills your volleyball, soccer, softball, dodgeball, frisbee, bowling and kickball needs. <http://www.austinssc.com/>
- Paramount Theater shows old movies, movie premieres, Austin Film Society events, and hosts a wide variety of talented artists <http://www.austintheatre.org/>
- Texas Performing Arts hosts shows from your favorite bands to Broadway Across America <https://texasperformingarts.org/>

A Few Tips from Us

There are so many things that a new graduate student must do when he or she starts a program. It can sometimes be difficult to know where to begin. Below is a list of questions that you may want to consider asking yourself, and especially other students who have been around for a while. Hopefully, they'll help you get started on your journey...

- Do you already know specifically what you want to study? If so, who on campus can help guide you to your goals? If not, who should you talk to in order to discover your passion?
- What kind of working environment works best for you? Do you like working in groups and teams or on your own?
- How often do you expect to talk with your advisor? Do you work best independently or with more regular guidance and input?
- Which career path do you plan to follow? What do you need to accomplish during your time at UT so you'll be prepared?
- Which classes will be most beneficial? During which semesters are they offered?
- What research facilities are available to you? Where can you find what you'll need?
- What kind of funding should you expect from different potential advisors?
- How long do professors expect their students to take to get a degree?

Some questions about life in Austin: Some questions about life in Austin: Some questions about life in Austin: Some questions about life in Austin:

- Where are the good places to study on and near campus?
- Where are the best restaurants and bars?
- What do people generally do to relax when they're not studying?
- Where are good places to look for housing?
- What's the best way to get to and from school?
- How do I get tickets to games and other events?
- Who can I turn to when I run into problems, both academic and otherwise?