

**Quality of College Experience and Estimated Gains
of Graduating Seniors, Spring 2004**

Introduction

A telephone survey of Texas A&M seniors who planned to graduate in May of 2004 was conducted in the spring semester. A total of 587 completed surveys were obtained from all students who graduated in May of 2004. An attempt was made to reach each student three times on different days and times.

The survey was made up of questions in four areas: general satisfaction with quality of education at TAMU, international experience, estimated gains in specific areas, and plans for the future. The results of general satisfaction and gains are presented below.

Table 1.

Demographics of Respondents

Gender	Count	%
F	305	52
M	282	48
Ethnicity	Count	%
African American	15	2.6
Hispanic/Latino	49	8.3
Native American	1	.2
Asian/Pacific Is.	19	3.2
Anglo	496	84.5
Other	7	1.2
College	Count	%
Agriculture	88	15.0
Architecture	23	3.9
Business Admin.	78	13.3
Education	40	6.8
Engineering	119	20.3
Geosciences	12	2.0
Liberal Arts	154	26.2
Science	36	6.1
Veterinary Med.	37	6.3

Part I. Quality of Education.

My program of study has been good career preparation.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	207	35.3
Agree	341	58.1
Undecided	28	4.8
Disagree	7	1.2
Strongly Disagree	4	.7

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	97.7	100	93.6	92.5	93.3	91.6	91.5	83.4	97.3

My advisor helped me plan a successful program of study.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	134	22.8
Agree	279	47.5
Undecided	78	13.3
Disagree	74	12.6
Strongly Disagree	22	3.7

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	85.2	86.9	61.5	80	69.7	58.3	63.7	75	62.1

I found faculty members to be generally helpful.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	150	25.6
Agree	395	67.3
Undecided	28	4.8
Disagree	14	2.4
Strongly Disagree	0	0

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	93.2	100	92.3	97.5	92.4	83.4	92.8	91.7	89.2

I developed a sense of belonging through my relations with other students.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	317	54
Agree	232	39.5
Undecided	23	3.9
Disagree	15	2.6
Strongly Disagree	0	0

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	89.7	87	92.6	100	98.2	91.6	92.2	94.5	100

Because of the atmosphere at TAMU I spent more time studying than I expected to.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	72	12.3
Agree	206	35.1
Undecided	118	20.1
Disagree	170	29
Strongly Disagree	21	3.6

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	47.8	52.2	37.1	55	57.1	41.7	42.9	38.9	54

TAMU provided the support I needed to succeed academically.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	129	22
Agree	412	70.2
Undecided	36	6.1
Disagree	9	1.5
Strongly Disagree	1	.2

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	98.9	95.6	91	95	89	75	91.6	56.1	97.3

Because of the atmosphere at TAMU, I made many contacts among students from different economic, social and racial or ethnic backgrounds.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	127	21.6
Agree	288	49.1
Undecided	66	11.2
Disagree	98	16.7
Strongly Disagree	8	1.4

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	71.6	60.8	75.6	62.5	70.6	75	68.9	77.8	72.9

I feel a degree from A&M has high prestige

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	277	47.2
Agree	282	48
Undecided	25	4.3
Disagree	2	.3
Strongly Disagree	1	.2

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	98.9	91.3	96.2	97.5	93.3	100	94.2	91.7	97.2

I would advise my friends and relatives to attend A&M

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	316	53.8
Agree	234	39.9
Undecided	26	4.4
Disagree	9	1.5
Strongly Disagree	2	.3

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	95.5	100	97.5	95	92.5	100	90.3	94.4	91.9

My experience at A&M has helped me to set realistic goals for myself.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	205	34.9
Agree	359	61.2
Undecided	18	3.1
Disagree	5	.9
Strongly Disagree	0	0

Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree" by college.

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	100	91.3	93.6	97.5	96.7	100	95.4	91.7	97.3

Part II. Gains

Students were instructed, "In thinking over your college experiences up to now, how much do you think you have gained in each of the following areas." Students responded with "very much," "quite a bit," "some," "very little." Percent of students responding "very much" or "quite a bit" are presented below. The items were taken with permission from the College Student Experiences Questionnaire (CSEQ, <http://www.indiana.edu/~cseq/>). Norms represent the responses of a sample of upper classmen in other Doctoral Granting Universities which use the CSEQ.

The following table and graph indicate the estimated gains for graduating seniors in the spring semester of 2004. Gains which are significantly different from the norm ($p < .002$, with this being chosen as the significance level by using a Bonferroni correction, or dividing the normal significance level of .05 by the number of test items that were analyzed) are indicated with an asterisk. TAMU students report significantly greater gains than the norm group in 16 areas and significantly less than the norms in 4 areas.

Table 2.

Estimated Gains by Graduating Seniors, Spring 2004

	TAMU	Norm
Learning on your own, pursuing ideas, and finding information you need.*	87.8%	83%
Understanding yourself, your abilities, interests and personality.	86.0%	83%
Thinking analytically and logically.*	84.8%	77%
Using computers and other information technologies.*	84.4%	78%
Putting ideas together, seeing relationships, similarities, and differences between ideas.*	84.3%	77%
Developing the ability to function as a member of a team.*	84.3%	73%

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**Data Summary #236
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Learning to adapt to change (new technologies, different jobs or personal circumstances, etc.)*	83.3%	77%
Developing the ability to get along with different kinds of people.*	83.3%	78%
Presenting ideas and information effectively when speaking to others.*	79.9%	70%
Gaining a range of information that may be relevant to a career. *	79.5%	73%
Developing your own values and ethical standards.*	79.3%	73%
Acquiring knowledge and skills applicable to a specific job or type of work (i.e., vocational preparation.)*	70.8%	64%
Gaining a broad general education about different fields of knowledge.	70.3%	69%
Analyzing quantitative problems (understanding probabilities, proportions, etc.)*	69.7%	55%
Acquiring background and specialization for further education in a professional, scientific or scholarly field.	69.0%	73%
Understanding the nature of science and experimentation.*	65.4%	48%
Writing clearly and effectively.	63.9%	68%
Understanding new developments in science and technology.*	63.5%	52%
Developing good health habits and physical fitness.*	60.2%	44%
Becoming aware of the consequences (benefits, hazards, dangers) of new applications of science and technology.*	56.6%	48%
Seeing the importance of history for understanding the present as well as the past.	49.7%	46%
Gaining knowledge about other parts of the world and other people (Asia, Africa, South America, etc.)*	48.4%	41%
Becoming aware of different philosophies, cultures and ways of life.*	46.9%	58%
Broadening your acquaintance with and enjoyment of literature.*	29.8%	36%
Developing an understanding and enjoyment of art, music and drama.*	27.3%	34%

**Percent of Reported Gains by Texas A&M
 Graduating Seniors, Spring 2004**

