Discovery Starts Here: Natural Sciences Graduate Programs. The College of Natural Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin is committed to preparing students to lead, promoting world-changing discovery, and creating impact in our world. Our purpose is to foster an environment that promotes discovery, open inquiry and innovation. As one of the largest science colleges in the U.S., we offer a diverse array of top-ranked doctoral programs including:

- ASTRONOMY / BIOCHEMISTRY / CHEMISTRY /
- COMPUTER SCIENCE / ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND BEHAVIOR /
- HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SCIENCES /
- MARINE SCIENCE / MATHEMATICS / MICROBIOLOGY /
- NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES / PHYSICS / PLANT BIOLOGY /
- STATISTICS

And interdisciplinary or specialized programs in:

- CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY /
- COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND MATH /
- NANOSCIENCE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY / NEUROSCIENCE /
- MD/PHD (WITH UT-MEDICAL BRANCH)

The college’s centers for research and education stretch across Texas and include the McDonald Observatory in West Texas, the Marine Science Institute on the Gulf coast, and in Austin, the Brackenridge Field Laboratory. We have one of the world’s most powerful lasers, top facilities for gene sequencing, and access to the Texas Advanced Computing Center, one of the largest supercomputing systems for research in the world. Many of our departments are ranked in the top twenty nationally. Grants and contracts from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and many others average $116 million per year.
GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

Grad Student Support
Virtually all students in College of Natural Sciences doctoral programs are fully supported financially through research and teaching appointments or fellowships. The Graduate School offers competitive fellowships for both first-year and continuing students, and many of our students receive prestigious fellowships from the National Science Foundation or other funding agencies.

Career Resources
The college’s Career Design Center provides career development services for graduate students, and maintains connections with potential employers seeking UT Austin talent. A Professional Development Seminar Series exposes grad students to a wide range of science careers and to opportunities for “beyond the bench” skill development that is important for future academic and non-academic positions.

Cost of Living
Despite Austin’s status as a top destination for young adults, the city remains an affordable option for graduate school, particularly in comparison to east and west coast institutions. There is reasonably priced housing within walking and biking distance of campus, and an extensive shuttle system provides free transportation for students living throughout the city.

UT Recreational Sports
Eight facilities across campus include over 500,000 square feet of indoor and 40 acres of outdoor activity space, including lap and lounging pools, climbing walls, exercise rooms, and soccer fields. Ninety percent of the student population—more than 45,000 students—participate in Rec Sports programs and activities including Sports Clubs, Fitness/Wellness activities, Outdoor Recreation and Intramural Sports.

Food
Austin has become a dining destination. From eclectic food trailers to fine dining, the city has something to satisfy all of your taste needs. Stop by Gourdough’s for an over-the-top Flying Pig. Get in line early for some award-winning, finger-lickin’ good BBQ at Franklin Barbecue.

Live Music Capital of the World
Austin is also home to some of the best entertainment the nation has to offer. Texas Performing Arts on campus sets the stage on fire with Broadway in Austin, world-renowned musical acts, and cutting-edge dance troupes. The annual South by Southwest Music Festival boasts more than 2,000 bands playing in diverse downtown venues. The Zilker Kite Festival is the nation’s oldest kite festival, and great family fun. Lace up your walking shoes or put on your helmet and hit one of Austin’s numerous Hike and Bike Trails, such as the Barton Creek Greenbelt, a seven-mile natural area that starts downtown.