Terry Scholars, Class of 2018

The 2017 class of Terry Scholars at UT Dallas includes the following freshmen and transfer students:

2018 Freshmen Terry Scholars

Gizman Baraso, Wylie High School, Wylie
Gizman Baraso was an AP Scholar and winner of a Richland College STEM web design award. She was historian for HOSA-Future Health Professionals and the student liaison for the PTA. Baraso received the Rachel's Challenge Community Service Award and volunteered for organizations such as the East Plano Islamic Center, Bilal Community Center, and Baylor Scott & White Emergency Center-Wylie. She plans to major in healthcare studies.

Blanka Bordas, Northside Health Careers High School, San Antonio
Blanka Bordas was the section leader for the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio and president of her high school band. As a clarinetist, she won a gold medal at state in the solo and ensemble competitions. Bordas interned in a biomedical research lab at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, where she measured autism-relevant behaviors in mice. She also volunteered at a public library in San Antonio. Bordas plans to major in biology.

Divina Carrillo, Incarnate Word High School, San Antonio
Divina Carrillo was an AP Scholar and poetry editor for her school's literary magazine. She received the President's Award for Educational Excellence. She was communications leader for the San Antonio Youth Commission, where she served on a panel for youth civic engagement at the MLK Youth Empowerment Summit. Carrillo also was zone leader for UT Health Science Center at San Antonio's UT Teen Health program. She volunteered at Davidson Respite House for children with special needs, Christian Assistance Ministry, and Habitat for Humanity. Carrillo plans to major in psychology.

Rene Davila, Northside Health Careers High School, San Antonio
Rene Davila was a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. He was president and founder of the audio/video club, technical director of the International Thespian Society, and treasurer for student council. He was also a member of Key Club and HOSA-Future Health Professionals, where he advanced to state in the HOSA competition. Davila was a research intern in biomedical engineering at UT San Antonio. He also volunteered at Children's Association for Maximum Potential for kids with disabilities and created Serenade Charity Music for nursing-home residents. Davila plans to major in biomedical engineering.

Josue Fonseca, Carnegie Vanguard High School, Houston
Josue Fonseca was an AP Scholar, secretary of the National Honor Society, and treasurer of the Hispanic Honor Society. He also was vice-president of his school's Amnesty International program, as well as founder and president of the school's Red Cross Club. Fonseca was the sophomore representative for student council and a cello instructor. He also volunteered at Houston Methodist Hospital and helped administer a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency on water conservation. Fonseca plans to major in healthcare studies.

Mohammad Hamed, Lloyd V. Berkner High School, Richardson
Mohammad Hamed was a member of National Honor Society and on the Honor Roll. He also was president of Berkner STEM Academy and captain of the soccer team. Hamed was part of Young Investigators, an engineering program in conjunction with UT Dallas, where he explored pH indicators. He volunteered at robotics competitions, the Muslim American Society, and the Islamic Association of North Texas. Hamed plans to major in mechanical engineering.

Bryan Jennings, Home School, Rockwall
Bryan Jennings was treasurer for the National Honor Society and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He also was team leader for water polo, where he was involved in the Olympic Development Program. Jennings attended cybersecurity summer camps at UT Dallas and won the GenCyber Award for Cyber Patriot IX. He was an information technology intern for Stream Energy and volunteered at churches as a math tutor, small group leader, and a team leader for Vacation Bible School. Jennings plans to major in computer science.

Mohammed Mithani, Hebron High School, Carrollton
Mohammed Mithani was the founder and president of Hebron High School's chapter of Pencils of Promise, an organization that provides access to education for children in underdeveloped countries. He was a state qualifier for DECA, a business organization that prepares emerging leaders. Mithani also was a marketing intern for Farmers Insurance. He volunteered with the Institute of Islamic Learning in the Metroplex Annual Blood Drive, Salvation Army, and Trusted World Foundation. Mithani plans to major in international political economy.

Prince Nze, Frisco High School, Frisco
Prince Nze was a member of the National Honor Society, service project coordinator for the National Technical Honor Society, treasurer for HOSA-Future Health Professionals, and equipment team captain and service team for band at his high school. He also won awards in the Texas Music Educators Association All-Region symphonic band and wind ensemble categories. Nze volunteered with the band at churches in Frisco, the S.M. Wright Foundation and Frisco Family Services. He plans to major in actuarial science.

Vicente Pinter, Maypearl High School, Maypearl
Vicente Pinter was valedictorian and a National Hispanic Scholar. He was the University Interscholastic League regional qualifier for mathematics and science, and the Academics All-Star for the highest GPA. Pinter also was president of the National Honor Society, executive president and treasurer for student council, and captain of soccer. He was MVP for cross country and track, and placed first in all-district baseball. Pinter also volunteered as a math tutor and a coach for Midlothian soccer and softball teams. He plans to major in biology.

