

Dear Graduate Student Body:

I began my academic career at the University of North Texas (UNT) in 2019 as a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology. My research interests are vast, but specifically center around trauma, resiliency, and organizational psychology. I have served as the Graduate Student Council (GSC) Vice President of Communications and Marketing (VPCM) from 2020 to now, and would like to be considered for the position of President. I believe I embody qualities of an effective leader such as efficiency, strategic thinking, advocacy, commitment to excellence, and transparency. Most importantly, I endeavor to lead this organization forward as we return to campus, with my primary aim being to advocate for, collaborate with, and motivate graduate students.

As your GSC President, I will protect and promote graduate students by pursuing the following six objectives: 1. To reunify the UNT graduate student body via virtual and in-person programs, 2. To enhance the visibility and representation of intersectional students, 3. To promote bipartisanship and apoliticism, 4. To advocate for underserved student groups, 5. To provide interdisciplinary leadership and mentorship, and 6. To encourage civic engagement. My vision is to work collaboratively with UNT administration and other university entities to strengthen our relations with local, regional, and national leaders and organizations. Specifically, I intend to maintain close working relationships with the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) and the Texas Graduate Coalition, while attending the NAGPS National Conference and Advocacy Summit/Legislative Action Days.

As VPCM, I serve as a liaison between graduate student leaders, university administrators and faculty. I have advocated for international students, students with disabilities, and students of all colors and ethnicities for a variety of matters. Most recently, I collaborated with members of the Board of Regents to develop a mentorship program aimed at connecting students with mentors across North Texas. In the coming academic year, I will forge ahead with GSC, while maintaining involvement with the Graduate Association of Students in Psychology (GASP), Psi Chi, UNT Hillel, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

I have served on a number of committees at UNT, such as the Academic Integrity Task Force, Student Media Committee, GSC Committee for Student Mental Health, and the NAGPS Planning Committee. These connections with various student organizations, faculty, and staff are vital when advocating on behalf of graduate students, thereby maintaining a direct line of communication regarding our concerns. My commitment, dedication, and passion for diversity, inclusion, and open communication are unmatched. Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to continuing to serve the graduate student body in the upcoming year.

Warmest regards,  
Andrea Ortiz