

Quality of College Experience and Estimated Gains
of Graduating Seniors, 2000

Introduction

A telephone survey of Texas A&M seniors who planned to graduate in 2000 (May, August or December) was conducted in each of the three semesters. A total of 1059 completed surveys were obtained from all students who graduated in those semesters. 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	739	45.958
M	869	54.042
Ethnicity	Count	%
Af. Am.	51	3.172
Hisp.	147	9.142
Nat. Am.	7	0.435
Asian/Pac. Is.	47	2.923
Anglo	1344	83.582
Other	12	0.746
College	Count	%
AG	302	18.781
AR	76	4.726
BA	353	21.953
ED	93	5.784
EN	254	15.796
GE	30	1.866
LA	359	22.326
SC	61	3.794
VM	80	4.975

Part I. Quality of Education.

My program of study has been good career preparation.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	346	32.519
Agree	627	58.929
Undecided	49	4.605
Disagree	36	3.383
Strongly Disagree	6	0.564

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	93	94	94	87	96	81	83	97	96

My advisor helped me plan a successful program of study.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	228	21.469
Agree	402	37.853
Undecided	176	16.573
Disagree	194	18.267
Strongly Disagree	62	5.838

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	77	57	40	73	67	52	56	71	59

If I had known at the beginning what I know now about my field of study, I would have chosen a different major

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	88	8.286
Agree	152	14.313
Undecided	89	8.380
Disagree	461	43.409
Strongly Disagree	272	25.612

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	27	16	14	27	17	33	27	31	33

The campus activities outside of class have been important to my education.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	324	30.508
Agree	446	41.996
Undecided	127	11.959
Disagree	143	13.465
Strongly Disagree	22	2.072

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	77	76	70	80	72	52	69	74	86

My courses were so demanding of my time that I was not able to participate in many aspects of college life.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	37	3.484
Agree	163	15.348
Undecided	77	7.250
Disagree	622	58.569
Strongly Disagree	163	15.348

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	17	24	14	27	34	19	13	11	29

I believe my academic performance at A&M would have been better if I had not to support myself financially.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	107	10.075
Agree	240	22.599
Undecided	67	6.309
Disagree	183	17.232
Strongly Disagree	40	3.766
NA	425	40.019

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	61	46	48	62	49	64	61	50	43

I feel good about the education I received at A&M.

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	557	52.448
Agree	475	44.727
Undecided	22	2.072
Disagree	7	0.659
Strongly Disagree	1	0.094

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	97	88	98	100	98	95	97	97	100

I feel a degree from A&M has high prestige

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	625	58.907
Agree	399	37.606
Undecided	20	1.885
Disagree	14	1.320
Strongly Disagree	3	0.283

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	99	94	97	93	97	100	94	97	98

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

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	646	60.886
Agree	344	32.422
Undecided	44	4.147
Disagree	23	2.168
Strongly Disagree	4	0.377

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	96	90	96	93	92	95	89	97	98

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

Group	Count	%
Strongly Agree	407	38.396
Agree	581	54.811
Undecided	54	5.094
Disagree	16	1.509
Strongly Disagree	2	0.189

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

College	AG	AR	BA	ED	EN	GE	LA	SC	VM
%	95	90	90	100	93	100	94	94	98

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 (<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 all three semesters, 2000. Gains which are significantly different from the norm ($p < .05$) are indicated with an asterisk. TAMU students report significantly greater gains than the norm group in 14 areas and significantly less than the norms in three areas.

Table of Estimated Gains by Graduating Seniors, 2000

	Norm	TAMU
Developing an understanding and enjoyment of art, music and drama.*	34%	18%
Broadening your acquaintance with and enjoyment of literature.*	34%	22%
Gaining knowledge about other parts of the world and other people (Asia, Africa, South America, etc.)	36%	38%
Becoming aware of different philosophies, cultures and ways of life.*	55%	41%
Seeing the importance of history for understanding the present as well as the past.	42%	42%
Becoming aware of the consequences (benefits, hazards, dangers) of new applications of science and technology.	45%	49%
Understanding the nature of science and experimentation.*	44%	51%
Developing good health habits and physical fitness.	48%	52%
Understanding new developments in science and technology.*	46%	56%
Analyzing quantitative problems (understanding probabilities, proportions, etc.)*	47%	60%
Writing clearly and effectively.	64%	62%
Acquiring background and specialization for further education in a professional, scientific or scholarly field.	63%	63%
Acquiring knowledge and skills applicable to a specific job or type of work (i.e., vocational preparation.)*	59%	65%
Gaining a broad general education about different fields of knowledge.	66%	65%
Developing your own values and ethical standards.*	68%	73%
Gaining a range of information that may be relevant to a career.*	68%	77%
Presenting ideas and information effectively when	62%	78%

speaking to others.*		
Gains, (continued)	Norm	TAMU
Putting ideas together, seeing relationships, similarities, and differences between ideas.*	71%	79%
Learning to adapt to change (new technologies, different jobs or personal circumstances, etc.)*	74%	79%
Developing the ability to get along with different kinds of people.*	76%	81%
Understanding yourself, your abilities, interests and personality.*	78%	82%
Thinking analytically and logically.*	68%	82%
Using computers and other information technologies.*	74%	83%
Developing the ability to function as a member of a team.*	68%	83%
Learning on your own, pursuing ideas, and finding information you need.*	77%	86%

Reported Gains by Texas A&M Graduating Seniors in 2000 (Spring, Summer, Fall)

