

**INFO 5731**

**Computational Methods for Information  
Systems**

**Section: 020**

**SYLLABUS**

**Fall 2024**

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

- INFO 5731, Sections 020, 3 Credit Hours
- Title: Computational Methods for Information Systems
- **Meeting Dates (Face-to-face):** See Table 2
- Meeting Time: **Wednesday 5:30PM - 8:20PM**
- Room: **NTDP B155**

**Instructor Contact Information**

- **Haihua Chen**, Assistant Professor in Data Science, Department of Information Science, College of Information, University of North Texas.
- Office: DP E298A (By appointment)
- Zoom Meeting ID: 247 728 2245 (By appointment)
- Phone: (940) 268-8589
- Email address: [haihua.chen@unt.edu](mailto:haihua.chen@unt.edu)

**Teaching Assistant**

- **Fengjiao Tu**, PhD student in Information Science, Department of Information Science, College of Information, University of North Texas
- Office and office hour: E292L (By appointment)
  - Friday: noon -2:00 pm, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
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- **Yuhan Zhou**, PhD student in Information Science, Department of Information Science, College of Information, University of North Texas
- Office and office hour: E292L (By appointment)
  - Monday and Tuesday: 2:00 pm-4:00 pm
- Zoom meeting ID: 847 135 4730
- Email address: [yuhanzhou@my.unt.edu](mailto:yuhanzhou@my.unt.edu)
- Phone: (940) 629-9710

**Communicating with Your Instructor**

This course will have a website in UNT Canvas (<https://unt.instructure.com/login/canvas>) for online discussion, assignment submissions, and sharing of reading materials. Students are welcome to make an appointment with the instructor and/or the teaching assistant (TA) to discuss course-related questions (in person or online). If you need to schedule an individual online meeting with the instructor or the TA, please send her/him an email via the course website in Canvas Course Messages to make an appointment.

## Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

- Pre-requisite: Basic programming knowledge and experience (Python), or consent of instructor

## Course Format

INFO 5731, Sections 020 hold face-to-face lectures by the instructor. The course uses Canvas, UNT's new learning management system. All course materials will be available at the course site on Canvas that is accessible to all students. And students will submit all assignments through the tools available on Canvas.

## Course Description

Introduces computational methods that facilitate information analysis, management, and presentation in information systems. Students learn effective computer programming skills and analytical tools to process real-world data. Problem-oriented and project-based, allows students to explore interesting research ideas or implement useful information management applications.

## Course Goals, Learning Objectives

- Master key concepts and components of NLP and linguistics.
- Manipulate large corpora, explore linguistic models, and test empirical claims.
- Design and implement applications that process, manage, and analyze text data.
- Clean and preprocess raw text data using basic natural language processing techniques.
- Demonstrate the ability to extract and analyze information from text data using Python Program.
- Build robust systems to perform linguistic tasks with technological applications.
- Document and report on information processing and applications.

## Materials

Textbook information (required):

1. Downey, Allen B. (2016). **Think Python: How to Think Like a Computer Scientist**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. O'Reilly, ISBN-13: 978-1-491-93936-9. Free access link: <https://greenteapress.com/thinkpython/thinkpython.html>
2. Hapke, H., Howard, C., & Lane, H. (2021). *Natural Language Processing in Action: Understanding, analyzing, and generating text with Python* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Simon and Schuster. Link: <https://www.manning.com/books/natural-language-processing-in-action-second-edition>  
Free access link: <https://www.nltk.org/book/>  
Exercises in the book: <https://github.com/STRZGR/Natural-Language-Processing-with-Python-Analyzing-Text-with-the-Natural-Language-Toolkit?tab=readme-ov-file>
3. Tunstall, L., Von Werra, L., & Wolf, T. (2022). *Natural language processing with transformers* (Revised Edition). " O'Reilly Media, Inc.". Link: <https://transformersbook.com>  
Free access link: <https://books.google.ch/books?id=7hhyzgEACAAJ>  
Code example of the book: <https://github.com/nlp-with-transformers/notebooks>

Supplementary materials and/or readings (recommended):

4. Python Documentation: <https://www.python.org/doc/>.
5. Python Forums: <https://python-forum.io/>.
6. Stackoverflow: <https://stackoverflow.com/>.
7. NLTK Documentation: <https://www.nltk.org/>.
8. Google Colab: <http://colab.research.google.com/>.
9. Success Story of Sylvain Gugger: <https://www.fast.ai/2019/01/02/one-year-of-deep-learning/>.
10. Github link of the first textbook: <https://github.com/AllenDowney/ThinkPython>
11. Github link of the second textbook: <https://github.com/totalgood/nlpia>
12. Github link of the third textbook: <https://github.com/nlp-with-transformers/notebooks>
13. Jacob Eisenstein. (2019). Introduction to Natural Language Processing (Adaptive Computation and Machine Learning series). The MIT Press, ISBN-13: 978-0262042840.

