

## Executive Summary of the UTA Exit Survey for Graduating Seniors: Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

In order to gain a better understanding of The University of Texas at Arlington student experience, the 7,607 graduating seniors from the fall 2018 and spring 2019 graduating classes were asked to complete a comprehensive exit survey. These students completed their degree requirements from traditional on-campus, online, and accelerated online programs during this semester. The university-wide response rate was 77.3% (5,886 out of 7,607 students), which is a very high response rate compared to similar surveys across other institutions. This summary presents highlights from the data.

**The top three reasons students chose to attend UTA were** *cost of attendance* (46.3%), *convenience availability of major program in my area of interest* (46.0%), and *convenience of location relative to home or work* (36.6%). Additionally, 19.9% of students attended due to the financial aid or scholarship offer they received.

**If they had to make the same decision to attend a university again,** most (83.3%) indicated that they *would choose to attend UTA for their degree*. A large majority (92.0%) *would recommend UTA to friends, family, or associates* as well.

**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 or good.

<i><b>Table 1.</b> Student Satisfaction Ratings</i>	Total % "Excellent" or "Good"
Academic experience	91.4%
Online registration	84.8%
Library facilities, resources, and services	83.7%
UT Arlington as a whole	82.6%
Paying tuition/fees online	80.5%

**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) *availability of courses*. In fact, most either strongly agreed or agreed with the statements *course content reflected current trends in my field* (90.4%) and *my major gave me a sense of competence in my field* (92.4%).

**The students indicated a high degree of satisfaction,** evidenced by the percentages for *Overall Quality of Faculty* (83.8%), *Academic Experience* (86.7%), and *UTA as a whole* (85.0%). Through the lens of these graduating respondents, UTA appears to deliver the quality academic programs that the students were seeking.

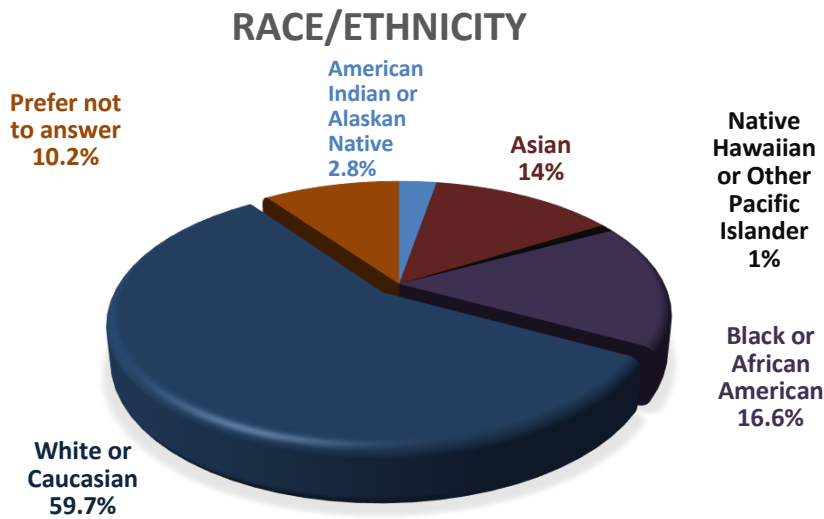
**After graduating,** most students indicated they intend to pursue employment (72.1%) or continue their education (22.4%). For those whose plans were to pursue employment, slightly under half were currently seeking employment (43.2%). One-third (34.3%) of graduates had already obtained employment at the time of graduation. Of the students pursuing employment, another 12.9% elected to continue with their current employer.

**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 81.6% to 95.7%. Table 2 depicts the top five areas. Importantly, the student’s perception of individual preparedness directly align with five of the Texas Core Curriculum objectives: Personal Responsibility, Social Responsibility, Empirical & Quantitative Skills, Critical Thinking, and Teamwork. These also reflect the priority skills that hiring managers look for in job candidates (Hart Research, 2015).

	Total % "Very" or "Adequately" Prepared
<i>Table 2. Academic Preparation</i>	
Understanding professional and ethical responsibilities	95.7%
Considering other people's points of view	95.4%
Identifying, formulating, and solving problems	94.9%
Gathering/analyzing information to make conclusions	94.2%
Collaborating with other people in a team setting	94.2%

**In terms of demographic information,** 28.9% identified as Hispanic Latino. In terms of race/ethnicity\*\*, gender, and age, student respondents identified predominantly as White/Caucasian (59.7%), female (67.9%), and averaged 31 years of age (see Figure 1).

**Table 3.** Description of Respondents



\*\*Race and ethnicity as reported is consistent with The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board guidelines. Hart Research Associates. (2015). *Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success*. Washington, DC: Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Used grants, scholarships, or loans to complete degree	32.7%
Employed 31 or more hours per week	46.2%
Lived outside Arlington, TX	72.0%
Transferred from another institution	62.1%
Finished degree in 4 years or less	59.6%
Took classes at UTA and another institution during the same term	30.3%
First generation students	51.8%

**Other important descriptors of the graduating senior respondents** include the fact that the majority of students transferred from another institution (62.1%), and over half (51.8%) are first generation students. Table 3 provides additional information describing these individuals.

Overall, the Exit Survey for the spring 2019 graduating seniors demonstrates high satisfaction with the university experience at UTA as well as the students' confidence in UTA's ability to prepare them for the future.

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