Pranami Saha, Creekview High School, Carrollton
Pranami Saha was an AP Scholar and a DECA state finalist and placed second in UIL for accounting. She was vice-president of the Math Honor Society and Key Club, president and treasurer for AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), and participated in The Be Project, a program of The Family Place that empowers youth to be part of the solution to end relationship violence. Saha also volunteered with various organizations, including the Carrollton Public Library and Texas Motor Speedway. She plans to major in accounting.

Genesis Santos, Sharpstown High School, Houston
Genesis Santos was valedictorian and vice president of both the National Honor Society and Key Club, for which she participated in volunteer activities at Westbury Park and the Willow Waterhole Music Fest, as well as post-Hurricane Harvey recovery work. She also was captain of the Apollo Tutors Club, where she
tutored children at an apartment complex, and was junior varsity captain of the volleyball team. Santos plans to major in biology.

Alexandra Saunders, Clear Horizons Early College High School, Houston
Alexandra Saunders was a Superintendent's Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society. She was president and co-founder of the UNICEF Club on campus, senior class secretary, and team captain for the tennis team. As a delegate to Junior State of America, Saunders traveled to Georgetown University to complete a government and politics program. She also was an intern at the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, where she coordinated a health fair for senior citizens. Saunders plans to major in finance.

Matthew Winter, McKinney Boyd High School, McKinney
Matthew Winter was a member of the National Honor Society and a math tutor. He was co-president of the Chess Club and state chess champion through the Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League (TCSALL). Winter also was vice president of Jazz Band and placed second at TCSALL for solo piano and for small ensemble. He volunteered with multiple organizations, including serving as a mentor for disadvantaged youth through Hope Worldwide camps in Dallas, Pennsylvania, and Hawaii. Winter plans to major in mechanical engineering.

2018 Terry Transfer Scholars

Angelica Avila, Mesquite
Angelica Avila graduated with an associate of science degree from Eastfield College, where she was on the President's Honor Roll and was vice president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa. She also was an investigator in the Young Women in Science & Engineering Program, where she designed a scientific project involving polymers that are synthesized for the purpose of drug delivery. Avila volunteered for Baylor Scott & White Hospital. She plans to major in healthcare studies.

Nianhuan Chen, Houston
Nianhuan Chen graduated with an associate of science degree from Houston Community College. She was the recipient of the Clutch City Foundation Scholarship, which was established by Houston Rockets owner Leslie Alexander to provide help and inspiration to others. Chen was a sales assistant for the skin care company L'Occitane en Provence, and helped her team win a trip to France. She plans to major in computer science.

Jade Montague, Arlington
Jade Montague attended Tarrant County College. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and was on the Dean's List. Montague also was a member of Student Leadership Academy, which helps students develop skills to become campus leaders. She volunteered for Mission Arlington and Habitat for Humanity. Montague plans to major in arts, technology and emerging communication.

Basir Noory, McKinney
Basir Noory graduated with an associate of science degree from Collin College, where he was a Collin College Board Scholar and Foundation Scholar for his academic achievements. He was secretary for the President's Point HOA in McKinney. Noory volunteered at various organizations, including Habitat for Humanity and Catholic Charities. He also taught a personal finance class at The Samaritan Inn homeless shelter and English as a Second Language classes at a local church. Noory plans to major in information technology and systems.
Nathan Ortiz, Garland
Nathan Ortiz graduated with an associate degree in business from Eastfield College, where he was on the President's Honor Roll. He works in client support for a risk management and insurance brokerage company. Ortiz also volunteered at his local church. He plans to major in accounting.

Tiffany Page Carter, Plano
Tiffany Page Carter graduated with an associate of arts degree from Collin College, where she was secretary of the literary society, senior student editor for the literary magazine, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and a member of LEAD, a student leadership empowerment and development program. Carter also volunteered with Talk About Curing Autism and created an online informational support group for parents of children with special needs. She plans to major in arts, technology and emerging communication.

Itzel Tapia, Lewisville
Itzel Tapia graduated with an associate of arts degree with honors from North Central Texas College. She was the chapter officer for Phi Theta Kappa and a member of the All-State Academic Team. Tapia also was a member of the Society of Women Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. She participated in a research experience at UT Dallas that was funded by the National Science Foundation. Tapia plans to major in software engineering.

Alisia Tumac, Rowlett
Alisia Tumac recently attended Collin College where she was on the Dean's List and President's List for academic achievement. She also was involved with Phi Theta Kappa and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Tumac worked as a pharmacy technician at Texas Health Resources, volunteered at Medical City Dallas and was a blood-donor ambassador for the American Red Cross. She plans to major in biochemistry.