



New Undergraduate Student Survey, Fall 2020

All new undergraduate students (First Time in College [FTIC] and transfer), including branch campuses, were invited to complete the New Aggies Student Survey September 8-27, 2020. The survey gathered feedback on a variety of topics including pre-college experiences, sense of belonging, campus climate, potential obstacles, and campus resources. A total of 7,288 students responded to the survey. This report will address the question, “After graduation, how will you know if your time at TAMU was a success?” Overall, 5,580 students made 8,544 unique comments.

Comments were categorized into 12 themes (miscellaneous/not applicable are not included in this report). Table 1 shows the number of unique comments in each category. Many student’s comments spanned more than one category.

Category	Responses/ Percent	Description
Work/Career	3,066 (36%)	Desire to have a job or internship after graduation, including launching their careers in a field that they enjoy
Personal/Growth/ Happiness	966 (11%)	Sentiments around growth, satisfaction, confidence, family, accomplishing goals, spirituality, family, time management, having no regrets; introspection about where they see themselves at graduation and beyond
Graduate/ Professional School	904 (11%)	Desire to attend graduate school/professional school (medical, dental, law, vet, physical therapy, etc.)
Friends/ Network/ Relationships	884 (10%)	Meeting people who would be lifelong friends; taking advantage of the Aggie Network to build strong connections to enhance their career opportunities
Knowledge/Skills/ Ability	778 (9%)	Importance of major-specific knowledge, as well as life skills; prepared/trained in their field to apply what they had learned
Graduation/Degree/ Diploma	532 (6%)	Success in graduating, getting their diploma, and having a degree in the major that was right for them
Money/Pay	373 (4%)	Monetary benefit needed to outweigh the cost; ability to pay off student loans quickly or make a certain salary; provide for their family; live comfortably with stability
Grades/Academic Progress	354 (4%)	Getting good grades, although several had very specific goals of a certain GPA or graduating with honors
Involvement/ Experiences	229 (3%)	Getting involved, having leadership experiences, participating in traditions, and being part of the community
Memories	225 (3%)	Making memories of their time at Texas A&M, reflecting on those times after graduating
Aggie Ring	87 (1%)	Getting their Aggie Ring; meeting strangers through their Aggie Ring
Being Here is Success	27 (<1%)	Just being at Texas A&M was an accomplishment in itself, so they already feel like their time has been successful

Table 1: Number of Comments by Category (n=8,544)

The following pages provide some exact quotes that illustrate how students were envisioning success after graduation.





Because I graduated and got my ring. It took me 3 years to fix my GPA to get accepted in the first place so the next step is graduating. (White, male, transfer, Agriculture)

Being able to graduate with a good degree, minimal loans, and a good job planned ahead as well as fun experiences such as studying abroad. (White, female, Engineering, FTIC)

I know my time at TAMU was a success when I feel completely prepared to have a real world career and have the confidence in myself that I can help other people. (Hispanic, female, Public Health, FTIC)

How can one truly measure that? I guess if I am satisfied with my experience and the friends that I walk away from college with, and make good enough grades and learn enough content to prepare me adequately for the real world, then I will feel like it was a successful use of four years and a whole lot of money and stress. (White, female, Science, FTIC)

I am an individual that embodies the aggie spirit and is capable of meeting the challenges that face us as citizens of the world. (White, male, Galveston, transfer)

Graduation would be my first success, but a second success would be finding a career that I enjoy using my degree. I also hope to take some electives that are unrelated to my major to increase my knowledge (like philosophy, greek mythology, maybe a foreign language..?). (White, female, Public Health, FTIC)

I know my time at TAMU was a success when I have a degree and job that I am happy with and I am respected and treated for what I worked for not because my ethnicity, gender, or race. (Asian, female, Education, FTIC)



I will know because I will have sense of pride in being the first in my immediate family to graduate college, and if I have job opportunities. (White, female, Engineering, FTIC)

I will have successfully completed all of my requirements, made good grades, become a better individual, and have a deeper understanding of education and life as a whole. (Multi-racial, female, Business, FTIC)

I will know if my time is a success when I have maximized what the university has to offer. While I have a limited amount of time left, I want to get involved in a major-specific organization and also try to squeeze in some experience with research. I would also love to see that I have left a legacy behind in my sorority. (Asian, female, Liberal Arts, transfer)

If I am able to take advantage of our massive student alumni that allows me to create connections in the real world. (Multi-racial, male, Engineering, FTIC)

If I met new people, landed internships and if I enjoyed myself. It may be hard as a minority to feel at home here, and if I can achieve that then I know it was a success. (Black, female, Business, FTIC)

If I can go into the world, workplace, or anywhere and know what I'm doing, continue to learn, and I am still motivated to do more. (Hispanic, male, Engineering, FTIC)

When I feel accomplished, happy, and satisfied with what I have accomplished throughout my years at tamuq. (International, female, Qatar, FTIC)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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