

Executive Summary Undergraduate Exit Survey
University-Wide Results
Fall 2020-Spring 2021

To gain a better understanding of the student experience at The University of Texas at Arlington, 7,186 graduating seniors were asked to complete a comprehensive exit survey during fall 2020 and spring 2021. Those students have completed their degree requirements from traditional on-campus, online, and accelerated online programs during these semesters. The university-wide response rate was 60% (1,882 out of 3,124 students) for fall 2020 and 70% (2,825 out of 4,062) for spring 2021. Although the response rate for spring 2021 was higher in comparison to previous semesters, there was a considerable drop in the number of survey completions (53% for spring 2021 and 63% for fall 2020) in comparison to last year (85% for spring 2020 and 80% for fall 2019). The reason for this drop is unclear, and future data will be necessary for better understanding this issue. Highlighted below are some interesting findings from the data as it applies to UTA.

The top three reasons students chose to attend UTA were *availability of major program in their area of interest* (17%), *cost of attendance* (17%), and *convenience of location relative to home or work* (13%). Additionally, 10% of students attended due to *availability of online degree program in their area of interest*.

If they had to decide to attend a university again, most graduates (91%) indicated that they *would choose to attend UTA for their degree*, and a large majority (81%) *would recommend UTA to friends, family, or associates* as well.

Students indicated a high degree of satisfaction

particularly with *Academic Experience* (86%), *Online Registration* (84%), and *UTA as a whole* (82%) (Table 1). Also, around 66% of the students were satisfied with the overall support offered by UTA during the pandemic. Through the lens of these graduates, UTA appears to deliver the quality academic programs and services that students were seeking, even during the pandemic.

Table 1: Student Satisfaction Ratings

**Total (%)
"Excellent"
and
"Good"**

Academic experience	86%
Online registration	84%
UTA as a whole	82%
Paying tuition/fees online	76%
Library facilities, resources, and services	75%
UTA administration	69%
Bookstore services	67%
Overall support during Covid-19	66%

In terms of satisfaction within 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) *quality of upper division courses*. In fact, most either strongly agreed or agreed that *their major gave them a sense of competence in their field* (92%) and that *class sizes were appropriate* (91%).

After graduating, most students indicated they intend to pursue employment (70%) or continue their education (25%). For those whose plans were to pursue employment, around 39% are currently seeking employment, and 30% have already secured employment at the time of graduation. Another 16% chose to continue with their current employer.

Academic Preparation: The percentage of students who perceived themselves as very well and adequately prepared across sixteen different categories ranged from 85% to 95%. Table 2 depicts the top five areas. Most importantly, the students' perception of individual preparedness directly aligns with five of the Texas Core Curriculum Objectives: Written and Oral Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, Social Responsibility, and Critical Thinking. These also reflect marketable skills that are highly valued by employers in job candidates elsewhere.

In terms of demographics, 32% self-identified as Hispanic Latino, 70% as Female, 4% as International, and most were between 22 and 24 years old (31%). Figure 1 shows the percentage broken down by race and ethnicity. More than half of the graduates (55%) self-identified as White, while 15% identified as Black, and 15% identified as Asian.

Most graduating seniors transferred to UTA from another institution (61%), and over half (51%) were first generation students. 65% of them also expect a salary of \$60,000 or above upon graduation. Table 3 provides additional information on these individuals.

Around 82% of the respondents affirmed that they felt neutral, safe, or very safe to attend face-to-face classes during the **Covid-19 pandemic**, and 87% affirmed that it did not take them longer to complete their degree even with the pandemic disruption. Overall, the survey shows students' high satisfaction with their experience at UTA, as well as their confidence in UTA's ability to prepare them for the future.

Table 2: Academic Preparation

	Total (%) "Very Well" and "Adequately Prepared"
Considering other people's points of view	95%
Understanding professional and ethical responsibilities	95%
Thinking outside the box and generating new ideas	94%
Expressing my thoughts and ideas well in writing	94%
Expressing my thoughts and ideas well using visual communication	94%

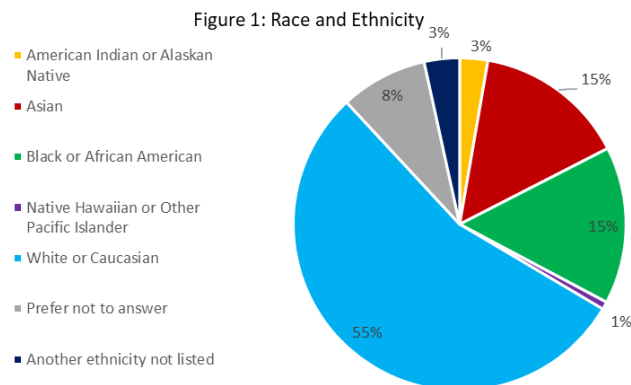


Table 3: Description of Graduating Students

	%
Transferred from another institution	61%
First generation students	51%
Lived outside of Arlington	75%
Employed 31 or more hours per week	43%
Finished degree in 4 years or less	67%
Used grants, scholarships, and loans to complete degree	35%
Took classes at UTA and another institution on the same term	28%