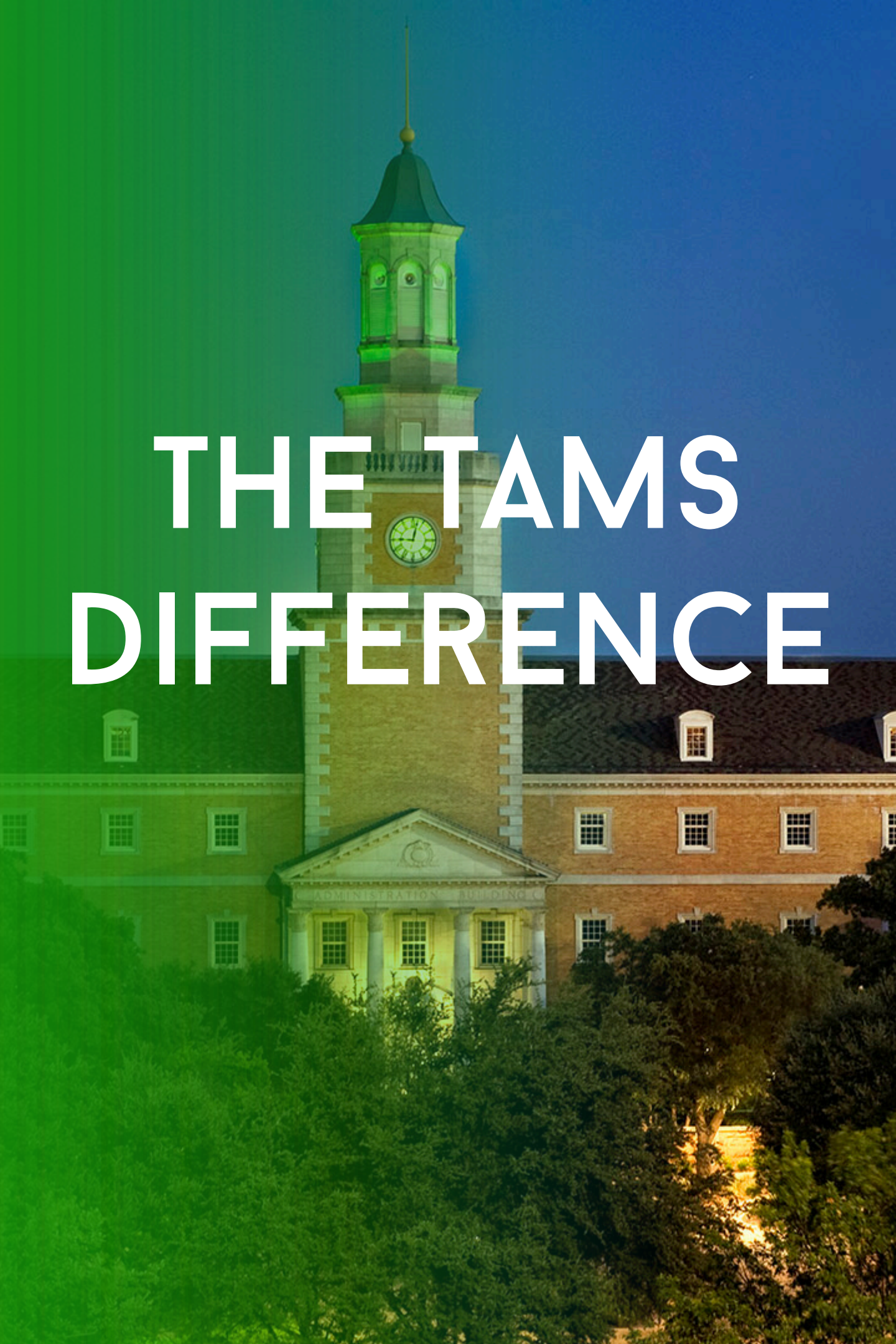


COLLEGE ADMISSIONS & ADVISING

Sydney Mckinnis, College Advisor





THE TAMS DIFFERENCE

- Full-time UNT students
- Completing university coursework immediately
- Learning in a highly accelerated environment
- Competing in a very high-achieving peer group
- Balancing independence with academic rigor
- Colleges know TAMS is rigorous.