### Teaching Philosophy

The instructor will take a problem-solving approach and work together with students to understand Natural Language Processing. We will learn how to solve practical data collecting, text processing, information extraction, and text mining problems. He will monitor the progress of students and is open to suggestions from students. Students are expected to study 12-15 hours per week, and to submit their assignments on time to achieve satisfactory class performance. Interaction between the student and the instructor/TA is guaranteed and strongly encouraged. Students who don't have knowledge and experience in python are expected to spend extra hours on this course.

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/ASSISTANCE

UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

Phone: 940.565-2324

In-Person: Sage Hall, Room 330

Hours are:

- Monday-Thursday 8am-midnight
- Friday 8am-8pm
- Saturday 9am-5p
- Sunday 8am-midnight
- Canvas technical requirements: <https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>

- Other related hardware or software necessary for the course: such as headset/microphone for synchronous chats, word processor, etc.

### Minimum Technical Skills Needed

Using the Internet and the learning management system Canvas, using email with attachments, creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats, downloading and installing software, using python programs.

### Student Academic Support Services

- [Code of Student Conduct](#): provides Code of Student Conduct along with other useful links
- [Office of Disability Access](#): exists to prevent discrimination based on disability and to help students reach a higher level of independence
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#): provides counseling services to the UNT community, as well as testing services; such as admissions testing, computer-based testing, career testing, and other tests
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [UNT Learning Center](#): provides a variety of services, including tutoring, to enhance the student academic experience
- [UNT Writing Center](#): offers free writing tutoring to all UNT students, undergraduate, and graduate, including online tutoring
- [Succeed at UNT](#): information regarding how to be a successful student at UNT

## ASSESSMENT & GRADING

### Assessments

A student's grade is composed of the following:

- In-class exercise (20%)
- Assignments (40%)
- Quizzes (10%)
- Term Project (30%)
- Extra Credits (10%)

### Grading

**Class Attendance and Participation.** Attending the class meeting is required, students who miss more than 3 class meetings will receive an F directly. Prior to the meeting, please preview the readings for the class and prepare your questions for discussion. You will miss in-class exercises, or quizzes if you do not attend the class.

**In-class exercise (20%).** There will be **FIVE in-class exercises**. On some assigned days, students will be required to work on an in-class exercise during class. These in-class exercises are designed to teach students concepts about programming that are not covered in the textbook and will often contain material that will be useful for the assignments and term project. Students are encouraged to use any learning materials at their disposal and will be able to ask the instructor for help. **In-class exercise is due by the end of class day (11:59 pm).**

**Assignments (40%).** The class will have **FOUR assignments**. The assignments are designed to help students understand important concepts and gain hands-on experience in Python programming, data processing, and problem-solving. Assignments should be typewritten, and diagrams should be drawn using graphics software packages such as PowerPoints and Excel, code should be written on Google Colab.

**Quizzes (10%).** There will be **FIVE quizzes** for this course at the specified dates in Table 2. The quizzes will be made available to students on canvas a few days before that week's class. It will be available online from 6:00 pm on Monday to 6:00 pm on Friday, **due at 6:00 pm on Friday of the specified week**. Students need to complete the quiz in 30 minutes; **students have two attempts for each quiz**.

**Term Project (30%).** (Report One 5%; Final Report and the System/programs: 15%; Presentation and evaluation 10%). The purpose of the term project is to apply what has been taught in this course to process real-world data or information. Students will work in teams (no more than 6 people) to tackle one particular problem assigned or approved by the instructor in Natural Language Processing, Information Visualization, Machine Learning, and/or Data Mining. Term project topics and their specifications will be distributed and discussed in class.

