

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

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## **ARE THERE APPLICATION DEADLINES?**

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Any applications to the M.S. or Ph.D. programs that are complete by December 1 will receive full consideration for Fall admissions and support. The department will continue to evaluate applications after this deadline until all positions are filled. In addition, the Graduate School recommends that international students submit their completed application at least six months in advance of the desired date of enrollment, due to the length of time required to obtain a visa from the U.S. Department of State. The department does not generally accept applications for Spring admission.

All applicants to the M.S. and Ph.D. programs will be considered for graduate teaching assistantships. The university awards several fellowships (Chancellor's fellowship, C-H foundation fellowship, etc.) to incoming students each year. Students have to be nominated by a faculty member to be eligible to receive a fellowship. Students can hold a fellowship in addition to a teaching or research assistantship. To apply for a research assistantship, you must contact the individual faculty.

Students applying to the M.A. program or the Graduate Certificate program should complete their applications at least several weeks before the start of the Fall or Summer term for which they are applying. These programs generally do not accept applications for Spring admissions.

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## **WHAT DOES GRADUATE RESEARCH INVOLVE?**

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An important decision is the choice of an advisor to direct a research program. Discussions with your advisor will determine the direction of your research. Typical times for completion are two years for the M.S. degree or four to five years for the Ph.D. degree.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has a continuing commitment to support quality scientific research among its faculty members and graduate students. The faculty include established leaders in mathematical sciences who have held editorships of scientific journals and offices in scientific societies, as well as newer faculty with promising research careers. Intra-departmental organization for research is centered around the areas of control theory, applied and computational mathematics, statistics, complex analysis, and mathematical biology.



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In addition to these departmental research groups, there are several University-wide research centers, institutes, and associated Federal research laboratories that promote and facilitate collaborative research.

Resources for research come from University funds and from federal, state, and private foundation grants to faculty and graduate students. The Mathematics and Statistics faculty have a strong record in obtaining grant funds from numerous agencies including the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Texas Advanced Research Program, and the Texas Advanced Technology Program.

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## HOW IS MY DEPARTMENTAL APPLICATION EVALUATED?

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Faculty members comprising the Graduate Program Committee evaluate your completed application holistically, based on the combination of:

- Grades
- GRE scores (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing)
- Letters of Recommendation
- Any additional evidence of potential as a research scientist (publications, awards, or other scholarly achievements)

The Graduate Program Committee does not use any specific cut-offs to evaluate GPA and GRE scores for admissions. However, a minimum GPA of 3.2 (out of 4.0) is required to be considered for graduate teaching assistantships.

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## WHAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

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### Graduate Teaching Assistantships

The majority of our graduate students are funded through part time Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA). The beginning stipend is currently \$15,700 for the nine-month academic year. Many students are also provided support for one or two summer sessions. Out-of-state tuition and Designated Tuition, as well as most fees, are waived. Generally, GTA's are required to teach 2 lower level, undergraduate courses once they have accrued 18 graduate credit hours. If graduate students do not have classroom teaching responsibilities, they are given grading or tutoring duties or leadership of course homework sessions.



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## Scholarships

Typically, the Mathematics & Statistics Department awards more than \$10,000 in special graduate scholarships. The scholarships are funded from the following endowments:

- Ronald M. Anderson
- Benjamin S. Duran
- Gordon Fuller
- Patrick Odell
- Hermann Reynolds
- SIAM
- John T. White

Also, many scholarships and fellowships are awarded by the Graduate School. A student has to be nominated by a faculty member in order to be eligible to receive a fellowship. A student can receive a fellowship in addition to an assistantship.

Please see the departmental calendar for application deadlines.

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## WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

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For questions regarding your application to the Graduate School, including transcripts, test scores, application fee, and issues relating to the status of international students, contact the Graduate School directly. Questions regarding your application for teaching assistantships can be addressed to the Graduate Advisor at the e-mail address listed on this web site.



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