Chess and Education

UT Dallas offers two online courses on using chess in the classroom, for undergraduate or graduate academic credit. Dr. Alexey Root, former U.S. Women's Chess Champion and author of *Science, Math, Checkmate: 32 Chess Activities for Inquiry and Problem Solving*, teaches Chess in the Classroom I and II. Other educational outreach programs include:

- The Scholastic Affiliates Program, which offers students of nearby schools the opportunity to tour campus and meet and play members of the chess team and club.
- Summer chess camps for children, staffed by chess team members.
- International academic conferences on chess and education, such as the Second Koltanowski International Conference on Chess and Education.

Every summer, children ages 7 to 13 sharpen their chess skills while developing critical thinking skills and reading and math abilities at UT Dallas Chess Camps.

The UT Dallas Student Chess Society

The Student Chess Society is open to all University students, as well as chess players in the community. Members of the championship UT Dallas Chess Team also attend the club’s Friday meetings. The club hosts various community outreach programs, such as the annual ChessFest and a visit by the Chess Educator of the Year. At UT Dallas, club members not only pursue chess with friends who share their interest and enjoy the highest level of competition, they are also chess ambassadors, passing along knowledge and passion to the next generation of players.

GM David Berczes

“My favorite thing about UT Dallas is its attitude and quality towards education. It is a relatively new and rapidly developing university that gives students the skills to find their ‘dream job.’”

“I was very impressed by the chess team right after my arrival. I really like the atmosphere we have. The players try to help each other, so you feel as if they were your family, and that is a very important thing.”

“I was lucky to find friends already on the first week upon my arrival at UT Dallas. I tried to get involved in the welcome week activities where I met a bunch of new people. Of course, I also made friends from the chess team. So far at the University, I’ve learned a lot of things. The improvements to my English are probably the most important. On top of that, thanks to UT Dallas, I’ve learned how to make efficient presentations and how important public speech and networking are.”

“I would suggest UT Dallas because it is a great university, and if you’re willing to study hard and pursue your academic goals, this is the place.”

David Berczes, a grandmaster from Hungary, is a double major in finance and accounting. He hopes to work as an analyst or accountant upon graduation.

GM Conrad Holt

“My favorite thing about UT Dallas is the Chess Program. You get to play chess tournaments during the school year, and at another University, that opportunity may not exist.”

“My favorite tournament so far with the chess team was when we went 6-0 to win the Pan American in 2011. That got us into the 2012 Final Four Tournament at Washington D.C. Another tournament I enjoyed was the UT Dallas Grandmaster Invitational in 2012. I tied for first in that tournament and achieved my last GM norm. I was happy to earn the Grandmaster status while attending UT Dallas. I think that shows what kind of opportunities the University provides.”

“The chess program provides a chance for players to really grow. It’s a lot of fun to have people around that I can play against at a high level of competition – it’s fun, but it also makes you a better chess player. We meet weekly as a team to play, and I meet with coach Rade Milovanovic individually to prepare for tournaments.”

Conrad Holt is a senior Physics major from Kansas. When he’s not playing chess, he enjoys computer programming and reading science fiction novels. Conrad has a FIDE rating of 2560.
The University of Texas at Dallas takes chess seriously. We believe that chess requires the kind of mental toughness and competitive excellence characteristic of our students. If you like chess and are looking for a college, we would like to hear from you.

What makes our chess program unique is that we offer something for everyone. We offer chess opportunities for every interest and skill level through:

- Championship chess team
- An open access student chess society
- Online “chess in education” courses for college credit
- Children’s summer chess camps, community chess and other events
- UT Dallas was among the first of a growing number of universities to promote the integration of chess, academics and scholarship. UT Dallas supports its chess team through competitive scholarships awarded at state, national and international tournaments. Other chess scholarships, which take academics and chess skill into account, are also awarded.

When people think of college chess, they think of UT Dallas.

At the 2013 UT Dallas Spring FIDE Open underwritten by Turner Construction, UT Dallas alumni Grandmaster Alejandro Ramirez BA’09, MFA’11 and UT Dallas Grandmaster Conrad Holt squared off in the fifth and final round of the Blitz tournament. The match ended in a draw, securing the championship at the Spring Blitz Tournament for Ramirez.

For more information about chess at UT Dallas, contact:

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The chess team has won state, national and international titles and regularly represents the University in the following tournaments:

- Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship (ten-time champion or co-champion)
- Texas Collegiate Championship (seven-time champion or co-champion)
- National Collegiate Chess League team championship (nine-time winner or co-winner)
- Final Four of Chess, also known as the President’s Cup (five-time champion or co-champion)
- The Transatlantic Cup, an annual Internet match with the University of Belgrade (three-time winner)

Team members have distinguished themselves with academic and chess accomplishments. They have been admitted to the nation’s leading law and medical schools, including Penn Law and Harvard Medical School. At the same time, they actively compete at the most rigorous national and international levels and make outstanding progress in their personal chess rankings.