Colleges consider:

- Academic rigor
- College-level coursework
- Performance over time
- Intellectual engagement
- Initiative and maturity
- Fit for intended major
- Contributions outside the classroom

HOW
COLLEGE
VIEW TAMS



College Advisor

- College planning
- Application strategy
- Essay guidance
- Application timelines
- College list development
- Recommendation coordination
- Host college visits



**SUPPORT AT
TAMS**

College Advisor



SUPPORT AT TAMS

Academic Counselors

Academic Counselors

- Registration and curriculum planning
- Academic support
- Policies and progress monitoring

Faculty & Staff

- Mentorship
- Research support
- Recommendation letters

A photograph of a female scientist in a white lab coat and blue gloves, holding a small vial in a laboratory setting. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The text 'SUPPORT AT TAMS' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

SUPPORT AT TAMS

Faculty & Staff

YOUR FIRST YEAR



FOCUS ON

Focus on:

- Academic adjustment
- Time management
- Healthy routines
- Building relationships (including professional)
- Exploring interests & engagement in *meaningful activities*
- Learning independence
- Seeking help early

Do not focus on:

- Building a “perfect” resume immediately
- Comparing yourself constantly
- Overcommitting to activities

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

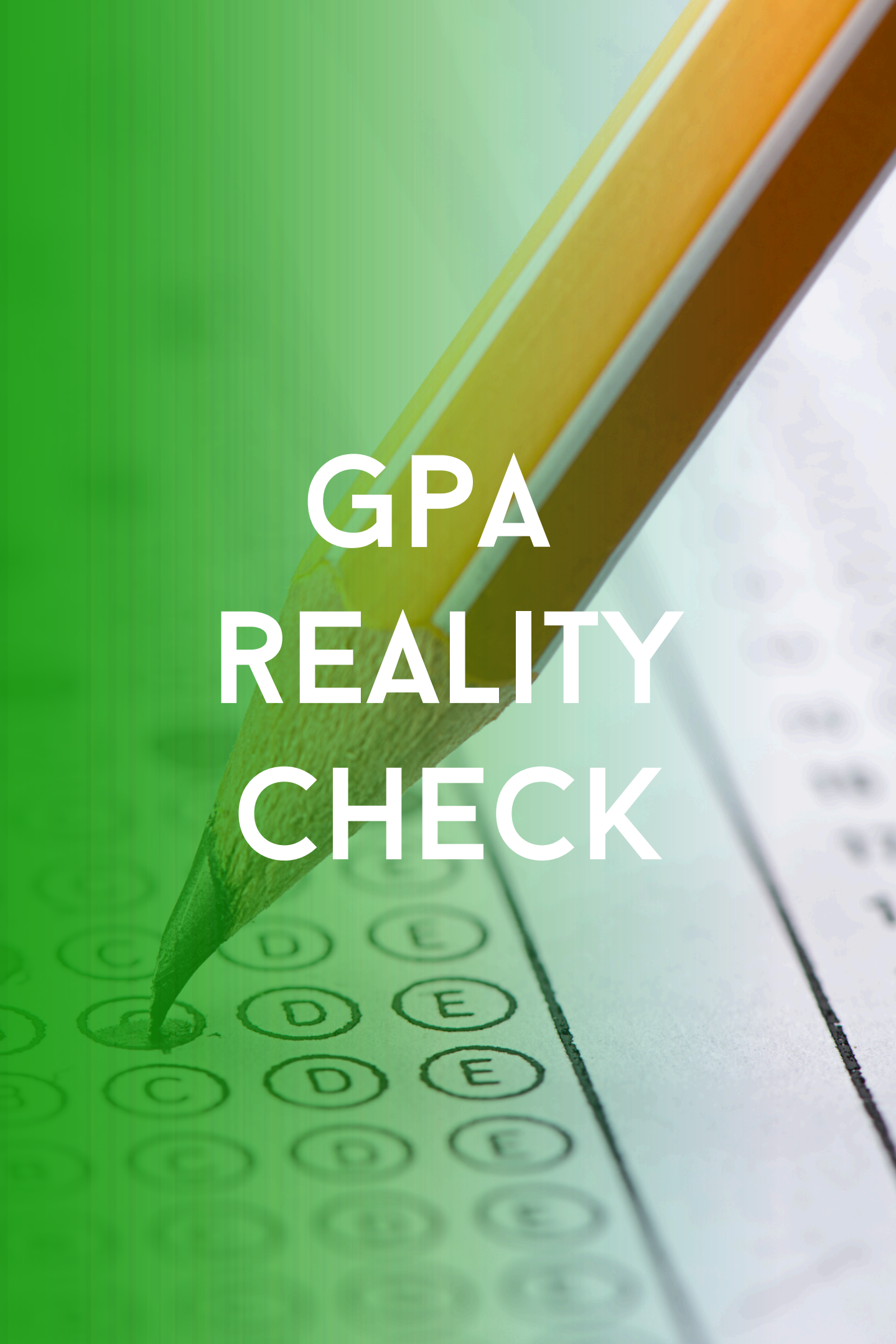
Students may experience:

