



DIVISION OF  
STUDENT AFFAIRS

# Ensuring Dual Credit and ECHS Success at the 4-year Institution

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# Greater Texas Foundation (GTF) Scholars

- GTF Scholars was established to increase the number of Texas ECHS graduates who successfully transition to a four-year institution of higher education and complete a baccalaureate degree.
- UNT was one of four recipients of the original grant.
  - Beginning next year, there will be 8 institutions.
- GTF Scholars are provided with financial, academic, and social support.
- UNT is currently finalizing our 7<sup>th</sup> cohort of GTF Scholars.



# GTF Scholars

- Ensures a cohort of 25 students receives aid up to the Cost of Attendance for 3 years.
  - UNT only offers loans as part of the financial package in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year to incentivize graduation.
- Students must maintain a 2.5 UNT GPA
- Students must complete 30 semester credit hours
- Students must retain good disciplinary status with the university.

# GTF Scholars

- Students must participate in the following engagement activities:
  - Pre-Orientation meeting at New Student Orientation (Summer months)
  - GTF Scholars Program Kickoff and Orientation (August)
  - Weekly meetings (First semester only)
  - Monthly appointment with the GTF Scholars Staff (After first semester)
  - Monthly attendance to at least one academic or social event at UNT
    - Monthly workshops offered by GTF Program staff is encouraged.
  - Representation at GTF sponsored events, as needed
  - Participation in 10 service hours each academic year.
- Activities highlighted in green are open to all ECHS graduates.



# ECCHS Graduates at UNT

- Enrollment is increasing

Year	2015	2016	2017	1-year change
Applied	386	395	657	+66%
Admitted	270	222	437	+97%
Enrolled	122	101	170	+68%

- Caliber is increasing

- By March 1, 2018, 267 ECCHS graduates had applied and been accepted to UNT (and were considered for the GTF Scholars program).
  - 144 met our benchmark criteria so we had to increase criteria

# Strengths of ECHS Graduates

- Academic success is increasing.

	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017
Average GPA	2.82	2.55	3.03
# not in Good Academic Standing	5/25	5/25	2/32

- Remediation is rare.
- GTF Scholars persistence rates are higher (91% vs 76%)\*
- GTF Scholars have a higher 3-year graduation rate (38% vs 28%)\*
- Greater sense of responsibility for their academics.
- Most graduate with intentions of pursuing graduate school.
  - 90% either go straight to graduate school or have plans to enroll in the near future.\*

\*Statistics based on GTF scholars across all participating institutions.



# Challenges for ECHS Graduates

- Time Management
- Unclear about major, but believe this is lessening
  - 25% of GTF Scholars changed their major in the first year.\*
  - Multiple majors/minors
- Applicability of credits to degree
  - On average, 69% of incoming credits applied to degree programs\*
    - Completed Core, Fit with Degree Plan
    - Students have noted wanting more and earlier advising about the benefits and consequences of their choices; this advising was viewed as essential to expediting completion.\*
  - Interdisciplinary degrees

\*Statistics based on GTF scholars across all participating institutions.

# Key Lessons Learned

- Non-financial support is as important, if not more important, for success.
- Students need more than 2 years to graduate with the baccalaureate degree.
- Early career/major exploration is important.
- Targeted programming for ECHS graduates is needed on 4-year campuses.
  - 4-year representatives need to take the baton from ECHS counselors.





# Partnering with ECHSs

- Data we hope to gather and share:
  - What credits are not applying to degree (is there a commonality)?
  - Does this differ by curriculum structure at ECHS (fixed vs flexible curriculum)?
- What is the best way to partner?
  - Early career advising

# Questions

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