**Extra Credits (100 points).** Extra credits are made up of three parts: Paper reading notes (50 points), in-class presentation (10 points), course evaluation (10 points), and attending research presentations (30 points). For readings and presentations, we will have a list of papers related to the topic of each lecture, the students can get 10 points after submitting a one-page reading note before every lecture (10 chances for submission), besides, each student is required to give at least one presentation on one selected paper in the whole semester (10 points), after submitting five reading notes and the in-class presentation, the students can get the 60 points; students should decide the presentation order during the first class. For the course evaluation, at the end of the semester, students will receive a link to evaluate the course, once students send the screenshot showing they have finished the evaluation, they will get this extra credit. For attending research presentations (online research talks), the teacher will announce the relevant information in class, once students show evidence that they attend the activity, they will get 10 points each time with 30 points at most.

**Total Points Possible for Semester/Grading Scale = 1100**

1100-900 = A	899-800 = B
799-700 = C	699-600 = D
599 and below = F	

### Grading Table

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Percentage of Final Grade</b>
<b>In-class exercise</b> • 5 In-class exercises @ 40 points ea.	200 points	20%
<b>Assignment 1 –</b>	100 points	10%
<b>Assignment 2 –</b>	100 points	10%
<b>Assignment 3 –</b>	100 points	10%



<b>Assignment 4 –</b>	<i>100 points</i>	<i>10%</i>
<b>Quizzes</b> • <i>5 quizzes @ 20 points ea.</i>	<i>100 points</i>	<i>10%</i>
<b>Term Project</b> • <i>Report one @ 50 points.</i> • <i>Final report @ 150 points.</i> • <i>Presentation and evaluation @ 100 points.</i>	<i>300 points</i>	<i>30%</i>
<b>Extra credits</b> • <i>Readings and presentation @ 50 points.</i> • <i>In-class presentation @ 10 points.</i> • <i>Course evaluation @ 10 points.</i> • <i>Attend research meetings @ 30 points.</i>	<i>100 points</i>	<i>10%</i>
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<i>1100 points</i>	<i>110%</i>

## COURSE CALENDAR

The contents of the course are organized into 16 weeks. Please refer to Table 1 for lessons, topics, and readings materials. Table 2 lists the suggested study schedule, assignments, quiz, and term project due dates.

Table 1. Lessons and Readings

Lessons	Topics	Readings
<b>Lesson 1</b>	Introduction to Python and NLP, Google Colab, GitHub. Course Orientation and Overview Core Concepts Related to NLP	Downey: Chapter 1 Hobson: Chapter 1
<b>Lesson 2</b>	Python Basic (1): Integers, Floats, Booleans, Strings, Lists, List Operations, Tuples, Dictionaries, Sets, List Comprehensions, Files, Functions, I/O	Downey: Chapter 2-3, 8, 10-14
<b>Lesson 3</b>	Python Basics (2): Python Modules, Packages, Functions, Conditionals, for Loops, Recursion, Selections, Exceptions, Classes and Objects, Regular Expression	Downey: Chapter 4-7, 9, 15-18
<b>Lesson 4</b>	Accessing Text Copra and Lexical resources	PPT
<b>Lesson 5</b>	Raw Text Preprocessing and Cleaning: Removing Stop Words, Stemming, Segmentation, and POS-Tagging	Hobson: Chapter 2, 3
<b>Lesson 6</b>	Analyzing Sentence Structure	PPT
<b>Lesson 7</b>	Extracting Information from Text	Hobson: Chapter 6-10, PPT
<b>Lesson 8</b>	Semantic Analysis of Sentences	Hobson: Chapter 4
<b>Lesson 9</b>	Sentiment Analysis of Text	PPT
<b>Lesson 10</b>	Text Classification and Clustering	PPT
<b>Lesson 11</b>	Generative AI-Powered NLP applications (Optional)	PPT

## Study Schedule and Due Dates

(Assignments and the Project first submission will due on **Sunday midnight** of the specified week. Quizzes will be available online **from 6:00 pm on Monday to 6:00 pm on Friday** of the specified week.

Term project final report will due on December 6 midnight). The time of the invited talk might be changed based on the speakers’ schedule.