- Faster pacing
- Less structured accountability
- Larger exams/projects
- More reading and independent learning
- Professors with different teaching styles
- Challenging grading

Asking for help early is a strength.

A female student in a white lab coat and blue gloves is working in a laboratory. She is holding a small vial and looking at it. The background shows laboratory equipment and a biohazard sign. The text "ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS" is overlaid on the image.

ACADEMIC
EXPECTATIONS



GPA REALITY CHECK

Important truths:

- Your GPA may look different than high school.
- Many students earn lower grades than they are used to.
- Colleges understand TAMS rigor.
- Upward trends matter.
- Balance matters more than overload.

Challenge yourself wisely. All grades in TAMS are part of your academic record.



ACTIVITIES MATTER...

But Not in the Way You Think

STRONG INVOLVEMENT INCLUDES :

- • CONSISTENCY
- • INITIATIVE
- • LEADERSHIP
- • CONTRIBUTION
- • IMPACT
- • GENUINE INTEREST

Colleges prefer depth over random activity collection.

A photograph of four students in a laboratory setting, overlaid with a green gradient. The students are wearing white lab coats and safety goggles. From left to right: a woman with long dark hair, a woman with long brown hair, a woman with dark hair in a braid, and a man with short dark hair. They are all smiling or looking towards the camera. In the background, there are shelves with various lab equipment and supplies.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

UNT is a Carnegie-ranked Tier One
research university

A young woman with brown hair, wearing a white lab coat over a black top, is smiling and looking towards the right. She is standing in front of a whiteboard that has some handwritten chemistry notes, including CdCl_2 , V_1 , V_2 , and V_2/mL .

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Possible opportunities include:

- Faculty-led research
- Laboratory experiences
- Independent projects
- Summer programs
- Conferences and presentations

Research is valuable, but not mandatory for every student.

LEADERSHIP

- • STARTING INITIATIVES
- • MENTORING PEERS
- • ORGANIZING PROGRAMS
- • SOLVING PROBLEMS
- • SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS CONSISTENTLY
- • TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Titles alone do not impress colleges.

