

**Executive Summary Master’s Student Exit Survey**  
**University-wide Results**  
**Fall 2022 – Spring 2023**

The Master’s Student Exit Survey was first deployed at UTA during the fall 2022 and spring 2023. During these terms, 3,887 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, 2,065 responded to the survey (53%) and 1,830 (89%) 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 18 minutes to respond to the survey questions.

**Table 1:** *Survey response rates per college/school*

College/School	# Graduates	# Respondents	Response Rate
College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs	122	67	55%
College of Business	840	246	29%
College of Education	400	236	59%
College of Engineering	1241	524	42%
College of Nursing and Health Innovation	880	495	56%
College of Liberal Arts	80	45	56%
College of Science	51	23	45%
School of Social Work	288	168	58%

**Most of the respondents started their graduate program in the fall of 2021** (56%), 2020 (21%) and 2022 (11%). **UTA was their first option** (71%) due to educational costs (19%), the reputation of their programs (19%), geographical location (17%), and the admission requirements (15%). Ninety percent (90%) of those **students reported being pleased with their choice.**

**Around 66% of these students have attended the orientation** provided by their graduate program, and 80% 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 (38%), and Capstone projects (30%) and courses (26%) 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	70%
Quality of graduate-level teaching by faculty	65%
Overall program quality	60%
Preparation for thesis, comprehensive examinations, or capstone	56%
The opportunity to collaborate across disciplines	51%
Quality of academic advising and guidance	44%
Assistance in finding employment	32%

**Only 11% of those students were involved in teaching and 6% in research** during their time at UTA. From those teaching, only 28% have received any training in instructional methods and 62% of these said this training was very helpful. Sixty-six percent (66%) 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 (74%), planning program of study (73%), and conducting research (61%) (Table 3)**. On the other hand, there was not enough assistance with campus resources for employment (57%), career options (48%), additional training/education (43%), and professional development (40%).

**Most students did not seek other faculty mentors** in addition to their faculty advisors (65%). Interestingly, **several students consulted their departments' staff and academic advisors** for academic (53%) and career (43%) advice.

**Table 3: Assistance from Faculty Advisor**

Type of Faculty Assistance	Total "Very helpful" and "Somewhat Helpful"
Assistance with learning course material	74%
Planning your program of study	73%
Conducting your research	61%
Providing information about campus resources for professional development	60%
Exploring additional training/education	57%
Exploring career options	53%
Searching for employment	42%

Regarding **factors impacting their academic success**, students indicated that **work/financial commitments (75%) and family obligations (59%)** 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) (47%), and 39% were seeking employment. Only 9% were planning on pursuing further study for another degree (43% of those were planning on pursuing a PhD), mostly at universities located in Texas (88%).

**The graduates surveyed were employed mostly in the health sector (29%),** followed by education related fields (24%). Around **76% 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 (32%), with 21% of these students earning \$100,000 or more.

Only 26% 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 (60%),** with 82% borrowing up to \$50,000. **Most of these loans were used to cover expenses with tuition and fees (82%).**

Overall, **most students said they would select UTA if they had to start it over again (69%)** and that **they would most definitely choose their same field of study (76%).** Eighty-eight percent (88%) reported that **they were likely to recommend UTA to others.**