

**Executive Summary Master’s Student Exit Survey
University-wide Results
Fall 2023 – Spring 2024**

The Master’s Student Exit Survey was deployed at UTA during the fall 2023 and spring 2024. During these terms, 3,934 students were invited to participate in the survey. These students have fulfilled the requirements of their respective programs for the conferring of their Master’s degree. From those, 1,873 responded to the survey (48%) and 1,574 (84%) completed it in its entirety. **Table 1** shows the number of graduates and the response rates for each college and school. On average, students took 21 minutes to respond to the survey questions ¹.

Table 1: Survey response rates per college/school

College/School	# Graduates	# Respondents	Response Rate
College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs	145	81	56%
College of Business	763	360	47%
College of Education	481	153	32%
College of Engineering	310	167	54%
College of Nursing and Health Innovation	1757	537	31%
College of Liberal Arts	64	24	38%
College of Science	52	25	48%
School of Social Work	348	139	40%

Most of the respondents started their graduate program in the fall of 2022 (55%). UTA was their first option (71%) due to reputation of the program (21%), educational costs (17%), geographical location (16%), and the admission requirements (15%). Eighty-seven percent (87%) of those **students reported being pleased with their choice.**

Around 68% of these students have attended the orientation provided by their graduate program, and 79% were acquainted with the academic requirements and expectations for completion of their degree.

The quality of the graduate curriculum, teaching, and overall program were rated “Excellent” or “Very Good” by most students (**Table 2**). However, 42% of them **would like better assistance in finding employment.** Comprehensive exams (40%), and Capstone projects (30%) and courses (25%) were chosen as their preferred end of program experience.

Table 2: Quality of Graduate Curriculum, Teaching, and Overall Program

Program Satisfaction Areas	Total "Excellent" and "Very Good"
Quality of the graduate curriculum	69%
Quality of graduate-level teaching by faculty	65%
Overall program quality	60%
Preparation for thesis, comprehensive examinations, or capstone	58%
The opportunity to collaborate across disciplines	54%
Quality of academic advising and guidance	55%
Assistance in finding employment	32%

Only 12% of those students were involved in teaching and 8% in research during their time at UTA. From those teaching, only 29% have received any training in instructional methods and 67% of these said this training was very helpful. Sixty-three percent (63%) of those who engaged in research affirmed that this was a very helpful experience.

According to the students, the **assistance received from faculty advisors was mostly regarding learning course material (76%), planning program of study (73%), and conducting research (63%) (Table 3)**. On the other hand, there was not enough assistance with campus resources for employment (56%), career options (47%), additional training/education (41%), and professional development (38%).

Most students did not seek other faculty mentors in addition to their faculty advisors (64%). Interestingly, **several students consulted their departments' staff and academic advisors** for academic (52%) and career (41%) advice.

Table 3: Assistance from Faculty Advisor

Type of Faculty Assistance	Total "Very helpful" and "Somewhat Helpful"
Assistance with learning course material	76%
Planning your program of study	73%
Conducting your research	63%
Providing information about campus resources for professional development	62%
Exploring additional training/education	59%
Exploring career options	53%
Searching for employment	44%

Regarding **factors impacting their academic success**, students indicated that **work/financial commitments (74%) and family obligations (54%)** were the major obstacles they encountered.

Most of the respondents described their post-master's degree status as employed full-time (average of 30 hours or more per week) (45%), and 41% were seeking employment. Only 9% were planning on pursuing further study for another degree (48% of those were planning on pursuing a PhD), mostly at universities located in Texas (81%).

The graduates surveyed were employed mostly in the health sector (36%), followed by education related fields (20%). Around **80% described their employment as related to their area of study**. The

annual base salary for most of these students ranges between \$50,000 to \$69,999 (30%), with 26% of these students earning \$100,000 or more.

Only 27% of these students had any part of their master's education paid via employer-sponsored reimbursement/direct payment plan. **More than half took out loans to pay for their education (64%),** with 77% borrowing up to \$50,000. **Most of these loans were used to cover expenses with tuition and fees (78%).**

Overall, **most students said they would select UTA if they had to start it over again (66%)** and that **they would choose their same field of study (75%).** Eighty-five percent (85%) reported that **they were likely to recommend UTA to others.**