SUMMER PLANNING



SUMMER PLANNING

Examples of productive summers:

- Research
- Jobs/internships
- Volunteering
- Summer programs
- Family responsibilities
- Independent projects
- Skill development
- Rest and recovery

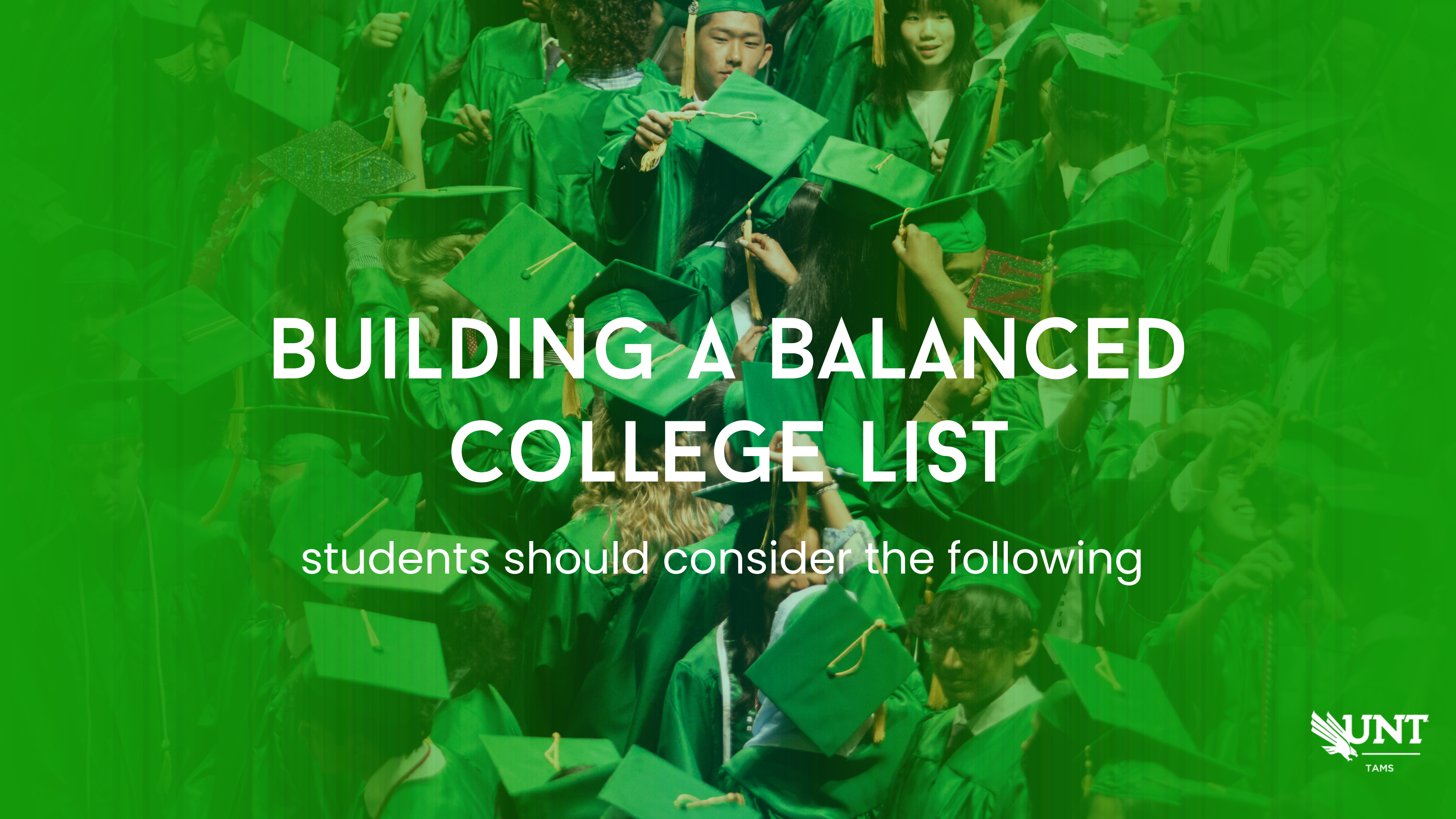
Productive does not always mean prestigious.