Table 2. Study Schedule and Due Dates

Academic Week	Dates	Meeting Date	Study Focus	Assignment/Project /Survey/Quiz Due
1	Aug 19 - Aug 25	Aug 21	Syllabus, Lesson 1	
2	Aug 26 - Sep 01	Aug 28	Lesson 2	Exercise 1
3	Sep 02 - Sep 08	Sep 04	Lesson 3	Quiz 1 Assignment 1
4	Sep 09 - Sep 15	Sep 11	Lesson 4	Exercise 2 Quiz 2
5	Sep 16 - Sep 22	Sep 18	Lesson 5	Quiz 3 Project Topics
6	Sep 23 - Sep 29	Sep 25	Lesson 6	Assignment 2 Exercise 3
7	Sep 30 - Oct 06	Oct 02	Lesson 7	Quiz 4
8	Oct 07 - Oct 13	Oct 09	Work on Term Project Proposal. Meet with each group separately to discuss the term project.	
9	Oct 14 - Oct 20	Oct 16	Term Project Progress Report and Presentation	Term Project 1 <sup>st</sup> Submission
10	Oct 21 - Oct 27	Oct 23	Lesson 8	Exercise 4 Quiz 5
11	Oct 28 - Nov 03	No Meeting (ASIST 2024)	Working on project	Assignment 3
12	Nov 04 - Nov 10	Nov 06	Lesson 9	Exercise 5
13	Nov 11 - Nov 17	Nov 13	Lesson 10	
14	Nov 18 - Nov 24	Nov 20	Lesson 11 (or Invited Talk from Industry)	Assignment 4 All the extra credit submissions due
15	Nov 25 - Dec 01	No Meeting Thanksgiving Break	Working on project	
16	Dec 02 – Dec 08	Dec 04	Class Summary. Term Project Presentation	Slides of the Project Presentation Due Dec 03 Midnight  Term Project Final Report Due at Dec 06 Midnight
17	Dec 09 – Dec 15	No Meeting	Instructor will work on the grading	

## COURSE EVALUATION

### Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during

weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at <http://spot.unt.edu/> or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

## COURSE POLICIES

### Assignment Policy

Students should submit the assignments and term project reports via Dropbox at class site in [canvas.unt.edu](https://canvas.unt.edu): doc (or .docx) files with the code link on GitHub included in the file, also with the code uploaded on GitHub, details will be included in each assignment.

### Examination Policy

There are no exams for this course.

### Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

- Helping students grow and learn
- Providing clear instructions for projects and assessments
- Answering questions about assignments
- Identifying additional resources as necessary
- Providing grading rubrics
- Reviewing and updating course content
- The instructor and TA will respond to students' emails and questions posted to the discussion boards within two days except for the weekends
- Assignments grades and feedbacks will be returned to the students within one week after the submission deadline.

### Late Work and Missed Work

Students are expected to submit assignments and projects on time. **The due dates are Sunday 11:59pm of the week specified in Table 2. Study Schedule and Due Dates.** If an extenuating circumstance such as a medically diagnosed illness or a family emergency arises, which prevents you from submitting your assignments, you should contact the instructor and the TA as soon as possible before the due date. Late work without the permission of the instructor will receive a grade with a 10% penalty (or 10 points out of 100) per day after the due date. A student who is having trouble with assignments is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor and the TA as early as possible for personal advising.

### Course Incomplete Grade

The UNT Graduate Catalog (<http://catalog.unt.edu/index.php?catoid=16>) describes and explains grading policies. A grade of Incomplete (I) will be given only for a justifiable reason and only if the student is passing the course. The student is responsible for meeting with the instructor to request an incomplete and discuss requirements for completing the course. If an incomplete is not removed within the time frame agreed to by the instructor and student, the instructor may assign a grade of F.

## Withdrawal

The UNT Graduate Catalog (<http://catalog.unt.edu/index.php?catoid=16>) describes and explains withdrawal policies and deadlines. The UNT semester course schedule lists specific deadlines regarding withdrawal. A grade of Withdraw (W) or Withdraw-Failing (WF) will be given depending on a student's attendance record and grade earned. Please note that a student who simply stops attending class and does not file a withdrawal form may receive an F.

## Attendance Policy

**Attending the class meeting is required, students who miss more than 3 class meetings will receive an F directly.** Prior to the meeting, please preview the readings for the class and prepare your questions for discussion. You will miss in-class exercises, or quizzes if you do not attend the class.

## Students' Responsibility for Their Learning

The students are required to follow course schedule and finish the classwork, assignments, quizzes, and term projects. Students are expected to study 12-15 hours per week to achieve satisfactory class performance. Students do not have programming experience are required to find extra materials to study.

## UNT POLICIES

### Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

### ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu).

### Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual records; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct).

### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/).

### **Sexual Assault Prevention**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [oeo@unt.edu](mailto:oeo@unt.edu) or at (940) 565 2759.

### **Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses**

#### **Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://www.ecfr.gov/>. The

specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

### **University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

### **Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](#).

### **Use of Student Work**

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g., software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- The use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.

- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form