

**Executive Summary of the UTA Exit Survey for Graduating Seniors:
Fall 2017 and Spring 2018**

For the purpose of better understanding The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) student experience, we contacted the 7,248 graduating seniors from the fall 2017 (3,592) and spring 2018 (3,656) graduating classes to complete an Exit Survey. These students completed their degree requirements from traditional on-campus, online, and accelerated online programs during those two semesters. The combined response rate for both surveys was sixty percent (4,372 of 7,248 students). This summary presents highlights from the student responses.

Among the top three factors* students listed as influencing their decision to attend UTA were cost of attendance (51%), UT Arlington’s academic reputation (41%), and availability of online program in my area of interest (39%). It is notable that the number of students who selected *availability of online program in my area of interest* has increased significantly from last year (30%).

Students are positive when reflecting upon their experience at UTA. If they had to do it all over again, a large majority of students (83%) indicated that they *would choose to attend UTA for their degree* and the vast majority (93%) *would recommend UTA to friends, family or associates*.

Across colleges, student satisfaction with UTA was high among the survey respondents.

Table 1 shows the rated areas from the survey and the percent of students who rated them as “Excellent” (Table 1). Overall, UTA students seem to have a favorable view of support services.

Academic Experience	43.3%
Paying tuition/fees online	42.5%
Online registration	42.1%
UT Arlington as a whole	38.1%
Library facilities, resources, and services	34.7%

In terms of satisfaction with their major, the top five aspects

students ranked as excellent were: (1) *overall quality of advising*, (2) *clarity of degree requirements*, (3) *the major/department as a whole*, (4) *overall quality of faculty*, and (5) *accuracy of online information about your major*. In general, the students seem to be especially pleased about the structure of their degree plans.

Principal activities upon graduation included plans for pursuing employment (71%) or continuing their education (24%). For those who plan to pursue employment, slightly over half (54%) had already secured full-time employment or were continuing with their current employer. The others were currently seeking employment (40%), seeking an internship (3%), or starting a business/self-employed (1%). Among those who indicated that they planned to continue with their current employer, more than two thirds (68%) reported that their UTA degree will improve their opportunity for advancement in their current position.

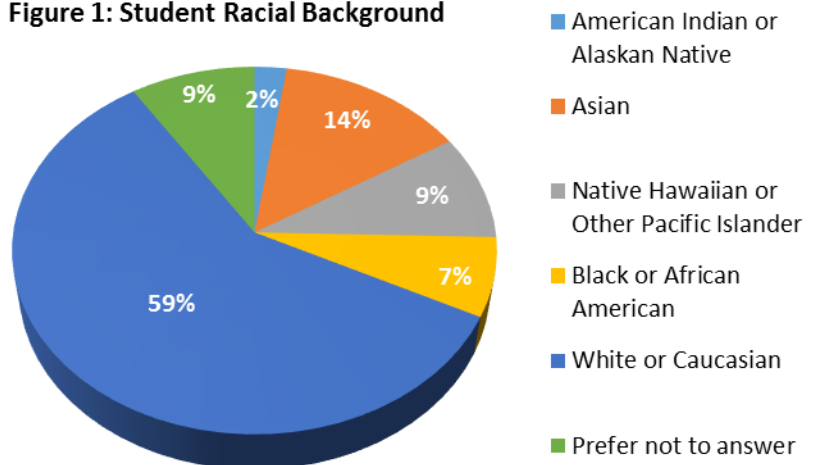
*Top factors are reported as percentage of respondents, as students could select multiple factors

Academic Preparation. The percent of students who perceived their individual preparedness as “Very Well” or “Adequately” prepared (across all sixteen areas and categories), positively ranged from 82% to 96%. Table 2 lists the top ten areas.

Understanding professional and ethical responsibilities	96.1%
Considering other people's points of view	96.0%
Identifying, formulating and solving problems	95.5%
Gathering and analyzing information in order to make conclusions	94.9%
Considering the impact of my behavior and actions on others	94.6%
Expressing my thoughts and ideas using visual communication	94.1%
Thinking outside the box and generating new ideas	93.9%
Expressing my thoughts and ideas well in writings	93.8%
Interacting with people from different cultures and backgrounds	93.7%
Expressing my thoughts and ideas well in spoken communication	93.2%

Of the UTA graduating seniors who responded, over a fourth identified as Hispanic Latino (28%). In terms of race/ethnicity**, gender, and age, student respondents identified predominantly as White/Caucasian (59%), female (69%), and averaged 31 years of age. Figure 1 displays additional information regarding racial background.

Figure 1: Student Racial Background



Other important descriptors of the graduating senior respondents, included the fact that *two thirds transferred from other institutions (62%), a majority finished their degree in 4 years or less (60%),* over a third stated that the *courses for their degree were completely online (35%)* and more than half (51%) report that neither of their parents graduated from college. Table 3 provides additional information describing these students.

Overall, the Exit Survey for fall 2017 and spring 2018 graduating seniors demonstrates high satisfaction with the university experience at UTA, as well as the students’ positive perception of UTA’s value in preparing them for the future.

78.0%	Intend to continue their education in the future
46.0%	Are between the ages of 17-25
44.7%	Live more than 25 miles away from UTA
35.3%	Have at least one child
34.5%	Are married
33.4%	Financed degree through own employment

**Race/Ethnicity is defined using The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board guidelines