Students should:

- Understand college testing policies
- Prepare intentionally
- Test strategically
- Avoid excessive repeated testing

Testing is ONE part of the application.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

A large group of graduates in green caps and gowns, with a green overlay.

BUILDING A BALANCED COLLEGE LIST

students should consider the following



BUILDING A BALANCED COLLEGE LIST

Students should consider:

- Academic fit
- Financial fit
- Social/environmental fit
- Career opportunities
- Campus culture
- Geographic preferences
- Support systems

Prestige alone should not drive decisions.

UNDERSTANDING SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS

Selective admissions are unpredictable. Even highly qualified students may receive:

- WAITLIST
- DEFERRALS
- DENIALS

Admissions decisions are not personal worth assessments

Strong applicants often demonstrate:

- Intellectual curiosity
- Initiative
- Follow-through
- Authenticity
- Engagement
- Character
- Growth

There is no single “perfect” formula.

A photograph of a student in a white lab coat working in a chemistry laboratory. The student is holding a test tube and a pipette. The image is overlaid with a green gradient. The text 'WHAT COLLEGES WANT TO SEE' is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

WHAT
COLLEGES
WANT TO SEE



COMMON STUDENT MISTAKES

- Overloading commitments
- Comparing constantly
- Waiting too long to seek help
- Doing activities only for resumes
- Poor time management
- Ignoring sleep and wellness
- Procrastinating applications
- Assuming “everyone else is ahead”

The College Admissions
Landscape

The College Admissions
Landscape

ADVICE FOR PARENTS



SUPPORT INCLUDES

- Encouragement
- Listening
- Perspective
- Healthy expectations
- Emotional support
- Helping students build independence

- Excessive comparison
- Taking over the process
- Defining success too narrowly

PLEASE
AVOID

The background of the slide features a collage of financial data. At the top left, there is a bar chart with green bars and dates from 4/11/2010 to 4/19/2010. Below it, a line graph with green and blue lines shows various data points, with labels like 'Copper', 'Steel', 'Aluminum', 'Nickel', and 'Bauxite'. A black pen lies diagonally across the center. At the bottom, a bar chart with blue bars shows values for 'Cotton', 'Flax', 'Textiles', 'Wool', 'Fur', and 'Satin'. A US dollar bill is partially visible on the left side.

FINANCIAL CONVERSATIONS

Families should discuss finances early, please consider :

- Cost of attendance
- Financial aid (scholarships, grants, and loans)
- In-state vs. out-of-state tuition
- Net price calculators
- Family expectations

Financial fit matters.

Students should learn to:

- Check email regularly
- Respond professionally
- Meet deadlines
- Ask questions clearly and direct them to the appropriate resources rather than relying on peers for guidance

Communication is part of college readiness.



COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS



COLLEGE VISITS

Admission representatives
come to TAMS



COLLEGE VISITS

Mostly during Fall semesters, some in Spring

- Visits advertised on Canvas and TAMS Club calendar
- Occur in afternoons – do not miss class
- Recaps posted on Canvas
- Ask meaningful questions if you attend
- Usually held in Mac Cafe

Whether visiting a campus or attending a visit at TAMS, students should evaluate:

- Campus environment
- Academic atmosphere
- Student culture
- Support resources
- Housing/dining
- Internship/research opportunities



TIMELINE OVERVIEW

All Two Years

FIRST YEAR

- Adjust academically
- Explore interests
- Build routines
- Note HS activities & descriptions
- Standardized testing
- Spring: College Admission Prep Course

- Meaningful engagement
- Skill development
- College list development
- Essays
- Recommendation requests
- Standardized testing (if needed)

SUMMER AFTER FIRST YEAR

A photograph of graduates in green gowns and caps, with a green overlay on the left side. The text 'SECOND YEAR' is written in white over the overlay.

SECOND YEAR

- Applications
- Essays
- Recommendation requests
- Admission decisions & financial aid review



QUESTIONS?

THANKS FOR LISTENING



